

The Benediction

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

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall

Rector

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

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Pamela Bleisch Strawn

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Francis Rivinus

Barbara Schippers

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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:

Every now and again I remember that this is our 30th year and I am overwhelmed with amazement and gratitude. When Jill and I first came here 25 years ago, I had no idea that St. Ben's was so new (just 5 years old) because it seemed to act like a big church. And we still do.

It has been an exciting three decades with times of elation and times of difficulty. Throughout the years, we have known the blessing of God's presence and guidance as well as her provision of leaders with the skills and grace necessary to take the next steps.

How awesome that we'll be finishing this, our 30th year, with a major art installation – the Stations of the Cosmic Christ – and a visit from an eminent, if controversial, theologian and activist, Matthew Fox. This is due to the vision and tenacity of members of St. Benedict's Earthcare who are deeply committed to helping us find our practical and spiritual connection to this planet, and beyond it to the Cosmos. One of the insights of the new emerging paradigm is that the Christ is not limited to the person of Jesus but in his resurrection and ascension (re)gains the role of Cosmic Christ through whom the universe is coming into being.



The purpose of the Stations of the Cosmic Christ is to help us find a deeper connection with this expanded understanding of the Christ whom we know best incarnated in Jesus. So this is not just an art installation but an opportunity for us to go deeper into new spiritual waters. Alongside the exhibition, which will be here through January, we will be offering Sunday homilies and Hollister classes to help with our intellectual understanding, and Quiet Mornings where we can together explore new dimensions of spiritual connection.

St. Benedict's has always been a place that is ready to explore new ideas, and a people who are ready to PARTY! We will be celebrating this year with a party instead of our normal Gratitude Dinner – it'll have great food together with live music from Alek Speck and friends. I hope you'll all come and join us in a great celebration on October 6.

This will be a very special fall as we open ourselves to the blessing and presence of the Cosmic Christ in a way that we have not done before. I'm looking forward to the adventure!

Blessings, Caro+

Rev. Caroline J. A. Hall

Remembering Carol Baker

Caro+

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of our sister Carol Baker into her continuing life in Christ. Carol died on August 15 after many years of living with cancer, often in significant pain, and having spent the previous four months bedridden. We thought that she was going to die in April when her lungs started to fail, but Carol was a stubborn and determined woman and she pulled through that crisis to be able to go home under the care of her son, Justinian. She died peacefully with Justinian at her side.

Carol came to St Benedict's through the Abundance Shop where she regularly shopped. Sally Somers invited her to church and soon she became a Vestry member, and an important leader in our community. When we finished the kitchen, Carol took the lead in organizing it and will be remembered for her sometimes fierce and protective love for the kitchen and its correct order. Many weeks she was the last to leave the kitchen after Vespers or Sunday morning worship so that she knew for sure it was clean and tidy before she went home. Carol often came in during the week to empty the dishwasher and check on supplies.

She also instigated Saturday morning opening at the Abundance Shop and worked that shift every week except for the Saturdays that we serve at People's Kitchen when she faithfully took the food. Carol always loved to be in the thick of things.

Carol was a loyal friend who loved to tease. She will be remembered for her sometimes grouchy sense of humor, her hard work and persistence even in times of considerable pain, and her willingness to do whatever was needed. And now we all have to clean up the kitchen!

At present, the family is planning a memorial service for October 21. Carol's 85th birthday would have been on October 22nd.



For many weeks before Carol Baker's recent passing, her stuffed brown bear sat in the sanctuary wearing Carol's name tag. The bear was a reminder to the St. Benedict's congregation to keep Carol in our prayers. Now a new white bear with wings (still wearing Carol's name tag) has replaced the brown one in the Great Room. The "angel bear" is a reminder of Carol, who gave much of her love and talents to St. Ben's. (credit: Danna Dykstra-Coy)

Highlights of the Parish Council Meeting

Jazz Concert was a great success even though it was eclipsed by the eclipse and so attendance was lower than usual. We probably met our \$\$ goal but all expenses are not yet in. Thanks to Pamela and Tim Strawn for once again carrying this off with grace and aplomb, and thanks to everyone who helped, especially the cooks and kitchen crew.

Sprinkler system: We probably have enough in hand in cash and pledges to do it, though it will reduce our building funds to almost zero. We will rebuild these funds from income going forward. The mind of the Vestry is to go ahead with this project and get it behind us but we will wait for a final vote until all the bids are in. The big costs we are waiting to get firm are PG&E for 3 phase power, and the cost of new electrical panels, and electrical hook up. Right now we're guessing \$147,000.

Stations of the Cross: We have found a sculptor we hope to commission to make us a beautiful and unique set of Stations of the Cross and are soliciting donations.

Stations of the Cosmic Christ: will be arriving about October 10 and will be here until January (continued...)

Jubilee Party: is on October 6 with great food and music. If there are people from the past we should invite please let Esta know.

St Benedict's Day: Caro+ will ask Bishop Mary for permission to celebrate this on March 21 in future so that we can have more attendance - especially musicians.

St Ben's Benefactors: the thank you for those who have remembered St Benedict's in their wills or estate planning will probably be in September

Deacon Dispatch

Rev. Sharon G. Dalrymple

I know all of y'all are saying many prayers for the people in Texas and Louisiana affected by this incredible hurricane! Harvey will certainly be remembered for a long time to come! My family in Texas is all safe although the family vacation house they just bought late last year in Rockport, Texas, on Copano Bay sustained some heavy damage and the dock and pier and 2 boats stored in a boat shed there were destroyed. But, we were blessed. Those are things that can be replaced unlike those suffering catastrophic loss of home and all possessions or the ultimate...loss of life.

We have been watching the news along with a great many other people and have cried tears of immense sadness at the heartbreak of so many at the complete and utter devastation. But, there have also been tears of joy at the outpouring of love, help and generosity happening from so many people there on the scene along with people from all over everywhere in our country. I have been overjoyed to witness so many recorded instances of Christ's hands and feet working in these ruined places where people have put their own lives in danger to help others.

I love this quote from Canon Ernest Southcott, an eminent Anglican priest's definition of church:

The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when the people—strengthened by preaching and sacrament—go out of the church door into the world to be the church. We don't go to church; we are the church.

I agree. The church, therefore is not a place. It's not the building, it's not the location, and it's not the denomination. We—God's people who are in Christ Jesus—are the church.

And, there is one more quote I would like to share. C. K. Chesterton's quote about Jesus' choice of Peter as His "rock":

When Christ at a symbolic moment was establishing His great society, He chose for its cornerstone neither the brilliant Paul nor the mystic John, but a shuffler, a snob, a coward—in a word, a man. And upon this rock He has built his Church, and the gates of Hell have not prevailed against it. All the empires and the kingdoms have failed, because of this inherent and continual weakness, that they were founded by strong men and upon strong men. But this one thing, the historic Christian Church, was founded on a weak man, and for that reason it is indestructible. For no chain is stronger than its weakest link.

So my brothers and sisters, we are, each one of us, one of those links, and together we make a chain that can move a mountain! Go forth into the world to love and serve one another. Blessings to each of you.

Sprinkler System

When the church building was first moved it was planned to have a full fire sprinkler system and this was partially installed (the big water tanks, pipe to the church, pipes and sprinkler heads inside the church and a pump was purchased). But we ran out of money before it was completed. The big ticket item was the electricity to run the pump.

Fast forward several years and we tried again, under the leadership of Don Sheilds. At that time, we were told that the pump we had purchased was quite inadequate and that the correct one would cost in the region of \$30,000. But then the fire marshal and the county agreed to grandfather us in, so we did not need a sprinkler system provided we took off all the sprinkler heads so no-one would think there was a system in place. We did that.

Times change, personnel changes, codes change. When we completed the Great Room etc we were told that we must have a sprinkler system if we are ever to build anything more on the property that would require a permit. Don Shields led the charge again - he researched costs and came up with \$140,000 as a reasonable estimate.

Thanks to two generous gifts totaling \$110,000 and many smaller gifts to the building fund, we are close to having enough. The Vestry is inclined to use money that we still have from the gift of appreciated stock that Lisa Gonzalez gave us for capital projects to complete the sum needed for the sprinklers so that we can finally put this behind us.

It will mean putting in two much bigger water tanks, and breaking through the finished ceilings to reconnect sprinkler heads, as well as putting in a big pump, new electric panels and three phase electricity. We have a contractor in mind and are now waiting for definite proposals on the electricity.

The bank was not inclined to lend us more money, but due to the amazing generosity of a couple of people this looks not to be a problem.

Ministry Opportunities

There are a number of significant ministry opportunities in the congregation at present. If the Holy Spirit is suggesting that you might consider one of these, please talk to Anne Kanter or Caro+.

Vestry member: You can see from the Parish Council Highlights the kind of thing that the Vestry deals with. The Vestry has the fiduciary responsibility for the church and works closely with the Rector. The Parish Council is bigger than the Vestry as it includes people who are Vestry members but who are leaders in the congregation. The Parish Council (including the Vestry) meets once a month. We are expected, according to church rules, to have seven Vestry members who are confirmed or received Episcopalians. Right now we have only five.

Webmaster: Fortunately the website is quite simple to manage. If you can use a word processing program, you can learn to put things on the web. The ideal person will have an hour or so to spare every week plus more when there's a lot going on, and will not only post information given to him/her but will also think about how the site can be improved.

Abundance Shop Assistant Manager: Francis Rivinus is the manager of the Abundance Shop but he needs a back-up person who can work with him, with a view to possibly replacing him in the future. Francis deals with all the nuts and bolts of scheduling and finance. We also need a bookkeeper for the Abundance Shop.

Finance Committee: the Finance Committee meets once a month to review the detailed financial statements with the Treasurer and to make sure our various legal and financial requirements are met in a timely fashion. If you can read a financial statement this is the place for you!

Garden and Grounds: the grounds are looking good, and we are very grateful to Anne Kanter for donating a small mower, Rod Morse for getting it going and Larry Swafford for using it to keep the grass looking good - it is having the side advantage of reducing the ground squirrel activity. But someone needs to keep an eye on the grounds, fix the little things that need fixing, identify the things that need outside help and encourage us all to get out there and do the rest so that everything stays lovely.

Elder care: we now have three elders needing rides every Sunday - Dr Jean, Emily Young and Betsy Delaney. Our thanks to Bryson who has been faithfully bringing Dr Jean every week, and to Anne Kanter for bringing Emily so regularly. If you can help, even once a month, please let Caro+ know. Also, Emily spends most of her time alone. Let's find a small team so that every week she gets a visitor. If you are willing to coordinate the rides for our elders that would be a great gift too!

Abundance Shop

Francis F. Rivinus

The shop's building continues to demonstrate its value both as a pleasant place to shop and as a venue for allowing the pursuit of our outreach mission. In addition to the prayer request board where anyone may put up a prayer request, there is a board where individuals may post skills or services that they can offer. (continued next page)

The shop hosted an information session presented by an organization called HomeShareSLO which provides a service, here in San Luis Obispo county, matching senior homeowners who have extra space with people who need to rent a room. The organization qualifies potential tenants and seeks to find compatible matches between homeowners and tenants.

Another opportunity to maximize the recycling of usable clothing presented itself when the shop was approached by gentleman seeking usable, shoes and light clothing which he sends to Africa for distribution to the needy through a church in Ghana. This program has provided yet another way to assure that items not meeting the standards for sale in the Abundance Shop still have an opportunity to fill a need. The shop's efforts to collect clothes and shoes to go to Africa have been very successful and there have been several distributions made since we started the program in May.

The Abundance shop currently uses a tent in the area behind the shop to house items which we sell for one dollar each. Last winter, the tent was picked up by the wind during a storm and carried into the vacant lot next door. Towards the end of July, Steve Cake completed the process of repairing and re-assembling our tent for the summer season (Thank you Steve!). Our dollar section has been moved back into it as before. To prevent a re-occurrence, the Parish Council has authorized the shop to pursue the acquisition of a shed to provide a more weatherproof structure for the dollar section during the winter months. The intention will be to disassemble and store the tent in the fall before mother nature does it for us.

During July, the shop installed new LED based lighting as well as dusk to dawn lighting for the driveway area. The interior lighting change has resulted in reducing the shop's electric bill by nearly 50%. In addition to lowering the shop's electric bill, the new lighting has a much longer usable life and does not dim or change color with age. The exterior lighting combined with the use of our 'NO DUMPING' sign has significantly reduced the incidences of trashing our driveway when the shop is closed.

In memoriam: Tuesday morning, August 15, Carol Baker passed from us into Spirit. For many years Carol was a pillar in the Abundance Shop. It was she who proposed that the Abundance Shop open on Saturday mornings and then she worked as cashier every Saturday morning except when St. Benedict's supplied lunch for People's Kitchen every other month. Carol, Eleanor St. Hilaire and Iris Alexandra often worked together on Saturday mornings sorting, stocking and chatting with Abundance Shop patrons. In addition to working as a cashier, Carol also took on the task of keeping the shop clean – no small feat in our previous 9th Street location.

Abundance Shop sales revenues have remained very good throughout the summer averaging above \$290 per day.

The Shire at Canterbury

Berkeley Johnson

Greetings from your CanterburyShire Ministry! As we get ready to embark on the new school year and welcome new and returning students this month, the big news we need to share with you has to do with our annual fundraiser in October.

Our fearless leaders on the Canterbury Board have decided the fundraiser this year will be an Enchilada Festival, where vendors from around the County will compete for Best Enchilada. Our plan is to sell 200 tasting tickets in addition to the Silent Auction & Raffle parts of the fundraiser.

The date is still Sunday, Oct. 8th, and the location will be St. Stephen's, SLO. Other than that, please stay tuned for details as they emerge, keep us in your prayers as we plan for this exciting new event, and please let your parish's Board representative know if you have items to donate to the Silent Auction, or contact Chaplain Berkeley directly. Thanks, Peace, and that's the Whole Enchilada!



Soul Sauce at the St. Benedict's 18th Annual Jazz Concert Fundraiser

Pamela Bleisch Strawn

St. Benedict's was swinging on the afternoon of Sunday August 20th, as Darrell Voss and the Real Time Jazz All Stars treated an enthusiastic audience to an exciting mix of American jazz. Percussionist Darrell Voss headlined the band, featuring the wonderful sounds of the vibraphone and the marimba, joined by the All-Star line-up of Dave Becker on winds, Marshall Otwell on piano, Bob Bennett on trumpet, and Ken Hustad on bass. The band played a variety of Swing and Latin jazz selections, including a tribute to some of the vibe masters: Lionel Hampton, Milt Jackson, and Cal Tjader's "Soul Sauce"— as requested by last year's enthusiastic audience.

This year St. Benedict's church marks 30 years in Los Osos. To celebrate our connection to the Valley of the Bears, our silent auction this year featured goods and services from Los Osos artists and local businesses. At the intermission, the auction bidding heated up, while guests enjoyed cool breezes on the veranda, with delicious snacks and refreshing beverages, and lively conversation among friends old and new.

The annual jazz concert is St. Benedict's major fundraiser, and has been a joyful tradition for close to two decades. Many dedicated, hard-working volunteers donated their time and talents to make this event a wonderful gathering for our community. We are grateful to our generous sponsors, too, who helped to make this fundraiser a success for our church: Baker & Brain Wines, Boo Boo Records; Donna Hoff massage; GoddessGift.net and Suzann Vaughn; Justin Vineyards and Maria Kelly; Lisa Gonzalez Controller-on-call; Los Osos Valley Nursery; Sprigs Floral Designs; Valley Liquors; and Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe. All proceeds from this event benefit the programs of Saint Benedict's Episcopal Church. (image credit: Danna Dykstra-Coy)



Community Dinners in Los Osos

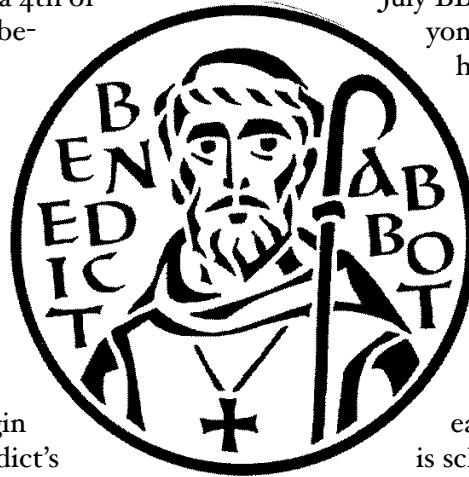
Alice Welchert

The meals. Some months ago, a group of concerned people came together at the South Bay Community Center to struggle with an important challenge: how can we help people in Los Osos who might be employed but still don't make enough to feed their families, or those who live in their cars or vans or take shelter under bushes? We formed *Los Osos Cares*, a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to meeting some basic human needs -- for food, shelter, safety, showers, clean laundry, transportation, connection with others. At St. Benedict's the Homeless Outreach Committee (open to everyone) gathers periodically to consider how we can be the local hands and heart of Christ. Serving one another is the Christian mandate. It's a tall order in a society that idolizes individualism and uses income as a measure of human worth.

We've made a start. Every other Monday night, from 5:00 to 6:00, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Los Osos, several organizations serve Community Dinners on a rotating basis. St. Benedict's hosts the meal once every two months. Other groups that have stepped up are 4H, Maharlika Christian Fellowship, and Rotary of Los Osos. Our goal is to have Community Dinners every week. Other organizations are considering the commitment.

The last dinner St. Benedict's served was on July 3rd. Barbara Hirahara is a prime mover behind these dinners -- she suggested that we have a 4th of July BBQ and decorate the dining room accordingly. Steve Hirahara went above and beyond, loading up their BBQ grill and bringing it to the church. The menu included hamburgers and hot dogs -- including vegan versions of the same. Potato salad (someone donated 24 pounds!), two types of chili, insalads materialized, beverages berry shortcake for dessert -- a forty, including servers and

The good people from the Re-Community Dinner to share in-may benefit guests. The pastor of minds the cooks, servers and dish-table are our guests. Before we begin felt prayer. The next date St. Benedict's September 4, Labor Day.



was abundant (someone donated 24 cluding vegetarian, appeared, tossed green too. The piece de resistance was straw-big hit! Participants numbered around guests.

source Center are present at every formation about available services that TUMC, Gilbert Stones, "Pastor G.", re-washers that the people we invite to the each dinner he gathers us together in heart-is scheduled to spread the welcoming table is

Lethal loneliness vs. community: Dozens of research studies of North Americans, Europeans, and Australians warn of an "epidemic of loneliness." These studies looked at health outcomes of people subject to social isolation, loneliness or living alone. They conclude that all three conditions, individually or in combination, increase the risk of premature death. The idea that some people die from loneliness is not just metaphorical. Even people who are well-housed, have enough to eat, and have all their material needs met can be lethally lonely, not even knowing the names of next-door neighbors.

The antidote to loneliness is true community. Community involves reciprocal relations. In community, we know each other and we are interdependent. All give and all receive, all are valued and all have purpose. By this standard, our Community Dinners might become small steps towards deeper community in which everyone needs everyone else. Tiny housing villages that are the model for Hope's Village are based on this kind of community.

Community can happen in unexpected ways. I experienced the Northridge earthquake in 1994. In the wee hours of the morning, after the shaking stopped, we huddled on the sidewalk in front of our townhouse with our neighbors and watched an apartment building on the next block go up in flames. A man who had no home walked up to us and asked if we needed help. He was going around the neighborhood checking on people and helping them turn off the gas to their buildings. He needed purpose, others needed him. For a few hours Mother Earth shook us violently into Community. In Houston and around the world, She is giving us fierce wake up calls: to take care of each other, to live simply that others may simply live, to be in community with all life on Earth.

Coastal Clean-up

Team St Benedict's will be joining the EcoSlo Coastal Clean up day again this year. Please join us on September 16 to help clean up trash along the coast and keep our beaches safe for birds and clean for humans to enjoy. This year Team St Ben's will be cleaning up around Morro Rock. For more details and to sign up, talk to Caro+ or complete the EcoSlo sign up form here: <http://ecoslo.org/coastal-cleanup-day/>

Earthcare News

John Horsley

Spiritual theologian Matthew Fox has stated that the destruction of the environment is the primary spiritual and ethical issue of our time and has proposed that the answer lies in a renewed awareness of the Cosmic Christ. The concept of the Cosmic Christ comes from the mystical dimension of Christianity, and may not be familiar to many people. Earthcare has been planning a series of events this Fall that are aimed at making the mysticism of the Cosmic Christ better known among Christians (and others) in this area, and showing how it can contribute to ending potentially catastrophic environmental pollution and climate change.

Coming to St. Benedict's! The Stations of the Cosmic Christ



The Stations of the Cosmic Christ are a walking contemplative practice created by Matthew Fox in which one meditates on sixteen images representing the seven "I Am" statements in the Gospel of John and nine events in the life of Jesus. Until now the Stations have only been shown at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York and at two large churches, All Saints Pasadena and Trinity Santa Barbara. (image: MathewFox.org)

The Stations will arrive at St. Benedict's around October 10 and will remain in the sanctuary until the middle of January. The public will be able to view the Stations Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 10 am – noon, Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Sundays noon – 2 pm.

Several events are planned to enrich and deepen our experience of the Stations. There will be an introductory presentation in the evening of Thursday October 26, with refreshments and music. Saturday morning Quiet Day presentations will take place on October 28, November 18 and January 13 at 10 am. There will also be a Thursday morning Hollister series that will study the book *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ* by Matthew Fox on November 9, 16, 30, December 7. 10 -11:30 am. This series together with the Hollister series on *Jesus, The Human Face of God* in October will show what Richard Rohr calls "A Dynamic Unity Between Jesus of Nazareth and the Cosmic Christ".

EVENT!

Matthew Fox Visit

There will be three opportunities to hear Matthew Fox in person at St. Benedict's in the weekend of December 1-3: a lecture on Friday, December 1, 7 pm, suggested donation \$25 (purchase online);

A workshop *Original Blessing and the Cosmic Christ* Saturday, December 2, suggested donation \$35; Sunday, Dec 3; and as preacher for the First Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am.

Season of Creation

New scientific understandings and the current ecological crisis have both played a part in making Christians think more seriously about Creation and how it fits with our knowledge of God. Is it separate from God, or part of God? If all things have their beginning and their end in Christ, is Creation itself an expression of the Cosmic Christ? And if the universe is constantly expanding what does that tell us about the process of creation? And how does all this effect our thinking both about God and about humanity?

During September we will once again join churches around the world as we celebrate the Season of Creation. Each Sunday we will focus on a different aspect of the natural world; Forest, Land, Wilderness and River. Our worship music will also reflect Creation – the setting for the Gloria, Sanctus, Lord's Prayer and Fraction Anthem will come from the Mass of Creation by Lutheran composer, Marty Haugen.

In addition to Sunday worship, there will be a four week Hollister Institute class, *Seeing with the Eyes of Mystics*. This will be on Thursday evenings at 7pm, starting September 7 and will be led by Caro Hall+, Barry Turner+ and Joe Morris. Together we'll explore the vision of Hildegard of Bingen, Mary Oliver, John Muir, and Teilhard de Chardin.

Earthcare invites you to actively engage in the stewardship of Creation by participating in a meatless Potluck on the first Sunday in September. A plant based diet benefits the planet both by reducing the greenhouse gasses associated with meat production, and because plants use less resources to grow than the average cow or pig. In addition, St. Benedict's will be fielding a team at the Coastal Clean up on Saturday September 16. Last year, six of us participated, (continued on the next page)

swarming over part of Morro Bay Strand collecting every bit of trash we could find. Please consider joining us this year.

The Season of Creation culminates in our celebration of St Francis on October 1. However, the annual Blessing of the Animals will take place the following week, on October 8 at 3pm by the South Bay Community Center and at 4pm by the Middle School field.

So, we invite you to engage with Creation this September in Sunday worship, in deepening our understanding of the mystical vision of creation and in acts of practical stewardship.

PB&J Month For Prado an *August* August Success!

Alice Welchert

At the suggestion of our august leader, Caro+, the Homeless Outreach Committee designated August "Peanut Butter and Jelly Month" for Prado. Was it a success?? Benedictines gave 'til I hurt -- which is to say when it came time to relocate the Prado boxes to make way for the jazz concert, they were so heavy we called Meathead Movers but the bruisees were booked so a few of us unpacked the jars and carried them off in multiple trips (little known fact: a single pound of peanut butter weighs 16 oz!). I look forward to challenging my lower back even more when I actually deliver them to the Day Center. More than that, I anticipate seeing the smiles of Prado people when they see the outpouring of love. In addition to PB&J, our members also filled the boxes to overflowing with graham crackers, hygiene items and other much-needed donations.

Donations to Prado had decreased in recent months. However, this singular focus in August reversed the trend mightily. What explains this sudden abundance? Perhaps some people in the congregation belong to the "over 35 club." I am one of these people, although most people don't put me at much over 30. It can be difficult to remember to pick up things for Prado when you can't find your glasses to read your shopping list that you can't find. A case in point -- yesterday I had only two things on my shopping list: bananas and frozen burritos. Only two items. Feeling confident that I could remember TWO items without the shopping list, I smugly left it in the car and went in to the store. Bananas, check. "Huh??? What else???" I finally remembered the second of two items. If *bananas and burritos* had been drilled in to me for weeks, I might have saved myself more time than I will admit.

The moral of the story is KISS -- Keep it Simple and Short. Expect a simple September too.



30th Anniversary Party

This year, instead of the Gratitude Dinner, we will have a party to celebrate 30 years of St Benedict's. On October 6 there will be good food, good music and lots of pictures. Karen O'Grady has been making a display about the history of the chapel and we hope to have it by then.

Please plan to come, and bring friends – especially anyone who may have been involved with St Benedict's in the past.



Alright...who dumped their surplus zucchini in the offering plate?

Restorative Justice: Reconciling with my Sister's Killer

Danna Dykstra-Coy

On Monday, October 9th at Old Mission San Luis Obispo, Restorative Partners of San Luis Obispo is hosting "Restorative Justice: Reconciling with my Sister's Killer," a presentation by author Jeanne Bishop. Ms. Bishop is a public-defender and anti-death penalty advocate who challenged herself to the journey of transformation and healing.

Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking* says of Jeanne: "*The criminal justice system in the United States, which deems some people unworthy of redemption --even children who commit serious crimes --urgently needs to hear voices that speak for mercy and restoration. Jeanne Bishops' is such a voice.*"

CHANGE^{of}HEART



Justice, Mercy, and Making Peace
with My Sister's Killer

JEANNE BISHOP



EVENT!

The Pre-Event from 4:30-6 p.m. features an opportunity to meet the author. This is a fundraiser for Restorative Partners and the \$100 ticket for this fundraiser includes fine foods drinks and a signed copy of "*Change of Heart*" by Jeanne Bishop. Ms. Bishop's presentation is free with a donation at 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Restorative Partners is a non-profit organization that serves people impacted by crime. It provides a wide range of restorative justice services and programs designed to meet diverse needs, based on transformation and accountability. One of its goals is to offer educational opportuni-

Hollister Institute



ties in the community to address current needs.

For more information, please visit www.restorativepartners.org.

Hollister Discussion in October

Jesus: The Human Face of God

Thursday mornings 10-11:30 am, October 5 – November 2

Join us as we re-examine the life of Jesus through eyes of writer and poet Jay Parini (Professor of English and Creative Writing at Middlebury College). * Discussions will be led by the Rev. Donna Ross, with creative assistance from musician Ann Edwards and poet Carol McPhee.

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| October 5 | Life in Ancient Palestine |
| October 12 | Jesus in Galilee |
| October 19 | From Galilee to Jerusalem |
| October 26 | From Gethsemane to Golgotha |
| November 2 | The Afterlife of Jesus: from the 1st to the 21st century |

*To hear an interview with Jay Parini on the PBS Newshour (8 minutes)

go to http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/religion-july-dec13-jesus_12-25/

To register for this discussion, email donnaross@charter.net. After you register, Donna will email you a PDF copy of the book. Chapters will also be posted on her blog, <http://faithmatters.us>.



The Benediction

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

2220 Snowy Egret Lane

Los Osos, CA 93412