

The Benediction

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

The Rev. Jen Crompton

Trailblazer

The Parish Council

Maureen Titus, Presiding Warden
Sandy Fisher, People's Warden
Cathy Gildea, Clerk
Lisa Gonzalez, Treasurer
Esta Kandarian, Abundance Shop
Pamela Bleisch
Sarah Chesebro
Diana Hammerlund
Berkeley Johnson
Helen Schnieders

Benediction Publisher

Maureen Titus, Presiding Warden

Benediction Editor

Cathy Gildea, cathy@gildea.com

Sunday Services

8:00 am (2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday each month) - Eucharist, live at church and available on Zoom (link may be found in the Benediction Weekly under the News tab on our website).

10:30 am - Eucharist, live at church and live-streamed on

Facebook:

facebook.com/stbenslososos

or on our website:

stbenslososos.org/facebook
including-live-stream/

Service leaflets are available each week under the Worship tab on our website

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Message from our Presiding Warden, Maureen Titus

Dear St. Ben's Church family and friends,

Summer is here and I hope you are able to take advantage of our beautiful Central Coast with whatever activities you enjoy during this time of year. We are fortunate to live here year-round. People who visit say to me, you must really love living in this part of California. I respond, yes, I do and smile!!

We at St. Ben's have had a whirlwind of events these past several months. Saying farewell to our beloved Caro+, who was our rector for 17 years. So many emotional and joyous moments we have shared with each other.



Rev. Jen Crompton was ordained as a priest in a lovely very touching service on June 28. Bishop Lucinda presided, and many priests from our area during this service added a special feeling to the evening. We are so fortunate to have Rev. Jen with us at this time of transition, and we wish them many blessings and experiences during this time with us.

The Search Committee is dedicated to completing their report so a Parish Profile can be presented. You will hear from them. Brian Spolarich was selected to be Chair by the Search Committee members. We are very appreciative of their willingness to be part of this critical process for a rector.

We will be hosting guest priests and other clergy during the next few months, and we appreciate their willingness to be here for us. Please give them a warm welcome when they are here.

Parish Council/Vestry and all other committees continue their activities to keep St. Ben's moving forward. We will be starting the permit process for the solar project with RE-volve and will keep you all informed as this continues.

I want to say thank you for the support and prayers from everyone. Please contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments. We have a wonderful support system for our church family, reach out we are here for you.

Peace and Love,

Maureen,

"The kingdom of God is staying loving, faithful and open in service to God and your community even when you are tired and aching, even when people let you down, even when friends suddenly turn on you. The kingdom of God is following Jesus to our last breath. The kingdom of God is sharing his cup and eating his bread."

Author Unknown

A Report from Your Search Committee

Brian Spolarich, Chair

With Rev. Caro's retirement at the end of May, the work of the Transition Team has ended and the work of the Search Committee has begun. The Parish Council has appointed a 7-member Search Committee to complete the work of writing the Parish Profile, screen and interview candidates who apply, and to recommend a minimum of two candidates to the Parish Council for final consideration and call by the Parish Council. Note that the Vestry chose to pursue a "Search in Place" process, which meant we conducted many transition-related activities while Rev. Caro was still serving as Rector.

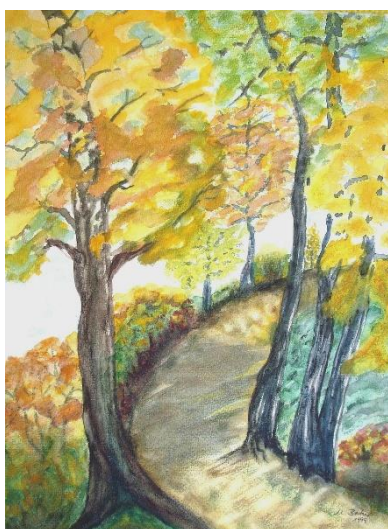
The current focus of the Search Committee is to review the extensive collection of materials created and gathered during the Transition Team and to complete the Parish Profile, a draft of which was developed by the Transition Team. A key focus is to write the "Who We Seek" section, which was intentionally left for the Search Committee, as Canon Martha (who serves as our Consultant for the Transition and Search process) felt it important that those who are interviewing candidates should write the words of the job description. The basic parameters of our call will be a 3/4-time position, with salary and housing based on the diocesan guidelines.

Our hope is to complete the draft of the Parish Profile in August, at which point we will seek feedback and approval from the Parish Council, Canon Martha, and the bishop. We will also share the profile with the congregation when it is ready. Once complete, the profile will be made available in the customary places for job postings of this kind (as well as our website), and we will begin reviewing candidates as they apply.

None of us, of course, can predict how long this process will require. As the Diocesan Transition Manual says, "it takes as long as it takes". That said, we are in a good position, having gathered a lot of important information during the first half of the year, to complete our profile and to be ready to talk to interested candidates in the coming weeks and months.

Please pray for the work of the committee, and our congregation as a whole, as we navigate this time of change and uncertainty.

The members of the Search Committee are: Michael Lucas, Brian Spolarich, and Jane Wu (all continuing members of the Transition Team), as well as Letty Cotta, Diana Hammerlund, Barbara Hirahara, and Bob Pelfrey. Please contact any of us if you have questions or concerns.



Transition Prayer

O Lord,

You are the light that illumines our path.

You are the map that gives us direction.

You are the peace that makes us strong.

You are the guide whom we faithfully follow.

May your light illuminate our entire lives.

And your guidance bring direction to our work.

May we find inspiration in your Word,

And peace in our hearts as we follow you. Amen.

Highlights from the Parish Council

Did you know that during the interim between when the former rector leaves and the new rector arrives, the parish council is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the parish? This means paying even more attention to administrative support, on-going ministry teams, the buildings and grounds, church finances, congregational reporting to the diocese, communications, and pastoral care. The parish council also ensures that the positions dictated by their by-laws and the Canons of The Episcopal Church are staffed and working smoothly: Presiding Warden, People's Warden, Clerk of the Vestry, and Treasurer.

As our Presiding Warden, Maureen will continue to be in regular contact with the bishop with information about what is happening in the parish and any questions that arise. The Presiding Warden ensures that parish council meetings continue at least monthly, and that the meetings are led faithfully and effectively. The council has chosen the Search Committee, which functions as a sub-committee of the council. The council will stay in regular contact with the Search Committee and supports their work as needed.

Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement during this time of many extra tasks and responsibility.

Hospitality News

We are seeking volunteers for coffee hour so we can reintroduce our pre-Covid routine of rotating people to provide snacks and cleanup. Please contact Sandy Fisher or Barbara Hirahara. Also, the Kitchen Crew is fine tuning the Potluck schedule. Here are the assignments for what to bring for our potlucks starting August 6.

- If your last name begins with A thru F, please bring a Dessert
- If your last name begins with G thru L, please bring a Main Dish
- If your last name begins with M thru Z, please bring a Salad or a Side dish

Finances

We are halfway through our fiscal year and continue to be in a good financial position. Income is over budget due to early payment of pledges and strong Abundance Shop sales. The impact of the rector transition and open music director position mean we continue to see lower expenses due to reduced salary and benefits. The combined effect puts us \$52k ahead of budget year-to-date. Thanks be to God! Looking ahead, it is important to remember that over a multiyear period, the trend is toward fewer pledge dollars. Once we have our new rector and music director onboard, we will have more consistent salary obligations. Thank you in advance to our Finance Committee as they help us manage these changes.

Discovery Team

By Rev. Jen Crompton

Wow, what a busy and amazing time we have had, as we have gone out to share the love! The Discovery team was joined by many volunteers at three separate Central Coast Pride events. The entire group was inspired and honored to be able to share stories, laughter, and tears with the many people who stopped by for a chat. We encountered a few individuals seeking a faith community and many younger people who were simply not aware that affirming faith communities exist. The energy and enthusiasm were contagious! In July we continued our Pop-up Prayer Place ministry of presence and hospitality at the Abundance Shop, bringing 'coffee hour on the road' to greet staff, members of St. Ben's, and many others from the wider Los Osos community.

Contact Rev. Jen for more information on how to participate.



A Celebration of Ministry

We celebrated 17 years of Rev. Caro Hall's ministry at St. Benedict's with a huge party! Friends from the deanery and wider community, laughter, music and gifts all helped to make the very special occasion memorable for all.





Farewell Service

Bishop Lucinda led a special service on May 31st to formally commemorate Rev. Caro Hall's retirement from her pastoral relationship with St. Ben's.



Photos: Carole Bartolini

Liturgy During the Transition Time

By Jane Wu

Before Caro+ left St. Benedict's, she spent some intensive hours working with the Liturgy Committee, sharing information and her experience regarding the creation and support of Sunday services.

During this transition time, we will be utilizing a combination of supply priests, licensed lay preachers, and our own Trailblazer, Rev. Jen Crompton. We are fortunate to have retired clergy and licensed lay preachers in our own congregation!

Our Presiding Warden, Maureen Titus, is responsible for recruiting celebrants. The liturgists (members of the Liturgy Committee) construct services (prayers to hymns) from The Episcopal Church approved sources. If we have no musician, Hannah Jaye locates a recorded version for our use. Jenmuse Smith and Hannah-Jaye wrap it up into a stunning website and a hard copy bulletin, making a very complex job seem easy.

Between the service design phase and the completed bulletin, a lot of research, proof-reading, and consultation occurs. The Liturgy Committee meets weekly to conduct quality improvement on the previous Sunday and to plan for the next weeks.

This is indeed a service mission that has humbled us all. Please be patient and pray for us as we proceed onward.

Liturgy Committee

Sarah Chesebro, *Convener*

Roz Malone

Jenmuse Smith

Jane Wu

Consultants

Rev. Jen Crompton

Rev. Judy Stevens

Rev. Jerry Walton

Invaluable Assistants

Hannah-Jaye Matthews

Lisa Gonzalez

Vespers Continues Through the Summer

Join us on Tuesday Nights at 5:30 pm for Vespers. Vespers is a brief evening service often followed by fellowship. This service is adapted from a Celtic liturgy for evening prayer. It is a wonderful opportunity to pause during the week for reflection and community. All are welcome, no previous attendance needed to join in.

This service is only offered in-person at this time. Please contact Lisa Gonzalez or Rev. Jen with any questions.

Pastoral Care

During this period of supply clergy, it is good to remember how we can help support each other. Pastoral Care means different things to different people at different times, but it is always the way we share God's love with each other.

- Please contact Maureen Titus and she will connect with the clergy on call.
- When you send a message to prayers@sbenslososos.org, the intercessor of the week may follow up with you if it seems appropriate and will reach out if you have particular needs that we can help with.
- There is also a special email pastoralcare@stbenslososos.org which goes to Helen Schneiders and Berkeley Johnson. You can use this to ask for help, or use the communications card in the pew.
- If you can offer practical help, such as meals for those just out of hospital or in another crisis, rides to medical appointments or to church, or would like to visit someone who can no longer get to church easily, please let Helen know.
- Rev. Jen, Lorianne Schwenk, and Lisa Gonzalez are available to bring you communion if you cannot get to church because of health issues. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Rev. Jen's Ordination

Congratulations to Rev. Jen Crompton, who was ordained to the priesthood in a moving service led by Bishop Lucinda on June 28th. Rev. Jen joined St. Ben's in June of 2022 as a diocesan-sponsored Community Trailblazer after graduating from seminary. This is a two-year assignment which is shared with the deanery's Canterbury Campus ministry. Rev. Jen will be looking forward to the next phase of their ministry after completing their curacy with St. Ben's, wherever God calls them. At this time, Jen will not be eligible to stay at St. Ben's for those who have been curious about their process.



Photo: Carole Bartolini

Spiritual Conversation

The weekly spiritual conversation continues with the book "Rediscovering the Divine: New Ways to Understand, Experience and Express God" by Fr. Cyprian Consiglio.

"This work explores ways of understanding the Persons of the Trinity inspired by the thought of Raimon Panikkar and Bruno Barnhart. Cyprian Consiglio presents some of what lies beneath the names as we know them—Father, Son, and Spirit—to the universal energies that each of the Persons represent, as these energies are found in us, and in other spiritual traditions of the world. This includes an opening up of the feminine dimension of each of the Persons. With an emphasis on our participation in divinity, Consiglio explores what it might mean to evolve in our understanding of God and realize untapped potentials of our Christian spirituality."

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/rediscovering-the-divine-cyprian-consiglio-osb/1142809548>

Fr. Consiglio will be at the Monastery of the Risen Christ on O'Connor Way Thursday August 17th to discuss his book and work.

You are welcome to join the conversation even if you don't read it. The group meets on Tuesdays at 10:30 am on [Zoom](#).

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St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

2220 Snowy Egret Lane

Los Osos, CA 93412

St. Ben's Events

July

Tuesdays 5:30 *Vespers*
July 11 *St. Benedict's Day*
July 21 *Messy Church*

August

Tuesdays 5:30 *Vespers*
Aug 13 *Canon Martha*
Aug 17 *Fr. Consiglio at Monastery of
the Risen Christ*
Aug 18 *Messy Church*
