

Benediction Weekly

January 7, 2018

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.



Exploring the Cosmic Christ – A Quiet Morning

This Saturday 9:30am - 12:30pm

Join the Rev. Barry Turner for a morning of quiet reflection to lead you deeper into an understanding and experience of the Cosmic Christ. Using the prologue to John's Gospel ("In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...") as our entry point into the imagery and experience of the Cosmic Christ, together we will explore the icons of the Stations of the Cosmic Christ and seek a new vision of the Christ.

Coming up at St. Benedict's

(at the church unless otherwise specified)

TODAY

Potluck today – *Visitors are welcome!*

Tuesday, Jan 9

5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by potluck

Wednesday, Jan 10

2:30 pm – EarthCare Meeting

7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Jan 11

10:00 am – Webcast: John of the Cross

7:00 pm – Webcast: John of the Cross

Saturday, Jan 13

9:00 am – Men's Breakfast at Celia's Garden Cafe

9:30 am – Quiet Day w/Stations of the Cosmic Christ

5:30 pm – Evening Eucharist

Sunday, Jan 14

8:00 am – Contemporary Communion Service

9:20 am – Bible Study

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/music

12:15 pm – Mutual Ministry Review discussion

3:00 pm – Remembering MLK at 1st Presby. SLO

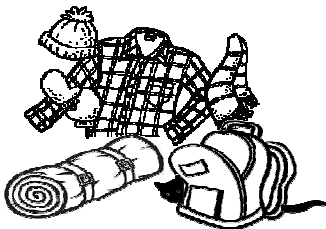
from People of Faith for Justice

Through the Dark Night with John of the Cross

A webcast with James Finley: *Thursday,
January 11th - 10am and 7pm*

In a webcast originally broadcast on the Feast of St. John of the Cross, James Finley explores the 16th century Spanish mystic's life and writings. John went through a purifying process of the Dark Night of the Soul. His description of this experience helps us navigate our own times of darkness and unknowing, coming to a profound knowing of God's presence in our lives. Through reflections on John's texts, **Ascent of Mount Carmel, The Dark Night of the Soul and Spiritual Canticle**, Jim shares how our powerlessness in prayer is gradually transformed into contemplative intimacy with God. John believed that Infinite Love is the architect of our hearts. We are made in such a way that nothing less than an infinite union with Infinite Love will do. The Dark Night deepens our desire and openness to this love.

Donations for Prado in January



In January our emphasis is cold weather nutrition and gear. Soup, hot instant cereal and paper bowls, hot chocolate and cups

are very welcome. New socks, gently used sleeping bags and back packs, parkas and rain ponchos are also especially needed at this time.



The Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28 at which time we'll be electing new members of the Vestry and Parish Council as well as delegates to the Deanery and Diocesan Convention. If God is calling you to serve in one of these leadership roles, please talk to Anne Kanter or Pamela Bleisch. *Thank you!*

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Eucharistic Minister: Judy Schloss; Chalice Bearer: Stef Shuman;
Lectors: Janelle LaFond & Ann Edwards; Ushers: Michael Lucas & Steve Hirahara; Greeter: Michelle Frazier;
Potluck Hosts: Karin Cake & Diana Hammerlund; Altar Guild: Stef Shuman; Tellers: Francis Rivinus & Steve Cake;
Prayer Team Member: Lisa Gonzalez; Music Director: John Cribb **Thank you for your service!**



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

BIBLE STUDY – Sundays at 9:20 am

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.

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 Sundays at 12:30pm
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, *Rector*
Anne Kanter, *Sr. Warden*,
Pamela Bleisch, Lisa Gonzalez,
Esta Kandarian, Barbara Schippers,
Francis Rivinus, Kathie West



Identity 2018 A Bible study invitation from Bishop Mary

As a new church year dawns, Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves is inviting all leaders in the diocese to consider sharing in Bible study with their congregations, and those with whom they gather for committees and commissions of the diocese.

“The theme for 2018 is Identity.” Bishop Mary says. “In my convention address I noted that faith is the centerpiece of our identity and reconciliation the activity of our identity. In this selection of readings, these themes can be explored, with some displaying the complexity and practice of our theme more obviously than others. As well, I have sought to move around the Bible more widely than in previous years so that we might encounter stories and teachings that we might not otherwise consider.”

If using the format of Lectio Divina, some possible questions include:

- *How do you understand or experience faith and reconciliation more comprehensively in the characters and teaching of the text?*
- *What is the text inviting you personally to consider about your identity as a Christian?*
- *What action in your life or the congregation's might be included in the invitation?*
- *How can you share the Good News offered in this time together?*

“May we have a holy year of study together,” states Bishop Mary. “May our faith be deepened and empowered. May our calling to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and his work of reconciliation be strengthened in every way, and may our lives give God the glory.”

2018 Bible Study Readings

January	Genesis 1:27-31	July	Numbers 27:1-11
February	John 1:1-18	August	Luke 15:1-7
March	Psalms 139	September	Leviticus 19
April	Galatians 3:25-4:9	October	Philippians 1:12-30
May	Jonah 1	November	Mark 5:21-6:1
June	Matthew 10:1-16	December	Nehemiah 2:11-18

EarthCare presents...

Journey of the Universe: An Epic Story of Cosmic, Earth, and Human Transformation

EMMY® Award-Winning Film for Best Documentary
Written by Brian Thomas Swimme & Mary Evelyn Tucker

Showing at St. Benedict's Thursday, January 18 at 7pm

Join acclaimed author and evolutionary philosopher Brian Thomas Swimme as he discusses our role as humans in this awe-inspiring universe. Through his engaging and thoughtful observations audiences everywhere will discover the profound role we play in this intricate web of life. Beautifully filmed in HD, this one-of-a-kind film weaves a tapestry that draws together scientific discoveries in astronomy, geology, biology, ecology, and biodiversity with humanistic insights concerning the nature of the universe.

synopsis available at <http://journeyoftheuniverse.com/synopsis/>

St. Benedict's Mutual Ministry Review

*Each year we pause to ask, how are we doing? How well are we answering God's call?
How has God blessed us this past year? What do we need to change or rethink?*

This year we will also be asking you to review the draft Five Year Mission and Ministry plan, which may be found here: <http://www.stbenslososos.org/2018/01/02/draft-five-year-mission-and-ministry-plan/> and to complete the on-line survey which may be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/59BR779>. We will also have paper copies available for those of us who can still use paper and pen, and there will be some opportunities for getting together for those who prefer to talk than to write. There will be an opportunity to discuss the 5 year Plan and the Mutual Ministry Review on **Sunday January 14** at the end of coffee hour - about 12:15 - in the corner classroom.

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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