

Benediction Weekly

January 3, 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.



Epiphany Star Party ~ Wednesday January 6th - 6:00 pm

It's Epiphany, Twelfth Night, Old Christmas and an excuse for a party! Bring a dish to share and twigs from your Christmas decorations to burn in the fire. We'll take down all the church's decorations, bless the church's door with the mark of Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, and crown the Kings or Queens of Epiphany. Take home your "star word" for the New Year!

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

TODAY

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist, followed by Potluck
Lunch – **Visitors are Welcome!**

Monday, Jan 4

8:30am-3:30pm – Nature Academy

Tuesday, Jan 5

5:30 pm – Vespers

6:15 pm – Potluck

Wednesday, Jan 6

6:00 pm – Epiphany Star Party
(choir rehearsal follows)

Thursday, Jan 7

7:00 pm – Drop-in Dream Group

Friday, Jan 8

8:30am-3:30pm – Nature Academy

Saturday, Jan 9

9:00 am – Men's Breakfast at Sea Pines Grill

5:30 pm – Saturday Evening Eucharist

Sunday, Jan 10

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with music

12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch at Celia's Garden Café

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 24th, for inclusion in the Annual Report to be distributed at the Parish 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.

Saturday Evening Eucharist This Week

On the second Saturday of each month we gather at 5:30 for a quiet and gentle eucharist. This service includes easy to sing music – most of which you won't find in the hymnbook, times of silence, Bible readings, poetry and reflection. For those who wish, it is followed by a simple soup supper. Please join us!



People of Faith for Justice Presents:

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

An interfaith service in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

3pm Sunday, January 17 at First Presbyterian Church, 981 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple; Eucharistic Minister: Lisa Gonzalez;
Chalice: Judy Schloss; Lectors: Judith Cadigan & Francis Rivinus; Ushers: Michael Lucas & Esta Kandarian;
Greeter: Ken Kenyon; Altar Guild: Sarah Chesebro; Flowers: Gigi Rivinus;
Potluck Hosts: Karin Cake & Elaine Goodman; Tellers: Steve Cake & Judy Schloss;
Cantor: Anne Kanter; 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.

NATURE ACADEMY – Alternative
Middle and High School program
through Outside Now, a nonprofit
educational organization dedicated to
reconnecting people to the wonders of
the natural world. Mon & Fri 830-330

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

Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality, by Richard Rohr Thursday mornings at 10 am, starting January 14

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/> Discussions begin January 14 and conclude March 17.

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*. Rohr writes,

"The development of consciousness is a gradual, lifelong process; it's not typically a straightforward journey. We may catch a glimpse of Divine Reality, but often it's too much for our small self, and so we recoil until great love, suffering, or contemplative practice help us surrender a bit more.

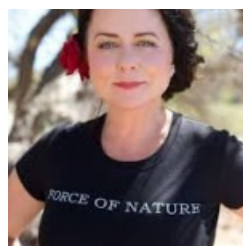
"We see this dance – three steps forward, two steps back – mirrored in sacred texts. Human authors at different levels of consciousness portray God in different ways. At times in most religious histories God has been described as violent, exclusive, and judgmental. It's easy to point the finger at other religions and forget our own religion's lower levels. For example, despite recent criticism, the Quran is not more violent than the Bible; our scriptures also hold many punitive, dualistic, and exclusionary passages. But also running throughout the world's sacred texts is the thread of God's desire for union, inclusivity, non-violence, forgiveness, mercy, and healing.

"At their most mature level, religions cultivate in their followers a deeper union with God, with each other, and with reality--or *what is*. The work of religion is to *re-ligio*--re-ligament or reunite what our egos and survival instincts have put asunder, namely a fundamental wholeness at the heart of everything

"My calling has been to retrieve and re-teach the wisdom that has been lost, ignored, or misunderstood within the Judeo Christian Tradition. Any truth that keeps recurring and gathers humanity's positive energy is called wisdom and most assuredly has to be from the One Holy Spirit."

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/>

Green Group Guest Speaker



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.

Men's Breakfast this Saturday

Gather at the Sea Pines Grill at 9am this Saturday for the monthly Men's Breakfast. This is a no-host social time with no agenda – just breakfast and conversation.



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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