

# The Benediction

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, Los Osos, California

**The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall**

Rector

**The Rev. M.E. Pratt-Horsley**

Rector Emeritus

**The Rev. Donna Ross**

Associate Priest

**The Rev. Barry Turner**

Associate Priest

**The Rev. Faye Hogan**

Associate Priest

**The Rev. Sharon G. Dalrymple**

Deacon

**The Parish Council**

Maria Kelly, Sr. Warden

Anne Kanter, Jr. Warden

John Cribb

Elaine Goodman

Lisa Gonzalez

Esta Kandarian

Jo Oliver

Francis Rivinus

Barbara Skippers

Kathie West

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The Rev. Dr. Caroline J. A. Hall

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**Sunday Services**

The first Sunday of each month:

10:30 am One service of Holy  
Communion with music

All other Sundays:

8:00 am Holy Communion  
with inclusive language

10:30 am Holy Communion  
with music

Refreshments and fellowship follow  
each service.

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**Dear Friends:**

How exciting it is to see the Great Room taking shape! After years of hoping, imagining, planning and giving, the church building is finally being completed. I am so grateful to everyone who has given sacrificially to make this possible, especially Jim Thompson, Maria Kelly and Michael Lucas. Without their skills and energy we would be in a completely different place.



Sometimes I think our journey together is like hiking; you see the top of the hill and you work hard to get there, imagining how it will be to get to the top and enjoy the view, but when you reach the "top" it turns out that there's another crest beyond it and the top is still some way off. Even as we reach this major goal and celebrate the completion of the Great Room, there is another goal appearing.

The county has decided that if we are to ever build further on the property we must install the fire sprinkler system. One was partially installed but then it proved to be very expensive, and the fire marshal said we could go without so we abandoned the plan. As yet, we don't know what the cost would be to reinstate it at this point. Which brings up questions about how God wants us to use the building and the land for his greater purposes.

Many of you have great, creative ideas about things we could do to further develop it and so we are now working on a plan for the future which will guide the way we continue to make St. Benedict's a beautiful place for God's worship and service. If you haven't completed a survey there are still some at the back of the church and it's available online so please do that straight away.

But even more important than how are we to be wise stewards of what we have been given, is the question of how we are to serve God in our community. The Abundance Shop is our main ministry. It is here that we share God's love in conversation and through the sharing of the community's abundance. We are making an investment in this ministry by moving to a larger, somewhat more expensive store. I ask you too to make an investment in it.

You can do so in the obvious ways; by donating good usable items, and by volunteering to help sort and stock, or welcome our guests and operate the cash register. You can also visit the store yourself, and mention it to your neighbors. Most importantly I ask you to pray regularly for the Abundance Shop, that it may be an expression of God's love to everyone who comes in and even those who drive pass; and that God will provide all our needs, especially for people from the congregation to volunteer and to find in doing so what a vibrant and engaging ministry it can be.

I look forward to continuing this next part of our journey together – to the top of the next peak!

With blessings,  
Caro+

Rev. Caroline J. A. Hall

## Finances

We started the year with a deficit budget – in other words we planned to spend more than we expected in income, and so far the year is living up to expectations. We are spending a lot of money on completing the Great Room, repairing the veranda and installing the audio-visual system. This is all money that we have in hand, but it means that our cash reserve is dropping very fast.

Moving the Abundance Shop is both expensive – think deposit, double rent for a month, new fixtures etc., and the new shop will cost more. But it's bigger and all on one floor so we hope in the long run it will bring in as much if not more income and we will be more able to serve the people of Los Osos with God's love.

However, the cost of moving means that we expect lower proceeds from the shop this year and that is an expense we had not considered in our budgeting. Please pray that God will continue to abundantly meet all our financial needs.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Blessing the Future Campaign. Every penny you give goes immediately to repay principal on the bank loan. In addition we have sold some of the gift of stock – when it went above \$15 per share – and have used this to repay over \$250,000.



## Highlights from the Parish Council Meeting

We have had a meeting with the Tax Assessor's office and discovered that we need to be much more careful to fall within their guidelines if we want to be exempt from paying property tax. There will be a special Parish Council meeting on July 5 at 7:15 to discern the Holy Spirit's leading in this matter.

An Endowment Committee has been formed and they are moving ahead with completing all the policies necessary to set up the Endowment Fund. This will provide a way to create a fund which will continue way into the future. Money donated will be invested through the Episcopal Church Foundation and only the interest and any appreciation from the investment may be used each year.

## New Audio-Visual system

The white things on the sanctuary walls are new projectors. Thanks to two very generous gifts, we have had an audio-visual system installed which will enable us to show films and run the sound through our speaker system. This will make it possible for us to have more professional presentations especially for Hollister Institute classes as the sound will be good and the projectors are strong enough that we don't have to close all the blinds.

We also took the opportunity to move the antenna that runs the assisted listening system so that should be stronger and to reset all our sound levels.



Jason from A town A/V tuning our speakers for the new a/v system.

## **St. Benedict's Blessing the Future Campaign: Vision Plan 2017-2037**

Adrienne Harris

Now that our church building is almost complete, we are looking to the future by creating a Vision Plan for the building and land at St. Benedict's. We want to ensure we have a plan in place to help us create worship and community spaces that will serve our congregation and the community for the next 20 years. With a plan in place, we will be poised and ready to take full advantage of future gifts and to develop the Blessing the Future Campaign.

The project kicked off in June with a survey and brainstorming meeting with the congregation. Members voiced their ideas of what they envision St. Benedict's will need. We also collected ideas from church documents to create a list of items for the congregation to consider in July.

As the next step in the process, all ideas generated will be on display at St. Benedict's for prioritization. Parish members voiced their ideas. Now we are asking members to consider what their top priorities are from the list. Between July 3 and 17, there will be posters in the church listing the ideas for the building, the grounds, and possible future buildings at St. Benedict's. We hope you will take time to look at the list and vote for your top 5 highest priorities. Only the top priorities that are most feasible will be fleshed out for the draft and final Vision Plan.

A draft plan will be released in September for congregation members to review. The final plan will be released in October. Please include your voice in the process. Help us craft a coherent plan of how to use the land that God has blessed us with.

### **Church Safety Training**

On July 30, there will be an opportunity to attend two training sessions which are required for all church leaders. These will be held at St Barnabas' in Arroyo Grande. A donation of \$10 for one course or \$15 for both includes a light lunch and refreshments. Please let Danna know if you plan to attend.

- Safeguarding God's Children (9am-12noon) is required for all those working with children and has to be renewed every three years. It can also be done on-line.
- Safeguarding God's People (1pm - 3pm) is required for all vestry members and anyone who visits others in their homes on behalf of the church.

### **Giving to St Benedict's**

Have you remembered St Benedict's in your will? One way you can give thanks for all that the church means to you and bless the future at the same time is to leave a bequest. Of course you want to take care of your loved ones, but a tithe - 10% - of your estate, or of the value of your house, will help to ensure that the work of St. Benedict's goes forward and help your family to see how much the reign of God means to you. If you don't specify otherwise, your gift will go into the Endowment Fund and so it will continue to be a blessing well into the future. If you prefer, you can designate it for one of the funds or leave it to the Vestry's discretion.

10%

### **Parish Retreat**

It has been many years since we have had a residential retreat, so this year we have booked 12 spaces at Mount Calvary retreat house for the weekend Nov 18 -20. This is an opportunity to take some time out of your regular schedule for rest and spiritual reflection. Retreatants will be able to join in the regular worship schedule of the community as well as coming together for reflection sessions led by Donna Ross+. There will be plenty of time for quiet personal reflection.

The retreat house is very close to the Santa Barbara Mission and just across the road from a small park. Accommodation is in shared rooms with a bathroom just down the hallway. (<http://mount-calvary.org/>) The retreat starts on Friday with supper at 6pm but you can arrive any time after 3pm, and it concludes after lunch on Sunday. The cost is \$260 per person. Please let Danna know if you plan to attend ([office@stbenslososos.org](mailto:office@stbenslososos.org)) and make a deposit of \$50 to secure your place.

## Time and Talent Survey

Esta Kandarian has been inviting us to make our pastoral care program a little more organized, and so we will soon be inviting you to let us know how you can help in times of need – this might include providing rides to appointments, doing grocery shopping or light housework, offering a meal or sitting with someone who is ill. It's also a good time to think about the whole range of volunteer opportunities there are in this faith community and whether God might be calling you to something new or different.

**So look out for a time and talent survey coming in the next few weeks.** Available on paper and on-line.

## Confidential Emergency Information Forms

The church office has distributed Confidential Emergency Information forms to help us help you in cases of emergency. The forms include questions about who you'd like Rev. Caro+ to contact on your behalf in an emergency, as well as your address, important phone numbers, any pets at your home, your primary care physician and other relevant information.

If you would like to provide an authorization to release medical information to individuals or family members, please ask for one from your physician and attach it to your form so that St. Benedict's has a copy on file.

The confidential forms will be kept in a locked box and used only in an emergency situation. We appreciate all who have completed and returned the forms, which you'll find at the usher's table. We are asking that the completed forms be returned at your earliest convenience to the large envelope in our administrative assistant's mailbox, marked "Danna." Thank you for your help in updating our records!

## Abundance Shop: A New Home

Francis F. Rivinus

The Abundance Shop is getting ready to move to new quarters! In May we learned that a building we have been looking at for some time was going to become available. With the concurrence of the Parish Council, negotiations were begun with the landlord and a lease taken. The new location is at 2025 9<sup>TH</sup> Street diagonally across the street from La Casita restaurant. It is substantially larger and all on one floor which will benefit both volunteers and customers. We look forward to being able to provide a more accessible shopping environment for our customers along with a better working environment for our volunteers. Currently there are some renovations being done to make the bathroom accessible for the disabled and there will also be some work required to be able to mount some of the Abundance Shop fixtures. However, we expect to be fully operational in the new location by mid-July.

I am pleased to announce that the Abundance Shop again participated in the SLO NOOR FOUNDATION Annual Thrift & Consignment Store Fashion Show held on June 26th. The shop donated an outfit which was worn by the mistress of ceremonies.



Abundance Shop revenues for the second quarter have been good. As a result the shop has been able to support much of the costs involved with the relocation with the help of several donors who stepped forward to assist.



(Abundance Shop, Continued)

However, there has been an effect on disposable income and the shop was only able to contribute \$ 1,000 to St. Benedict's on June 26.

A new location with additional space offers opportunities to review and improve the way the Abundance Shop operates. We are looking for additional volunteer help both customer facing such as cashiers and in the back office. Welcome interest/skill sets include: pricing, display/merchandising and repair/renovation. We are dependent on a group of dedicated volunteers and could not operate without them and we welcome interest from all. If any reader feels moved to contribute to this important outreach effort of St. Benedict's please contact me and let me know.

## Good Vibes: the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Concert for St. Benedict's

August 21, 2016 at 3:00 pm at St. Benedict's Church in Los Osos. Tickets: \$25.00. Darrell Voss and the Real Time Jazz All Stars, featuring Bob Bennett, Dave Becker, Marshal Otwell and Dylan Johnson.

An Exciting Mix of Jazz! A tribute to Vibraphone Masters, including the styles of Lionel Hampton, Milt Jackson and Cal Tjader.

Complimentary snacks and beverages at the event; wine and beer for sale. Proceeds benefit St. Benedict's church and its programs. Tickets available at Boo-Boo Records, San Luis Obispo; The Abundance Shop, Los Osos; or on-line at [www.stbenslososos.org](http://www.stbenslososos.org). Discounted tickets will be available for church members, with the understanding that they may be standing on the veranda, if the concert sells out!

Poster design Ed Himelblau



## Sunday Sessions - Where Spirit Meets Sound

An Encounter with Spirit through word and music from inspiring local talent

Sundays from September 10 to November 20, 2016 at 4pm

We are inviting young local musicians to participate with us in a series of Sunday concerts which will also provide an opportunity for spiritual connection and reflection. Each session will include two sets of music of about 20 minutes each, with time in between for a reading, a reflection and prayer. We are not expecting specifically religious or spiritual music... but excellent music that expresses a connection with spirit, however the artists understand him/her. We are hoping that the series will include a wide range of styles and express diverse cultural backgrounds.

*Coming in September!*

Each Session will include an informal jam session from about 5pm to 6pm. This series is co-sponsored by the Canterbury Shire. For more information please talk to Alek Speck, Holly Rohner, Rachel Espinosa or John Cribb.

## San Luis Obispo Deanery at Central Coast Pride 2016

Danna Dykstra-Coy

St. Benedict's will be among the eight San Luis Obispo County Episcopal churches sponsoring a booth at this year's Central Coast Pride Festival. Parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate in this great opportunity to share with many people about God's inclusive love for all. (continued on the next page)

(Central Coast Pride, continued)

The festival is Sunday, July 10, in Mission Plaza from noon to 5:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help staff the booth, clean up and set up, which begins at 8:30 a.m.

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pride in the Plaza, sponsored by the Central Coast's Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA). The festival is family friendly and features music, dance, food and a children's play area. It evolved from a growing number of cities and towns offering celebrations of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) history and pride. The Central Coast's GALA chose the month of July to avoid competing with similar celebrations in other cities, and the festival now draws more than 7,000 people.

If you'd like to help with the booth or have questions, please contact Jeff Diehl from St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Jeff can be reached at [jdiehl@albionenvironmental.com](mailto:jdiehl@albionenvironmental.com) or (831) 588-7775.

## Prado Day Center

Alice Welchert

St. Benedict's has been gathering food and hygiene items for the Prado Day Center for many years. It is an important and too-much-needed ministry. Those wishing to make donations can bring them to church on any Sunday and place them in the boxes at the north end of the church. I take them to Prado about once a month. Clients and staff always welcome these practical offerings with smiles and gratitude.

### Needed food items (*especially* breakfast)

Instant oatmeal and cold cereal

Juice

Peanut butter and jam

Breakfast bars

Soy and almond milk

Coffee, tea, creamer, sugar, sugar substitute

Disposable plates, bowls, forks, knives and spoons.

Canned, fully-prepared foods are also appreciated.

### Food items that *cannot* be used by Prado

uncooked pasta

uncooked rice

flour

fresh fruits and vegetables should *not* be placed in the boxes as they may spoil. If you have a quantity of fruit or vegetables you would like to donate please call Alice to make timely arrangements.

### Other needed items

Small soaps, shampoos, conditioners from hotels

Disposable razors and shaving cream

Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Combs

Feminine hygiene products

Diapers

New or gently used towels and washcloths

Laundry detergent

Paper towels

Cleaning products

Large trash bags

Stamps and stationery

Backpacks in good condition

## EarthCare Plans for Creation Sundays in the Fall

Bob Pelfrey

St. Benedict's EarthCare group met on Wednesday, June 8, and discussed how to support Caro's still evolving plans to observe what many congregations now call "Creation Sundays", viz., the Sundays from late September through mid-October, by focusing our congregation on the spiritual dimensions of environmental and climate concerns. Caro has asked for and received permission from Bishop Mary to go ahead with this project. The EarthCare group therefore discussed recommendations by Joe Morris, Barry Turner, and Bob

(EarthCare, continued)

Pelfrey that a series of presentations be built around two classic videos dealing with cosmology, Brian Swimme's "Journey of the Universe", and a video by Dr. Joel Primack and his wife, Dr. Nancy Abrams, titled: "View from the Center of the Universe." Both films stress the incredible beauty of the emergent view of the expanding cosmos, including the implicit challenge to people of Faith to match our theology and practice with this remarkable new and expanding vision of what God's Creation means.

To accompany these two films, the group agreed to forward the suggestion that the book "Care for Creation", by Franciscan theologian Ilia Delio, be used as the basis for ongoing discussions for all of the sessions. Caro will take these suggestions along with those from other members of the congregation into account as she moves forward with St. Benedict's "Creation Sundays" plans. EarthCare will also continue to discuss this issue in future meetings, including suggestions involving how some concrete "action topics" might result from the various discussions and activities.

Alice Welchert then reported to the group about her attendance at a late May San Luis Obispo Counting Planning Commission meeting at which the commission—overruling their own staff recommendation—voted 3-2 to grant approval to the "oil trains" route through our county. She explained that the vote is "tentative", viz., it will be revisited in September. She also noted that this vote was taken before the June 3d oil train spill in the Columbia River resulting from the derailing of some 96 cars. Large fires as well as neighborhood evacuations resulted. Fortunately, there were no deaths involved. Alice recommended that EarthCare provide more specific information to our congregation on details of this issue as it moves towards the September decision point, including information on how to contact the Planning Commission on this issue.

The group also discussed the ongoing environmental problem of invasive plants, an issue which is affecting the entire Los Osos area and St. Benedict's property itself (e.g., mustard plant and Veldt grass, among others). Joe Morris agreed to contact the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to see if a speaker might be available to come to St. Benedict's to address the issue). The group also discussed the practical problems involved in trying to eliminate these plants from our property, an effort that could make St. Benedict's a kind of "plant refuge", and also symbolize our congregation's commitment to honoring the many ways that the environment is under threat. Discussion of this issue will continue in future meetings.

Finally, the group enjoyed Joe Morris' description of a "Locavore" lunch that he once attended, sponsored by a Quaker group. A Locavore is involve "omni" (unlimited selection of) food products grown "locally". The fun of the Locavore, besides supporting local food producers, includes the individual recipes on display for sampling as part of the lunch itself. This, too, will be discussed at further meetings.

**EVENT!** Reminder: the EarthCare group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:30 at St. Benedict's. You do not have to "join" the group to attend meetings. Individuals who are not members of St. Benedict's are also welcome to attend.



## The Shire at Canterbury

Berkeley Johnson

Lots of news this month so I'll try to be as efficient as possible in my reporting.

First, we are still looking for young adults who will be around for Pride on Sunday, July 10th to help staff the SLO Deanery booth with us. We would love to have your input and presence.

Next, we have agreed that the date for our annual chili cook-off and silent auction fundraiser will be Sunday, Oct. 16th at St. Stephen's, so please keep that date open and let me know if you'd like to have a chili entry this year. It's also never too early to begin gathering and requesting silent auction items, so please keep this in mind over the coming weeks and months, and let me know if you have something to donate.

Fr. Ian and I had some great meetings on campus last month, and we continue to collaborate with Cal Poly to increase our presence on campus and create more avenues for connecting the local college students with The Shire and St. Stephen's. Even though The Shire will not meet regularly in July and August, planning for the upcoming school year has already begun.

If you would like to share your "talent" (musical or otherwise) with us for the St. Stephen's July Jubilee on the afternoon of Sunday, July 17th, please let me know.

Finally, even though there was a considerable amount of interest expressed by folks around the deanery for a new bible study series, our initial attempt to get it started this past spring was not successful due to low turnout. If this indeed is something any of you would still like to do, please let me know and we can try again this fall. Options and strategies were discussed at our organizational meeting to attract attendance, but ultimately this has to be something people want to do.



## A Good Neighbor - A Great Blessing

Danna Dykstra-Coy



St. Ben's parishioners may have noticed the bountiful crop of hay growing recently in the field next to the church. We arranged with our adjacent neighbor, Dominic Judge of HJ Construction, to plant the crop and then cut and bale it as part of an ongoing solution to maintaining the field.

As part of the use agreement, we may ask Dominic for help with property needs as they arise. He has already helped with a couple of projects, says Senior Warden Maria Kelly, including providing construction materials and installing the fence for the church along Clark Valley Road.

St. Ben's made the agreement with Dominic about three years ago, but he didn't grow hay last year due to the drought.

It's been fun watching Dominic and his crew mowing and

baling hay in his Clark Valley Road fields. This good neighbor relationship has been a great blessing!





**Left**, Social Hour after service in June. **Right**, Shire at Canterbury Annual Chili Cook-off Winners.

## EVENTS

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**Parish Council**, July 5 at 7:15

**Central Coast Pride Festival**, Sunday, July 10, in Mission Plaza from noon to 5:30 p.m

**St. Benedict's Day**, July 10th and 15th  
**Special Preacher, and Party!**

Brother Adam McCoy will be our guest speaker at the **10:30 service on July 10** when we celebrate St. Benedict's Day.

We will have a party on **July 15 starting at 5pm** to celebrate both St. Benedict's Day and the completion of the Great Room project.

**St. Stephen's July Jubilee** on the afternoon of Sunday, July 17th, The Shire at Canterbury.

**Church Safety Training**, July 30 9am-3pm

**EarthCare Meetings**, second Wednesday of each month at 2:30 at St. Benedict's

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Concert for St. Benedict's**, August 21, 2016 at 3:00 pm at St. Benedict's Church

**Sunday Sessions - Where Spirit Meets Sound**, Sundays from September 10 to November 20, 2016 at 4pm



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