

The Benediction

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

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall

Rector

The Rev. Barry Turner

Associate Priest

The Rev. Faye Hogan

Associate Priest

The Rev. Sharon G. Dalrymple

Deacon

The Parish Council

Pamela Bleisch Strawn, *Sr. Warden*

Michael Lucas, *Jr. Warden*

Lisa Gonzalez, *Treasurer*

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Danna Dykstra-Coy

Office Tues-Thurs, 9:30-12:30

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 service.

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Dear Friends:

My heart is full of gratitude for each one of you and for the manifestation of the Body of Christ that we are together.

Most weeks at Vespers we hear about a notable Christian who has brought something special to our life as the church through the ages. This week we heard about Isabel Hapgood, a brilliant linguist who, in the nineteenth century, translated the Russian Orthodox service into English and worked for greater unity between the Episcopal and Russian Orthodox churches. The gospel reading which went with her remembrance was from Jesus' last prayer for his disciples. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

The unity for which Jesus prayed and to which we are called is not the easy unity where we sweep problems under the carpet and people make nice to one another, but the unity that comes from doing the hard work of looking for ways that we can collaborate across difference, and even become more *because* of our differences.

We are one in the Body of Christ because we are tied together through our communion with Christ. As each one of us intentionally deepens our connection with the divine, so we deepen our connection with one another and so our different gifts and different perspectives can be woven together by the Holy Spirit into a beautiful tapestry of truth and love and holiness. And, because we are connected at a deep mystical level, the spiritual work that any one of us undertakes blesses all of us.

One of the insights of recent decades is how interconnected we are, how interconnected all beings are, so that what one does affects others in a profound way. We are not separate from those who are starving in parts of Africa, those who are in despair on our borders, or those who are making policy decisions which seem to victimize the poor and the marginalized. The way we live does have an impact on the world.

As Bishop Mary reminded us when she was here, we may not see the impact - we may only see the smallness of the seed. As together we create a faith community of hope, compassion and forgiveness, it may seem that we are doing very little to influence our world which seems to be lurching irrevocably towards greater separation and hatred amidst ecological disaster. Yet as we seek to deepen our unity with one another at the same time as being active citizens in our world, we are sowing the seeds which in the reign of God flourish and become great trees.

Thanks be to God!

Caroline J. A. Hall



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Caroline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Fire Sprinkler System is Coming

Starting about July 10, the fire sprinkler system will be completed and the new tanks and pump installed. We will be completing the fire sprinkler system which was partially installed when the building was first moved and remodeled. At that time we did not have the money to complete the installation and the County told us that we did not need fire sprinklers provided we have a heat alarm system, which we do. When we were completing the Great Room they reversed their earlier decision and told us that we must put in a fire sprinkler system if we are to do anything in the future that requires a permit (like add solar panels, expand the parking lot etc).

Thanks to very generous donations we have the money to go ahead with this expensive project. We have to get bigger water tanks and more electricity to run the pump which we hope never to have to use! The interior work of reattaching and installing additional sprinkler heads will be done first and then the exterior work will follow.

Welcome to the Episcopal Church!

If you are new to the Episcopal Church or would like a refresher course, Caro+ will be offering an introductory course based on the short book, *A People Called Episcopalians: A Brief Introduction to Our Peculiar Way of Life* by John Westerhoff. This will be on Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:45 starting July 11, ending August 1.

The topics will be:

- July 11: Identity
- July 18: Authority
- July 25: Spirituality and Temperament
- August 1: Polity

Pre-registration is required. Please let Caro+ know if you plan to participate and if you need childcare to do so.

Highlights of the Parish Council Meeting

We are on course financially though cash flow is always a little challenging at this time of year. We have begun to disburse money for the sprinkler system

The Gratitude Dinner will be on October 12 and we will celebrate St Benedict's Day on Oct 14

The Jazz Concert will be on August 25: Lorienne is heading up the team

The Newcomers Event went well with eight people welcomed

We will be buying carbon offsets to reduce our carbon footprint, based on calculations from EarthCare

General Convention

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church meets every three years to worship together and to consider resolutions that will guide our common life in the coming three years. Each diocese sends four lay and four clergy deputies who meet in the House of Deputies. Just as in Congress, all legislation must pass in the House of Deputies AND the House of Bishops with exactly the same wording. Committees composed of bishops and deputies consider all the proposed legislation and decide on the wording which will be presented to the two houses.

Alongside the legislative process there are many, many different meetings and gatherings and a huge exhibition hall which has information about everything Episcopal. The Episcopal Church Women have their triennial meeting at the same time as Convention and most groups and networks hold a gathering during Convention.

Everyone has the opportunity to gather for worship each day with a variety of liturgies and different preachers. Sarah Chesebro will be attending the convention as part of the national altar guild team. Please support her with your prayers

This year, General Convention is from July 4 to July 13. You can get more information about the convention here: <https://www.generalconvention.org/home>. If you are interested in the many reports that come from the committees and other groups you can find it here: <http://www.generalconvention.org/bluebook2018/>.

There will be a livestream here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/general-convention-2018-media-hub>

Deacon Dispatch

Rev. Sharon G. Dalrymple

How often do you say, “I love you” to someone you do love?

Our priest, Laurie+, here in Reno at St. Catherine of Siena Episcopal is on a three week vacation on a cruise ship (this time to ports around the Baltic Sea). I believe she is working at getting the hang of learning to really relax since her retirement at 72 is fast approaching early next spring. That’s another congregational discernment/selection process that is in the works.

Therefore I was handed the church cell phone, a flip phone of ancient vintage that befuddled me for a while. Alas, I finally, mostly have the hang of it, “mostly” being the operational word here. And, Laurie+ has also forwarded the church related emails. So, it is that several days ago I received an email asking me to contact a woman I will call Margaret.

Margaret told me that her husband David was diagnosed with a brain tumor. There followed an operation where that tumor was removed only to discover 4 more tumors. Malignant brain tumors-stage 4. That kind of news would rock anyone to his or her very foundation. The woman was beyond frantic and distraught wondering how they were going to deal with that. We talked about taking a deep breath—many of them in fact, in order to give the shock a chance to settle out.

Today we talked again. Now there has been an opportunity to think about what can be done treatment wise and an opportunity to see what is important in the scheme of things as they are. She says it may seem silly to say, but she told me they have really always loved each other, but never were really verbal about it. But now she says her husband says to her “I love you” every chance he gets. She says it makes him so very happy to say it, and she says it makes her just light up to hear it. And, she takes every opportunity to tell him that she loves him.

We know God loves us, and I suspect we also know that our families and friends do as well. So, my brothers and sisters, I ask you as well as myself, how sometimes it takes a dire circumstance to remind us that perhaps we should keep that foremost in our thoughts and also take **every** opportunity to tell those who touch our lives, “I love you”! And ...don’t forget to tell God too!

Call for Volunteers for Central Coast Pride in the Plaza

The annual Central Coast Pride in the Plaza celebration is Sunday, July 8 from 12 - 5 p.m. The Episcopal churches in the San Luis Obispo Deanery are again sponsoring a booth, and volunteers are needed to help set up at 9:30 a.m. and/or staff the booth in two-hour shifts.



EVENT!

Those who volunteer during the 3:30-5:30 p.m. shift will be responsible for the break down of the booth.

Berkeley Johnson is organizing the Deanery booth this year and is seeking at least four people to sign up for each time slot.

If you'd like to join in the fun or have questions, please contact Berkeley at caterburyslo@gmail.com. There is an on-line sign-up sheet through this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60bo44fada92da3fcr-slodeanery>

The Shire @ Canterbury

Berkeley Johnson

Greetings! As I wrote in the last newsletter, we are looking to create a group where we can discuss grief that arises from “non-death” losses. Unlike a group for people who are bereaved due to the death of a loved one, we would like to establish a group for people who may be dealing with other types of loss, as this type of grief is often overlooked or not even properly understood as grief. Some of these losses might be due to divorce/break-up, vocation/loss of job, loss of home/residence, disability, empty nest, and so forth.

I am now back from my grief counseling skills training course and ready to get this group started. So please be in touch with me by email or phone, or feel free to speak to me about it at church if you are interested. I will make an announcement at church in the coming weeks, and we can decide when the best time to start will be, based on people's schedules.

We are envisioning a set number of participants (6-12) who would commit to a number of weekly meetings (8-12) over a two to three-month period, in order to have continuity, build trust, and maintain healthy sense of community. If you believe you may be experiencing some form of grief due to circumstances you are facing, think you might benefit from the opportunity to address it, and are interested in exploring this more deeply in a group setting, please consider joining us. Peace! (canterburyslo@gmail.com, cell 805.550.5133)

EarthCare at Yosemite

Barry Turner

Oh, these vast, calm measureless mountain days, inciting at once to work and rest! Days in whose light everything seems equally divine, opening a thousand windows to show us God. Nevermore, however weary, should one faint by the way who gains the blessings of one mountain day; whatever his fate, long life, short life, stormy or calm, he is rich forever.

-John Muir, Journal Entry, June 23, 1869

Eight members of St. Benedict's enjoyed three days in the stunning beauty of Yosemite Valley, May 10-13. We shared meals, hikes, worship, singing & rest. Thanks to Joe Morris, Barry Turner, Bob Pelfrey & Elaine Fournier, Lisa Gonzalez, Joe Oliver, Steve & Karin Cake for their creative organizing to make it happen.



Yosemite Falls, May 11, 2018, Earth Care Retreat

St. Ben's Hay Bales - 'Tis the Season!

Danna Dykstra-Coy, Parish Administrator

It's that time of year when the bountiful crop of hay in the field next to the church gets bundled by our neighbor Dominic Judge of HJ Construction. St. Ben's made an agreement with Dominic as part of an ongoing solution to maintaining the field: He plants the crop and then cuts and bales it.

It's been great fun watching him and his crew work at the church and in his Clark Valley Road fields across the way. Some parishioners may not know that Dominic also provided the construction materials and installed the fence for the church along Clark Valley Road. Good neighbors are such a blessing!



MeSSy Church...St Benedict's offers a New Worship Service

Pamela Bleisch-Strawn

If you step into the Great Room at **9:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month**, you may be surprised by a cabal of trinitarian chemists, a den of roaring lions, or a young king issuing an edict. You never know what you'll find when Messy Church is in session!

Messy Church is a brief, loosely-structured worship service. Rev. Caro and Pamela lead these services geared toward busy families with young children. A fun craft activity starts us off, followed by a Bible story or lesson. We close with a sing-along and a prayer.

These non-denominational services are short, lively, and fun for all ages. So far, we've crafted vases from wine bottles, and lion masks from paper bags. We've heard about the Wedding at Cana, the Trinity, Daniel in the Lion's Den, and Esther.

For more information on the Messy Church movement, see www.messychurch.uk.

Here's the New Edict of King Xerxes (decreed in Messy Church on June 24th)

Refugees in my kingdom should get:

- Places to live
- Respect
- Kindness
- Families stay together

Anyone who breaks this rule will get a spanking, and no Netflix for a week. And no Tweeting, either!



Top left, Lion Masks for the story of Daniel in the lion's den. Top right, Children perform for the congregation with Anna Chapman, teacher Pamela Bleisch-Strawn and Ted Wise on guitar. Bottom right, Rowan as King Darius, Prebby as Daniel. Photos Danna Dykstra-Coy and Pamela Bleisch-Strawn.



St. Benedict's annual Jazz Concert Returns in August

EVENT!

Mark your calendars for St. Benedict's annual Jazz Concert featuring Darrell Voss and the Real Time Jazz All-Stars. This year's concert includes Los Angeles-based jazz vocalist Julie Kelly, whom music critics describe as among the most respected jazz vocalists on the West Coast.

The Jazz Concert is Sunday, August 25 at 3 p.m. Complimentary beverages and snacks will be included, with wine and beer for sale. Proceeds benefit St. Benedict's Church and its programs. Tickets will soon be available at The Abundance Shop, Boo Boo Records in San Luis Obispo, at the church and online at www.stbenslososos.org.

Darrell Voss has been a professional percussionist and educator for more than 30 years. He has taught at Cuesta College since 2000, where he is a key member of the jazz faculty and applied music program. He has performed or recorded with hundreds of musicians including Inga Swearingen, Vocalogy, Royal Garden Swing Orchestra, Human Nation, Marvin Hamlisch, Kenny Loggins, Jim Messina, Michael McDonald and more.



The Real Time Jazz All Stars include Dave Becker on saxophone, Marshall Otwell on piano and Dylan Johnson on bass.

Vocalist Julie Kelly moved to Los Angeles in 1980 and shortly after that began her recording career with Pausa Records. Her latest and best vocal CD "Kelly Sings Christy" affirms her complete understanding of the nuances that are so much a part of various ballads associated with June Christy. Julie has worked with such luminaries as Benny Green, Nat Adderley, Ray Brown, John Clayton, Bobby Ojeda, Gary Foster and Alan Broadbent.

Be sure to check the church website as more information becomes available.

Bishop Mary Visits St. Benedict's June 17 2018

(Photos Danna Dykstra-Coy)



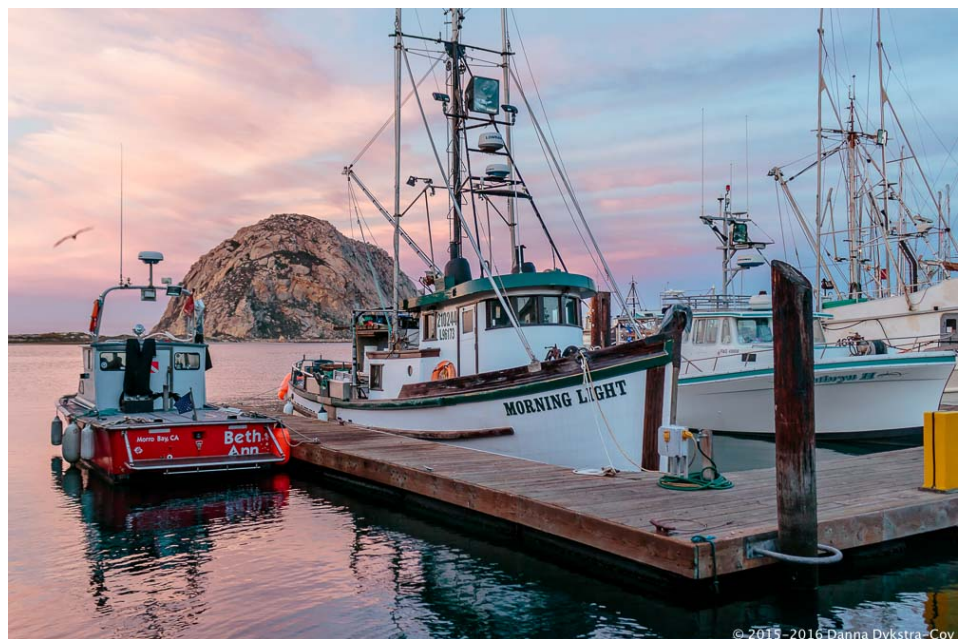
Parish Administrator Recognized for Photography Honors

St. Ben's Parish Administrator, Danna Dykstra-Coy, has recently won awards and recognition for her photography.

In the SLO New Times annual Winning Images competition, she placed 1st in the Architecture category for her image of San Miguel Mission, focusing on the open chapel door at the end of a walkway.

Danna was recognized by the Morro Bay Harbor Festival in the San Luis Obispo Tribune for her photo of the Morning Light boat at sunrise, which was artist Wendy Wilkins Mitchell's inspiration for her winning watercolor that will be used on all promotions and posters for this year's Harbor Festival.

At deadline, Danna learned she has won 11 awards in the California Mid-State Fair's Photography and Fine Arts competition. All winning photographs are matted and on display throughout the fair's duration in the Ponderosa Pavilion. Congratulations!



Top: "San Miguel Mission, Chapel Door"
1st Place, SLO New Times 2018 Winning
Images competition

Bottom: "Morning Light" at morning's
light

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