

Benediction Weekly

June 4, 2017

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.



Parish Meeting and Potluck

There will be a potluck lunch following the service today. During the lunch we will have a parish meeting to discuss the five year mission and ministry plan currently under development to identify our core values and goals for ministry.

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

TODAY

9:20 am – Bible Study
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/music
12:30 pm – Parish Meeting and Potluck Lunch

Tuesday, June 6

5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by potluck supper

Wednesday, June 7

10:00 am – Intercessory Prayer Circle
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Thursday, June 8

6:30 pm – Bishop's Visitation – 30th Anniversary

Saturday, June 10

9:00 am – Men's Breakfast at Celia's Garden Café
5:30 pm – Evening Eucharist

Sunday, June 11

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
9:20 am – Bible Study
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/music
2:00 pm – SLO Deanery Mtg. at St. Stephen's SLO

Hollister Institute Presents:

A Thinking Person's Guide to the Bible

Thursday evenings at 7pm.

Whether you are interested in the Bible as literature, as a cultural influence or as a spiritual source, you will find this lecture/discussion useful in helping you to better understand the many voices that together make up the scriptures. This will be a big sweep look at where the Bible came from, and how we can read it and understand it today.

"A Thinking Person's Guide to the Bible" began last Thursday with an overview of different ways people read the Bible, from the very literal to the allegorical, and an overview of the book itself. The class is suspended this week due to the Bishop's Visit, but will resume June 15 as we consider the different types of literary style and how they interweave together; History, Prophets. Wisdom and Apocalypse, Gospel and Epistles.

Led by the Rev. Caroline Hall.

St. Benedict's is 30 yrs old!

Join us for a celebratory Eucharist on Thursday June 8 at 6:30pm. Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves will be presiding and preaching, and there will be food afterwards! Everyone is welcome!

Are you a St. Benedict's Benefactor?

Have you remembered St. Benedict's in your will or estate planning? If so, please let Caro+ or Lisa know as we are planning a special thank you and we need to know whom to thank! Did you know that we now have an Endowment Fund? This is a fund from which we will only take the interest so every gift given goes on giving. For more information please see Don Shields who is chair of the endowment Committee.

Choral Evensong Sunday, June 18, 4:00PM St. Stephen's, SLO

St Stephen's is continuing their 150th anniversary celebration with a choral Evensong. The congregation will be the choir for the entire service, except for two pieces – the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis – which will be sung by a rehearsed choir. All other music will be in the Hymnal and the service booklet you'll receive at the door. You don't need to have a great voice, just a love of singing. Reception follows at 5 pm.

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Eucharistic Minister: Lisa Gonzalez; Chalice Bearer: Stef Shuman;
Lectors: Joan Hayes & Francis Rivinus; Ushers: Steve Hirahara & Marie Moore;
Greeter: Elaine Mason; Altar Guild: Stef Shuman; Flowers: Elaine Mason;
Potluck Hosts: Suzan Vaughn, Pat Henry, & Anne Kanter; Tellers: Alice Welchert & Steve Cake;
Intercessor: Lisa Gonzalez; Cantor: Alan Kiste; 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.

EARTHCARE - A discussion/action group to formulate local solutions to environmental concerns. Second Wednesdays at 2:30 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. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10am.

LITLOVERS' BOOK CLUB - Discussion and fellowship in members' homes. 4th Saturdays 1pm (Suspended till September)

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST - morning social gathering, 2nd Saturdays 9am at Celia's Garden Café.

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

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

VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL
3rd Thursdays at 6:30pm
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, *Rector*
Anne Kanter, *Sr. Warden*
Rod Morse, Jr. *Warden*
Pamela Bleisch, Lisa Gonzalez,
Esta Kandarian, Barbara Schippers,
Francis Rivinus, and Kathie West.

Bishop Mary's 2017 Pentecost Message

Pentecost: Learning to Play with Fire?

When I was a child I liked to play with fire. Many children find the power to create a flame fascinating, as well as an exercise in negotiating with its dangerous burn. I remember being reprimanded for this, anxiously told not to play with fire. In my adult life, I no longer wish to play with fire, although I make use of it in many ways. I wonder though what I might have discovered if my parents had invited me to learn about fire and how it works, rather than just telling me to stop playing with it? Fire has its powerful way. It is a science and worthy of study.

We might think of the fire, the power of the Holy Spirit, in a similar way.

I wonder if we are not quite sure what to do with the Holy Spirit beyond our celebration of Pentecost. I wonder if we avoid a deeper education and articulation about the ways of Spirit. She is more difficult to get ahold of since this Holy One is not incarnated as Jesus was, or the Father who created all things. Spirit, numinous, urging new life to be born, this is harder for us to see, hear, anticipate, welcome, embrace. And so, perhaps we say, "don't play with that. It is dangerous."

The Biblical stories that help us explore the Pentecost event offer us a few pointers on the work and the way of Spirit. We will hear from the Book of Acts the moment the disciples knew her together. This event follows 40 days with Jesus, and an additional 10 days after the Ascension waiting for the Promised One to appear. Much happened in that time.

We can be conscious of and learn from the disciples' experience in those 50 days. They came to trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus. They embraced for themselves dying and rising as a spiritual practice. This would ground their lives in the Risen Christ. They began to accept, watch for, encourage the death of behaviors, world views, brokenness, biases, animosity and resentments that were not aligned with the love, mercy and grace of God. They looked and waited for what was rising as they helped old ways die. They wondered about God's power and how it would come. They waited faithfully.

This is The Way of following Jesus and of being ready for Spirit who turns our healing and transformation into a powerful witness for a broken world.

The technology, the science -- the process -- of knowing the liberating and empowering Holy Spirit is not conditional per se, but does require our attention toward those things in our lives which may keep us from knowing God's power. If we are going to hold fast to, say, resentments, then that is what will remain and our lives will be bound by that aspect of our lives.

How might the disciples be our teachers as we too prepare ourselves for the Spirit to come? Where might we need to be unbound so as to learn to play with the Spirit's Fire and help God bring the kingdom?

+Mary

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. 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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