

Benediction Weekly

January 10, 2015

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.



Join the St. Benedict's **Green Group** on Wednesday, January 13 at 2:30 for a special meeting with speaker Heidi Harmon. Heidi is the chair of the Climate Change Task Force for Santa Lucia Sierra Club and Program Director for the local chapter of 350.org. She will be giving us her perspective on the Paris Climate Change Conference, and talking about what we can do locally.

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

TODAY

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with music
12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch at Celia's Garden Café

Tuesday, Jan 12

5:30 pm – Vespers
6:15 pm – Potluck

Wednesday, Jan 13

10:00 am – Intercessory Prayer Circle
2:30 pm – Green Group
7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Jan 14

10:00 am – Hollister Inst. "Things Hidden" begins

Saturday, Jan 16

10:00 am – ECR Winter Conference, Salinas

Sunday, Jan 17

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with music
12:00 pm – Altar Guild meeting

People of Faith for Justice Presents:

"Legacy of Peace in a Violent World – Sharing our Stories"

An interfaith service and program
honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



3-4:30 pm Sunday, January 17
First Presbyterian Church,
981 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo

Guest Speakers:

- Kristin Michelle Lee – Cal Poly Student
- The Rev. Eugenia Gamble – Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church
- Ruth de Jesus – Asst. Director, Cross Cultural Centers at Cal Poly

Contributions will be accepted for the
Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund
Dedicated to assisting students in the SLO area.

www.peopleoffaithforjustice.org

The 2016 Diocesan Winter Conference, "**Awaken Your Publicity!**" will take place on Saturday, January 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salinas. The interactive workshop will teach how to communicate better within your church and to local communities, covering writing, photography, websites, social media, and public relations. Please speak to Caro+ if you are interested in going with her to the conference.



Next Harmony Hike – January 16

Hike with Rev. Barbara Miller, Rector of St. James', on the third Saturday of each month. Hikes begin at 12:45pm. There will be a stational eucharist stopping at several points along the way to begin the service, listen to scripture, have a short time of silence and end with Communion. Dogs on a leash are welcome.

January 16 - Monarch Butterfly Grove, Pismo Beach.

The Monarch Butterfly Grove is located in the extreme southern end of the City of Pismo Beach just off Hwy 1. Exit Southbound 101 at Highway 1 exit. Highway 1 or Dolliver is straight across the intersection. Proceed south on Dolliver (Highway 1) about 1½ miles. The grove will be on your right just past the North Beach State Campground. Questions: (805) 238-0819

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Preacher: The Rev. Donna Ross;

Eucharistic Ministers: Diana Hammerlund & Stef Shuman; Lectors: Bryson McKelvey & Rob Ross;

Ushers: Steve Hirahara & Ron Thompson; Greeter: Ann Edwards; Altar Guild: Judy Schloss; Flowers: Alice Welchert;

Coffee Hour Hosts: Ron and Laura Thompson & Joan Ghilotti; Tellers: June Wright & Stef Shuman;

Music Director: John Cribb **Thank you all for your service!**



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

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
Pam Bleisch, Jr. Warden
John Cribb, Francis Rivinus,
Lisa Gonzalez, Michael Lucas,
Celeste Pennington, Anne Kanter,
Elaine Goodman, Kathie West

Starting this Week:

Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality, by Richard Rohr
Thursday mornings at 10 am, from January 14 to March 17

Our discussion of the themes in *Things Hidden* will be held at St. Benedict's Church at 10 o'clock on Thursday mornings in January, and online at <http://faithmatters.us/>

The author of *Things Hidden*, Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is the author of numerous books, including *Falling Upward: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* and *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See*.

Richard Rohr introduces *Things Hidden* by writing:

"The Bible can be confusing because it records a very human history of our struggles with faith and doubt. But since it continues to give us amazing new revelations from the Spirit, we need to sift through it to find what really matters."

Things Hidden will help us see:

The Bible's primary themes: **Who is God?** and **Who are we?**

The development of **very human characters**, from Abraham to Jeremiah to Paul.

The earthly ministry of **Jesus** and the meaning of our encounter with him.

The God who is always with us: the deepest meaning of **Emmanuel**.

The goal of *Things Hidden* is not to teach us 'what the Bible says' but to help us grow in our own relationship with God:

Consider what Rohr says about prayer: *"I am increasingly convinced that the word prayer, which has become a functional and pious thing for believers to do, is, in fact, a descriptor for inner experience. We will understand prayer and inner experience this way throughout this book."*

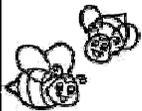
Email donnaross@charter.net to register for the Thursday discussion group and/or to receive notification when new posts go up at <http://faithmatters.us/>

Annual Parish Meeting January 31st

At our Annual Parish Meeting we will hear reports from ministry areas, pass a budget for the year, elect parish council and vestry members and delegates to deanery and convention, and discuss plans for the year ahead. This year the meeting will be held on January 31 after the 10:30 service. It's actually quite fun and you are all encouraged to participate... lunch is provided!

Ministry Reports - If you are involved with one of the many parish ministry areas at St. Ben's, please submit a written synopsis of activities for the past year to Danna by **January 20th**, for inclusion in the Annual Report to be distributed at the meeting.

Parish Elections - We will once again be electing people to serve as Vestry members, Parish Council members, and delegates to deanery and diocese. If you think God is calling you to serve in one of these ways, or you would just like more information, please contact one of the Nominations Committee members: Celeste Pennington or Pamela Bleisch Strawn, or speak with the Rector.



Quilting Bee at St. Benedict's ~ Saturday February 6th 10am to 4pm

Join the St. Ben's No Guilt Quilters for a fun day of sewing, knotting, and camaraderie at St. Ben's. Supplies and lunch provided. All are welcome. The quilts we make go to refugees worldwide, distributed by Lutheran World Relief <http://lwr.org/quilts> For more info, contact Pamela Bleisch Strawn: 805-602-1240 or pr.bleisch@gmail.com

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

Dec Income: \$ 15,066	Monthly Income Budgeted: \$ 11,128	Difference: \$ 3,938 surplus
YTD Income: \$ 146,540	YTD Income Budgeted: \$133,530	Difference: \$13,010 surplus

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. Sharon Dalrymple, (210) 422-8284. Call Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974.

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