

Benediction Weekly

March 13, 2016

St. Benedict's Church is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry and commitment to social justice.



Spring Spruce Up Workday this Saturday

The grass is growing and the squirrels are getting fat. So are the weeds, and the cobwebs. Join us on Saturday March 19 from 9:30 as we clean the brass and silver, spring clean the sanctuary and maybe even the kitchen, and weed and prune the gardens. Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level – we'll find something for you to do! Lunch will be served and a good time will be had in the service of God and each other.

CALENDAR – This week at St. Benedict's: (at the church unless otherwise specified)

TODAY

- 8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with music
- 12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch @ Celia's Garden Café

Tuesday, Mar 15

- 12:00 pm – *Meet Me In Morro* @ Great American Fish Co
- 5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by potluck at 6:15
- 7:15 pm – *Active Hope* Study-Action Group

Wednesday, Mar 16

- 7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Mar 17

- 10:00 am – Hollister Institute: "*Things Hidden*"
- 7:00 pm – Drop-in Dream Group

Saturday, Mar 19

- 9:30 am – *Spring Spruce Up Workday*

Sunday, Mar 20 PALM SUNDAY

- 8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with Procession of Palms and Passion Gospel

Great Opportunity!

Starting on Tuesday March 15, Linda Seeley of Mothers for Peace will lead a Study-Action Group using the book *Active Hope* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone as the cornerstone.

A study-action group allows everyone to participate equally, and it helps people discover their own gifts and resources for healing the world. *Active Hope* is a great guide to work from. Participants will read 2 (or so) chapters before each meeting, discuss the chapters, and practice the Work that Reconnects together.

The group will meet at St Ben's for 6 weeks on alternate Tuesdays, beginning March 15th. Meetings will be at 7:15 March 15, 29, April 12, 26, May 10, 24. You don't have to be at every meeting in order to participate.

You can read more about the book here:
<http://www.activehope.info>

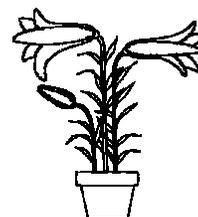
Please contact Linda if you plan to attend,
lindaseeley@gmail.com



Volunteers are needed for Holy Week services.

We will need Passion Gospel readers on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Eucharistic Ministers, ushers, lectors, and altar guild members are also needed for various services. Please see our Sign-up board to volunteer.

Also, **Easter Lily Dedications** may be made using the envelopes on the sign up board. Place donation envelopes in the offering plate. Deadline March 20th.



Giving in February - St. Ben's General Operating Fund - Thank you!!

Feb Income: \$ 11,553	Monthly Income Budgeted: \$ 11,961	Difference: (\$ 408) shortfall
YTD Income: \$ 27,029	YTD Income Budgeted: \$ 23,922	Difference: \$ 3,107 surplus

Serving God and the People of St. Benedict's this Week:

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Preacher: The Rev. Donna Ross; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple;
Eucharistic Minister: Bryson McKelvey; Chalice: Rob Ross; Lector: Francis Rivinus;
Ushers: Ron Thompson & Michael Lucas; Greeter: Ann Lucas;
Altar Guild: Pat Stoneman & Pamela Bleisch; Coffee Hour Hosts: Connie Weldon & Stef Shuman;
Tellers: Diana Hammerlund & June Wright; Cantor: Francis Rivinus; Music Director: John Cribb



**On-Going
Activities
at St. Ben's**

BIBLE STUDY - Come join us for Bible Study at 9:20 a.m. every Sunday except first Sundays.

DREAMS & SPIRITUALITY GROUP - First and third Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm.

HEALING SERVICE - a time for prayers for healing at the 10:30 service on 5th Sundays.

HOLLISTER INSTITUTE - Opportunities for stimulating discussion and thoughtful exploration for everyone, whether or not they are members of a church. See website.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE - Prayers for the community and the world. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 10am.

LITLOVERS' BOOK CLUB - Discussion and fellowship. 4th Saturdays 1pm in members' homes.

LUNCH BUNCH - lunchtime social gathering following church, 2nd Sundays at Celia's Garden Café.

MEET ME IN MORRO - lunchtime social gathering, 3rd Tuesdays at varying restaurants in Morro Bay.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - morning social gathering, 2nd Saturdays 9am at Sea Pines Golf Resort Grill.

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN - Providing and serving food at Prado Day Center, 1st Saturday of odd-numbered months.

POTLUCK AND PRADO on the 1st Sunday of each month donations to Prado Day Center are collected, and potluck lunch follows 10:30 service.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND On the last Sunday of each month, the loose plate offering is designated to this fund to help those in need.

VESPERS AND CONVERSATION 5:30 pm Tuesdays. Vespers service using varying liturgies, followed by potluck supper.

VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL:

Maria Kelly, Sr. Warden
Anne Kanter, Jr. Warden
John Cribb, Francis Rivinus,
Lisa Gonzalez, Barbara Schippers,
Elaine Goodman, Kathie West,
Esta Kandarian and Jo Oliver.

Holy Week

Holy Week is a time for us to ponder on the incredible love that Jesus the Christ, the Man/God showed to humanity by allowing us to kill him, and the tremendous sadness that we each have within our own nature the ability to do that to another human being. Jesus did not respond to human violence with violence but with non-violent resistance and showed by his resurrection that violence is powerless over life. God's unconditional love is shown in that even though humanity did its worst, Jesus the Christ came back and stays in relationship to us.

Sunday, March 20: Palm Sunday

Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' triumphant ride into Jerusalem, incongruously on a donkey. This is the service when we process with palms and then go suddenly into the Passion Gospel, relating Jesus' betrayal, trial and death; it's a sudden change which brings us up short and connects us to the pathos of human love and human loss.

8 a.m., Contemplative Communion

10:30 a.m., Palm Sunday Liturgy with Blessing of Palms, Procession and Passion Gospel

Wednesday: March 23, Special Service with Bishop Mary at St Paul's

On Wednesday, March 23, members of all the Episcopal churches in San Luis Obispo are invited to St. Paul's Cambria for a special service at 6:30pm. The service, led by the Bishop, will include blessing the oils which are used for baptism and healing, and renewal of vows for all orders, from lay people to Bishop.

Thursday, March 24: Maundy Thursday 7pm

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' last supper with his friends and the subsequent betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane. After a simple Eucharist with (optional foot-washing) the church is stripped of all its color and artwork, ending with the stripping of the altar, reminding us of how Jesus was stripped naked. We depart in silence, just as his disciples left him, silently melting into the night. We will again be joined by friends from Trinity United Methodist church for this evening of bitter-sweet remembering. There will be no dinner this year.

Friday, March 25: Good Friday

Good Friday is the day when Jesus was crucified. The Scriptures tell us that he hung on the cross for three hours, which we remember from noon until three. Some people choose to fast until 3 pm as a way of personally connecting with Jesus' sacrifice. We will mark the day with a traditional Good Friday liturgy at 12 noon and the church will be open for prayer and meditation from then until 2:00 when we will walk the Stations of the Cross. Then in the evening at 7:30 we are invited to Trinity UMC where our combined choirs will lead us in a program of readings and music.

Saturday, March 26: Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday - the time when Jesus was in the tomb.

Then ... Finally we get to Easter, but we can't quite wait until Easter morning, so we celebrate the night of Jesus' resurrection starting at 7:30 pm on Saturday with the Great Vigil of Easter. During this ancient service we light the new fire and bring light into the church for the recounting of our salvation history. Then, after we have renewed our Baptismal Vows, we celebrate the resurrection in a joyful singing of the Gloria before celebrating the first Eucharist of Easter.

7:30 p.m., Easter Vigil, the first service of Easter

Sunday, March 27: Easter Day

Our celebration continues on Easter Morning, with a contemplative communion service at 8am and a Festival Eucharist at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome, young and old to this as to all our services.

8 a.m., Contemplative Communion

10:30 a.m., Festival Eucharist

Keeping in Touch during the Week. For counsel & spiritual care, please contact any of the clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, 704-5826; The Rev. Mary Elizabeth Pratt-Horsley, 528-7497;
The Rev. Donna Ross, 235-5117; The Rev. Barry Turner, 784-0670; or The Rev. Faye Hogan, 541-4595.
Call Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974.

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