

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

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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:

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One of the things I love about St. Benedict's is our willingness to experiment, especially with ways of doing church. This goes back such a long way that it's really part of our DNA. We have tried many different things over the years, some of them have stuck and become part of the "way we do things" and others have been a good idea at the time.

I'm excited that this month we are trying **two** new things. The first one is a special afternoon service/concert which we're calling Sunday Sessions. This is modeled after a popular "Jazz Vespers" at All Saints' Pasadena. Their website says, "Jazz Vespers brings together amazing musicianship and holy inspiration... for a service of prayer, meditation and music. Over the years our sanctuary has been blessed by... too many first-class musicians to list. So many of them tell us that they love playing in the context of a vespers service with prayers and short meditations and the sense that this is a holy enterprise, not just a jazz concert in the church."

Instead of just jazz musicians, Sunday Sessions will feature some of the best young bands and musicians in San Luis Obispo county in an eclectic line-up headlined by Live Hip Hop/Funk band, Wordsauce. Some of the performers will be familiar to St Ben's members – Melody Klemin sings the second week, followed our very own Alek Speck as part of the

trio Five Parts Devil, and then Holly Rohner performs in November. Each session will include two sets of music, prayers, reading and reflection, starting at 4pm and continuing for eleven weeks. We hope that this will be a truly holy enterprise.



We're also trying something new on Sunday mornings during September. As a reflection of our increasing understanding of the sacredness of all creation, we are joining some other churches around the world in celebrating a Season of Creation. This starts on September 4 and continues until October 2 when we'll be observing St Francis' Day. During these five Sundays our worship will focus on different aspects of Creation – Ocean, Fauna,

Storm, Cosmos and St. Francis. To accompany our worship and help us to go deeper, members of the Hollister faculty who are also members of EarthCare are offering a class "Care for Creation" on Tuesday evenings during the month.

As Anglicans, we express our belief through our worship, "*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*" – as we worship so we believe. These two innovations in worship express our belief that God's invitation is for everyone, and that we are called to be stewards of the earth and co-creators with God. I am looking forward to exploring the possibilities together and welcome your input and feedback as we go through the next few weeks.

With love in Christ,

With blessings,
Caro+

Rev. Caroline J. A. Hal

Building News

The contractors have finished the Great Room, and the corner room. Now it's up to us to decide exactly how to furnish them, and start using them. There is still money left in the Great Room fund for the finishing touches. We'll be making these decisions over the next few weeks and if you'd like to be part of the design group please contact Caro+ or Maria Kelly.

We still have an open permit because the County have changed their position on the interior sprinkler system. May years ago, we started to install it but found that it would be prohibitively expensive. At that time, the fire chief agreed that we could install a heat sensor system instead as long as we took off all the sprinkler heads and anything that made it look like we had a sprinkler system. We did that, but now we have been told that we must either (1) remove all the pipes or (2) fully install a system. We will not be allowed to do any further building or expansion unless and until we install a functional sprinkler system. Don Shields is working with a company to develop a proposal which we expect to be very expensive. We have been blessed with a gift of \$10,000 towards the installation, if we choose to do it. We will let you have more details when we have them.

The County Tax Assessor has let us know that we have not been keeping to the rules concerning the non-profit use of the church. We can either pay \$5000 per year in property tax or cut back on the groups and activities that we allow to happen here. The Parish Council has not yet made a decision, but so far this year our income has been about what we anticipated, and since we started the year agreeing to spend more than we expected to bring in, we don't have \$5,000 sitting around.

Blessing the Future Fund

When we asked the Diocese for their support in extending the bank loan so we could finish the Great Room and bathrooms, someone said that borrowing the money was just kicking the can into the future and making future generations pay for our improvements. In that critique, the **Blessing the Future** fund was born. Every donation we receive to this fund goes with our next monthly mortgage payment directly to the bank to help pay off the loan. Every dollar we pay off today reduces the interest we have to pay tomorrow so it has a snowball effect. Together with the payment from the very generous stock donation we received in December, your gifts mean that we now owe LESS than \$100,000. Every dollar helps, and the sooner the better. Please make your donation today, and let's not kick the can any further down the road.

Gratitude Dinner : October 21, 6pm

EVENT!

Each year we celebrate our gratitude to God and each other for the many blessings we have received as part of St. Benedict's. The dinner is provided by the Parish Council and everyone is welcome, including those Abundance Shop volunteers who are not regular church members.

So please put it on your calendar now and plan to attend. We have much to be grateful for and it is a wonderful time to gather and remind ourselves of the abundance of God's love.



Good Vibes at the St. Benedict's 17th Annual Jazz Concert

Pamela Bleisch



Darrell Voss and the Real Time Jazz All Stars gave a wonderful performance on August 21st, presenting an exciting mix of jazz. On a sunny Sunday afternoon, an enthusiastic crowd gathered in the sanctuary to enjoy arrangements of classic American jazz standards featuring Bob Bennett on trumpet; Dave Becker on saxes; Marshall Otwell on piano; Brian Lanzone on bass; with band leader Darrell Voss on vibraphone, drums, and percussion. A highlight of the event was Darrell's "guided tour" of the vibraphone, with a tribute to the styles of master vibe players Lionel Hampton, Milt Jackson and Cal Tjader.

Everyone enjoyed delicious snacks and beverages served in the newly completed St. Benedict's classroom. The breezy veranda provided the perfect place for conversation during intermission, and for dancing during the second set.

A silent auction featured luxurious prizes: a case of Trezza "Mosaico" red wine, a gourmet chocolate class with master chocolatier Tom Neuhaus, and a massage with skilled practitioner Donna Hoff. All proceeds from this event benefit St. Benedict's church and its programs.

The annual Jazz concert is St. Benedict's major fundraiser, and has been a joyful tradition for almost two decades.

A few members of the audience were proudly reminiscing that they have attended every concert, for seventeen years—and it never disappoints. This is always a special afternoon of lively jazz, in a wonderful venue.

Spirited volunteers willingly gave their time and talents to make this event a wonderful gathering for the community, and our generous sponsors helped to make this fundraiser a success for our church: Niven Family Wines, Mama Ganache Artisan Chocolates, Valley Liquor, Donna Hoff massage, and the artist Liz Maruska.



Abundance Shop

Francis F. Rivinus

The Abundance Shop moved into our new location at 2025 9th Street over the July 4th weekend. We were closed for most of the week following while we scrambled to install fixtures, get clothes hung, books on shelves and generally try to impose some order on the chaos of moving. Then, ready or not, we reopened for business on Saturday July 6th. The move from the old location and the setup at the new location was done entirely by the Abundance Shop volunteers with a little help from some friends of the Abundance Shop and the loan of a large truck by Steve Auslender. It is impossible to adequately describe the dedication and determination of the Abundance Shop volunteers who made the move possible. Without their perseverance the shop could have been closed for weeks while things were slowly moved and set up.



In particular I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Karin Cake whose vision created the layout of the new store, Linda Blackwell who organized and motivated the volunteers sorting through the piles of stuff from the old store as well as handling the volume of new donations that started almost immediately, Rob Morse who was unstinting in making both himself and his truck available to us whenever needed, Don Shields who lent his expertise, inventiveness, experience and wisdom to getting things put together and structured and Steve Cake along with Karin's son Ken and his children for advice and skill in helping out whenever and wherever they were needed.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to all the Abundance Shop volunteers who continued to function despite often inadequate and sometimes contradictory instructions particularly in the first few days the shop was open. They are the ones who really made things happen and are directly responsible for the shop's success.

Since moving to our new location, rather than experiencing a drop in revenue, which one would expect after a move, the shop's revenues started on a par with those of the old location and steadily ramped up over the past two months. The shop is currently averaging just over \$ 238 per day compared with just over \$ 161 per day at the old location. Customers are unanimous in their expression of pleasure with the layout and look of the new store along with the elimination of stairs.

The front of the store received a wonderful sprucing up by the donation of beautiful landscaping from Greener Environments Inc. of Los Osos. They used only plants native to our area with the result that the landscaping is both attractive and drought tolerant. Greener Environments is a company run by a husband and wife team and their work speaks for itself.

As always 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. As our move clearly demonstrated, 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.



A Little Bit About Faith

Sarah Chesebro

Faith Watkins (September 30, 1943 to April 6, 2016) came to the Central Coast in the mid 1990's from her home "town" of Pasadena, to escape the city life, and found her new home in Los Osos and a new family at Saint Benedict's Episcopal Church. She was a Eucharistic woman having found the Anglican way of life at All Saint's Church Pasadena in her 20's. Faith quickly became a part of the fabric of Saint Benedict's by joining the Altar Guild and later becoming a member of the Vestry, Financial Committee, and Building Committee. She put her professional talents to work as the Project Manager of the transport and reconstruction of our church building here on Snowy Egret Lane from Camp Roberts California National Guard Post that borders the San Luis Obispo/Monterey Counties on Route 101. Faith was passionate about our church building. I believed she viewed the church building as her legacy.



There are many of you who may have never known or met Faith, however, she has been part of our community over the past several years in a silent and loving way. She has been present in the church linens she so lovingly cared for and the church bulletins she produced for many years. You may also recognize her through the cooking and baking she so loved making for us such as her fabulous deviled eggs, Ron Thompson's favorite Potato Salad, Mimi's Aspic, and those Almond Cookies!

For those of us who knew Faith we could always depend on a frank discussion about politics, religion, tennis, global warming, criminal justice and the latest movie. We also know that she kept us in her prayers and near to her heart no matter what our opinion ;).

Faith's wish was to be scattered in the ocean close to where she had found peace here in Los Osos.

Faith leaves behind a daughter Mimi, granddaughter Paige, Godson Julian and Goddaughters, Erin and Katherine, brother Paul and sister Mary, and her precious poodle Sassy.

St Francis Garden

We have a new tree, a manzanita, which we planted in honor of long-time member Faith Watkins, and Norm Coy, Danna's husband has created a beautiful stand for the memorial plaque. This commemorates those whose ashes are scattered in the garden, or whose families have contributed trees or plants to the garden in their honor.

Prado Day Center

Alice Welchert

When I submit an article about Prado Day Center to *The Benediction* I often list the kinds of donations needed -- breakfast items, canned goods, hygiene items, laundry detergent. Staff and clients of Prado are grateful to receive them. Yet a recent news story reminds us that they are small offerings in the face of life and death realities:

Man found dead at SLO bus stop identified

The Tribune, August 31, 2016

A 49-year-old man has been identified as the homeless person found dead at a bus stop in San Luis Obispo on the morning of July 28. San Luis Obispo police Lt. John Bledsoe said Richard Kirkpatrick was discovered unresponsive at the bus stop on Madonna Road after the department received a call about 9:45 a.m. last week.

Efforts to revive Kirkpatrick were unsuccessful, and he was pronounced dead. Bledsoe said Kirkpatrick probably died from a medical emergency, but an autopsy by the Sheriff's coroner is still pending.

Bledsoe said Kirkpatrick was known to local police through several previous law enforcement contacts with him. The delay in releasing his name was to notify his next of kin, Bledsoe said. (continued...)

(Prado Day Center continued)

Last Christmas the St. Benedict's family gave time and money generously to fulfill the annual Prado "Children's Wish List." The outpouring was a perfect storm of giving: the Christmas season, the desire to help children, specific doable requests ("Girl, age 4 wants hair barrettes and shoes," versus, "Man, age 49, needs detox, rehab, serious medical care, long-term housing, meaningful work as possible, community support, love and infinite patience.")

The day I delivered gifts to the Day Center was over cast and drizzly. A staff member and I took arm loads of festively wrapped presents to a large padlocked outdoor shed. Everything inside was safe and dry. Next to the shed a thin older man huddled on an old chaise lounge, a damp-looking blanket over him. For a few hours, at least, he wouldn't be hassled to get off the streets, keep moving or be cited for vagrancy. What are the odds this man was Richard Kirkpatrick? We don't know. But we do know that when we feed, clothe, care for and shelter thousands like him, we are caring for Christ.

As a congregation we can choose to direct our vision, energies and dollars increasingly towards justice. For example, we might want to actively support Hope's Village. On Thursday, September 15, from 5 to 7 pm at the SLO Library on Palm Street, leaders of the internationally recognized community village will talk about "Tiny Living" -- creating a thriving oasis of affordable housing, gardens and micro-enterprises for people who were homeless in Austin" (if you want to carpool to the presentation contact Alice at 528-7355). Does St. Benedict's want to help Hope's Village SLO become a reality?

We could start moving from charity to greater justice by supporting a specific program such as the "Recuperative Care Project" described by the *Friends of Prado Day Center* newsletter:

"Homeless people often have nowhere to go to safely and quietly recuperate from illness or surgery and they may have difficulty navigating the challenging medical system to schedule follow-up appointments. Beginning August 1, Maxine Lewis Shelter will provide a safe place for up to six of these clients to rest and recuperate -- both day and night -- from illness or after surgery." A case manager will ensure they follow-up with all medical appointments and provide transportation. Discussions are ongoing to expand the project to the new center once it is constructed."

I think it's safe to say that the annual Children's Wish List never includes the deepest wishes of all Prado clients, regardless of age -- the wish for a safe, stable home rather than a car, couch surfing, or a drainage ditch. In 2016 St. Benedict's can choose to take a step or two in that direction. There is still time.

The Shire at Canterbury

Berkeley Johnson

First of all, thank you all so much for your response to the SLO Canterbury Board's recent mid-year fundraising letter. We are all so grateful for your support.

As I write to you this month, we are gearing up for our 10th year of serving the local university and college students here in SLO county, with our first big event, the Club Showcase, at Cal Poly on Sunday, Sept. 25th. We'll be out to meet incoming students, re-connect with returning ones, and spread the word about all that The Shire and The Episcopal Church have to offer.

EVENT! **Save the Date:** Please save the date of Sunday, Oct. 16th for our Annual Chili Cook-Off with Chicken Barbecue, Silent Auction & Raffle at St. Stephen's. We're looking for Chili entries and any Silent Auction items you can donate or acquire from local

businesses. The success of this event has always been the great participation throughout the Deanery, so please plan to join in the fun on this special day!

Of course, we're busy planning our programming for the upcoming fall quarter and our Wednesday evenings at The Shire. We'll also collaborate with St. Ben's, Los Osos for its new Sunday Sessions music and spirituality series beginning on Sunday, Sept. 11th. And finally, we're in the process of hiring a social-media intern to increase our presence and awareness of our ministry throughout the local campus and young-adult community. (continued...)



I am profoundly honored that we have made it to ten years, and so thankful to the entire deanery for its ongoing support of Canterbury. Yes, we still need board members from several deanery parishes, and yes, financially it's a constant struggle; but, we've always managed to find a way, and I trust the Spirit will continue to lead us onward, as we bring Christ's healing message of love, justice, and reconciliation to our young people.

A Season of Fires Hits the Central Coast

Danna Dykstra-Coy and Anne Kanter



Left, Smoke visible from San Simeon Creek Road. Above, Zebra graze on the Hearst property beneath smoke from the nearby fire.

Pictures by Danna Dykstra-Coy.

Three fires that have ravaged homes and more than 160,000 acres across San Luis Obispo County to the Big Sur area and northern Santa Barbara County continued to burn at our publication deadline.

Fire officials pushed back the containment estimate for the 87,000-acre Soberanes Fire in Monterey County to September 30. That fire began on July 22, forcing the closure of all California State Parks in the area. On August 13 the Chimney Fire broke out at Running Deer Ranch and Chimney Rock Road south of Lake Nacimiento. As of August 30 (Day 18), firefighters had made great progress with 75% containment for a total 46,344 acres burned. So far, 48 homes and 20 cabins or outbuildings have been lost. Northwest winds had pushed the fire toward the coast at times within a mile of Hearst Castle. Evacuation warnings were given to residents in rural Cambria. All evacuation orders have since been lifted with an estimated full containment date of September 3.

The Rey Fire that started August 18 near Lake Cachuma had burned 31,505 acres and was at 39% containment.

Please remember in prayer the residents who've lost their homes and the thousands of firefighters working the lines to contain these blazes that have filled our skies with smoke and ash for several weeks.

Below is our Anne Kanter's August 18 account of the Chimney Fire in rural Cambria, where she delivers mail and area residents had initially been warned to prepare to evacuate:

"Today I was delivering my route and was 7 miles up San Simeon Creek Road when I stopped, because I could clearly see the firefighting helicopters and airplanes working to contain the Chimney fire. This is the fire that began near Lake Nacimiento. The fire has breached the ridgeline at Rocky Butte. I had no idea it was so close to Cambria.

To clarify, what this means is that the fire has spread so far west that it is now a very real threat to the ranchers/residents living and earning their living just 5-20 miles inland of Cambria. This is wooded area that has lost at least 30% of its trees to the drought. Those trees, and the underlying brush, are now prime fuel for this fire. The livestock and wildlife in the area are innumerable. And, of course, there have been huge losses already due to this fire. (continued on the next page)

I encountered CDF staff in 4x4s racing up and down the road, and I encountered ranchers trying to evacuate what they can. One rancher was clearly planning to stay put. Another elderly gentleman (retired military officer) has been living in a 400 sq. ft. cabin, off the grid, and his property is very close to the fire right now. He had loaded as many of his peacocks and peahens into his pickup truck as he could and turned his other fowl loose to try to survive on their own if the worst happens.

I understand that folks assume the risk of wildfires when they choose to live in such remote areas. I do ask for your prayers for them, and for the brave and exhausted firefighters who are striving to control this fire and the other horrible wildfires all over our state and the western U.S. This is a truly tragic situation, affecting thousands of people, as I am sure you know."



Hollister Institute:

The New Cosmology and Care for Creation, August 28 – Oct. 2, 2016

Tuesdays, Aug. 30 through Sept. 27 we'll meet here each week at 7 pm for a discussion centered on Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth accompanied by other video and film presentations.

Tuesday, Aug. 30, Creation and Incarnation

Tuesday, Sept. 6, Creation and Family

Tuesday, Sept. 13, Creation and Contemplation Tuesday,

Tuesday, Sept. 20, Film: View from the Center of the Universe

Tuesday, Sept. 27, Creation and Conversion

The View from the Center of the Universe: Discovering our Extraordinary Place in the Cosmos; (September 20, 7pm) In this 1 hour video, Joel R. Primack, Ph.D., one of the world's leading cosmologists, and Nancy Ellen Abrams, a cultural philosopher and writer, use recent advances in astronomy, physics, and cosmology to frame an exciting new way to understand the universe as a whole and our role in it. They evoke a compelling new vision of why we matter in the universe and how we might begin to embrace it again and call it home.

We conclude the series with a "hands on" practical session at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 4 pm. Presentations and discussions are hosted by Barry Turner+, Caro Hall+, Bob Pelfrey, John Horsley, Joe Morris, and the Rev. Michael Eggleston.

Hollister Institute

Bonhoeffer – The Life and Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

October 6 – November 3 7pm

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German [Lutheran pastor](#), [theologian](#), [anti-Nazi dissident](#), and key founding member of the [Confessing Church](#). His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential, and his book [The Cost of Discipleship](#) became a modern classic. (continued on the next page)

Apart from his theological writings, Bonhoeffer was known for his staunch resistance to the [Nazi dictatorship](#), including vocal opposition to Hitler's [euthanasia](#) program and genocidal persecution of the [Jews](#). He was arrested in April 1943 by the [Gestapo](#) and imprisoned at Tegel prison for one and a half years. Later he was transferred to a [Nazi concentration camp](#). After being associated with the [plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler](#), he was quickly tried, along with other accused plotters, and then executed by hanging on 9 April 1945 as the Nazi regime was collapsing.

This DVD-based class will consider the major themes of Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking, his resistance to Nazism and how his beliefs continue to impact the church today.

Thursday October 6: What is the Church?

Thursday October 13: Living in Christian Community

Thursday October 20: No Class

Thursday October 27: Religionless Christianity

Thursday, November 3: Come and Die

The conversations will be led by Caroline Hall+. Everyone is welcome, and participants can expect to be challenged with some new ideas about Christian community and our response to the Gospel.

Sunday Sessions

Sunday Sessions are a series of Sunday concerts which also provide an opportunity for spiritual connection and reflection. Not a traditional church service but a holy enterprise - great music with some inspiration and meditation.

Every Sunday from September 11 to November 20, 2016 at 4pm, followed by a jam session 5pm - 6pm. No charge, but your generous donation will keep the musicians coming back!

Sunday
Sessions
@StBens

9/11 Wordsauce
9/18 Melody Klemin
9/25 Five Parts Devil
10/2 Albert Jr Band
10/9 Samba Loca
10/16 Explode the Machine
10/23 Amaris
10/30 Talia Ortega
11/6 Sunshine & Stardust
11/13 Noach Tangeras
11/20 Erin English

EVENTS

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

Gratitude Dinner October 21
St. Benedicts, 6pm

Wordsauce @ Sunday Sessions Sept 11
4-5pm (followed by jam session 5-6pm)
Admission is Free (donations requested)
(For additional dates and performers see the article above.)

Chili Cook-Off and Barbecue October 16
The Shire at Canterbury's Annual Chili Cook-Off with Chicken Barbecue, Silent Auction, and Raffle at St. Stephen's (see article)



The Benediction

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

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