

ENS advisory committee joins us in welcoming *Episcopal Journal*

The members of the Episcopal News Service Advisory Committee extend our best wishes to Jerry Hames as he launches *Episcopal Journal* in conjunction with 12 print partner dioceses.

Jerry's years of service as an editor and journalist are respected across the Episcopal Church, and his expertise and commitment will benefit not only readers in the partner dioceses but also those who subscribe as individuals.

At a time when the Episcopal Church needs to engage in every avenue open to it to share news and stories of ministries, this newspaper will help fill the void left after the loss of *Episcopal News Monthly* and *Episcopal News Quarterly*. We are pleased that Episcopal News Service content will be a major part of this new publication, giving the excellent work of our ENS team even wider circulation.

While this committee's mandate from Executive Council defines our scope as "news gathering, distribution and publishing efforts

and ventures of the communications staff at the Church Center," we also are charged "to keep the voice of the whole church in a prominent place in the operation of any news gathering entity of the Church."

We welcome *Episcopal Journal* as a partner in this important ministry of communications.

— Melodie Woerman, Province 7 representative, Episcopal News Service Advisory Committee

Committee members in addition to Woerman are Mary Cox, Province 4; the Rev. Scott Gunn, Province 1; the Rev. Jamie Parsley, Province 6; the Rev. Dick Snyder, Province 8; and Sharon Tillman, Province 3. □



IMAGE FROM PROMOTIONAL FLYER INCLUDED IN MEDIA KIT.

Thank you to 'World in Prayer'

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE the generous gift of "World in Prayer" which has helped make possible this issue of *Episcopal Life San Joaquin*.

"World in Prayer" is a ministry of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, Lodi, and is written by a team of writers representing different denominations throughout the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. It appears online at www.worldinprayer.org and includes sections titled Deepening Our Prayers, World News This Week in Prayer, Learning to Pray for the World, Role of the Church in the World, and Prayer Response to Terrorist Attacks.

The section Learning to Pray for the World begins with this introduction:

"For some of us, praying for the world comes as naturally as breathing. Others of us grew up far more used to analyzing world events, or worrying about them, or ignoring them completely. But to share God's work in the world means to also share His prayers for the world. Whether you are new to this kind of prayer, or are hoping to deepen your world prayers, we invite you to join us on this Journey into World Prayer.

"Like all good journeys of discovery, the steps [12 steps are listed] are intended to be taken slowly, trying each one for a few weeks or a few days, listening closely for the joy of God praying within you as you go through the journey." □



Come strengthen your relationship with God and each other

By Nedra Voorhees, St. Francis', Turlock

WE ARE SO fortunate to have the Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton as the leader of our women's retreat on Friday, February 25 through Sunday, February 27, 2011, at ECCO, the conference center in Oakhurst.

Barbara was a priest in a parish in New York City for some time. Her parish was very close to the World Trade Center, and in 2001 she coordinated many relief and supportive efforts for victims' families and for the police, firefighters and other rescue workers at the site of the September 11 disaster.

In the aftermath of these efforts and the maintaining of her parish, she developed a heart condition which needed to be addressed and felt a recurrence of her old enemy, depression. To combat these two adversaries, she withdrew from parish ministry and developed the Geranium Farm, an online institute for spiritual growth



PHOTO: DONNA LALEY

Denny, left, and Doug, both members of ECCO's adjunct staff, strengthen their relationship, maybe.

(www.geraniumfarm.org) which publishes "The Almost Daily eMo."

Barbara also has written numerous books, including *Yes, We'll Gather at the River*, *Meditations on the Psalms*, *The Sewing Room: an Uncommon Reflection*, *Finding Time for Serenity*, and her latest, *Jesus Wept*.

Jesus Wept is a startling little book. Its essence is the author's discovery in herself of faith and depression side by side. What does one do? How do you confront this dilemma? She addresses the age-old question of that loving God who could bring disaster to his people.

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Kernville United Methodist Church.

St. Sherrian's now meeting in a 'real' church

By the Rev. Robert Woods, vicar, St. Sherrian's

THE BEGINNING OF Advent brought a new beginning for St. Sherrian's Episcopal Church, Kernville, when that congregation moved from the Oddfellows Hall into a real church, the Kernville United Methodist Church. The people of the Methodist church invited St. Sherrian's to share their historic building, which

dates from the 1870s. The oldest surviving church in the Kern River Valley, it was moved from "old Kernville" to its present location when the Isabella dam was built in the 1950s. Although it has been enlarged and its clapboard siding covered with stucco, the interior retains its period charm. In addition to being historic, it has appeared in Westerns including "Stagecoach" and "Treasure of the Sierra Madre," shot before the dam was built. Old Kernville was a convenient location for Hollywood film makers and had a "movie street" constructed of false fronts just for the movie industry in addition to its real businesses.

To Page B

We thank all our readers who have sent a 2011 contribution to assist in continuing this publication, and we respectfully remind those readers who have not yet responded that we are depending on you.

Checks should be mailed to the Diocese of San Joaquin, 1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355, with "diocesan newspaper" in memo line.

Deacon Connie Jacobs introduces herself



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rev. Connie Hartquist Jacobs

I AM ORIGINALLY from Austin, Minnesota, home of the Hormel Meatpacking Company (and that's exactly how we were taught as kids to introduce ourselves!). Our family moved to Southern California in the '50s because of an employment opportunity for my dad. I graduated from Glendale High School and got a BA degree from UCLA and a teaching credential from Cal State LA. After teaching at the Psychology Clinic School at UCLA I moved to Santa Cruz and taught junior high English and social studies across the road from a cow pasture in rural Watsonville.

In the 1970s, while a parishioner at St. John the Baptist, Capitola, I felt a call to ordination. Following studies at the Diocesan School for Ministries (predecessor to the School for Deacons), I was ordained deacon in 1979. During that time I was also a novice in the Community of St. Francis and working as assistant chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco.

Upon leaving the order in 1980, I served on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry, studied clinical pastoral education at UC San Francisco for several quarters (ultimately doing clinical supervisory training, although I opted not to pursue certification as a supervisor). In the 1980s and early '90s I served as director of the Episcopal chaplaincy at San Francisco General Hospital. This is a multi-faith pastoral care and training program that serves the whole medical center. Our program, called Sojourn, was instrumental in providing pastoral care training to clergy from around the world during the first wave of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, as well as providing pastoral support to the AIDS ward and outpatient clinic, along with the general medical units.

As a result of this program I was

invited to do similar trainings in England and Scotland and was privileged to have a private meeting with then-Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie at Lambeth Palace. He had visited our program at SF General and was a great source of encouragement for the UK training. I am deeply gratified that Sojourn's program of hospital-wide pastoral care and training not only continues today but is thriving under the combined leadership of the Rev. Will Hocker and the Rev. Elizabeth Welch.

I also served on the standing committee of the Diocese of California (and I might have been the first clergy woman, certainly the first deacon, to do so).

After moving on from SF General, I pursued secular work in behavioral health care with Alameda County, working in a vocational rehabilitation program for people with severe mental illness. That work gave me the opportunity to create fresh curriculum, as well as run vocational rehabilitation groups and provide one-to-one service. I loved doing it as much as I had loved the chaplaincy—with the added plus of no middle-of-the-night emergency phone calls.

From the 1970s until my retirement in 2008 I have been blessed with meaningful and highly satisfying work. I was also lucky enough to work as a volunteer associate at St. Cuthbert's, Oakland, with one of my closest friends, the Rev. Pamela Cranston, whom I've known since our days as the (then) only two Americans in the predominantly British Community of St. Francis.

My husband, Tom Jacobs, a retired computer programmer for Alameda County, and I are so thrilled to have finally made the move to Oakhurst. We arrived in mid-November, just before a beautiful snowfall. We are equally delighted to have discovered such a warm and lively community in St. Raphael's. I have been privileged to assist the vicar, the Rev. Paul Colbert, by leading Morning Prayer on the two Sundays each month when he is holding services in Merced and Madera, and I get to preach once a month, alternating with licensed lay preachers.

Tom and I are gradually learning more about the gifts and needs of our parish, the diocese, and the local community, and we both look forward to discovering how we can be of service. □

REFLECTION

Giving thanks for the Light of the World

By the Rev. Luis Rodríguez, rector Church of the Saviour, Hanford

The Feast of the Presentation (February 2) has a long and complex history in the Church, but at its core it commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the Temple, which took place 40 days after the Jesus' birth as required by Jewish law. The Gospel of Luke tells the story of how upon coming to the Temple the little family encountered a holy man, Simeon, and a prophet, Anna. Both recognized the child as the glory of Israel and the redemption of Jerusalem. The main text for the feast is the Song of Simeon, or the *Nunc Dimittis*. In it the old man declares the child to be "a light to enlighten the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel," and it is this image of light which pervades the theme of the feast.

In adapting herself to the pagan cultures of Northern Europe the Church ignored neither their existing traditions nor the natural cycle of the seasons. The feast's association with candles and light is no accident. February 2 was the Celtic feast of Imbolc, marking the halfway point between the beginning of the winter and the beginning of spring. It is usually after February 2 that the lengthening of the days becomes noticeable; thus comes the old saying 'Candlemas—candleless,' since after the feast there is less need for artificial light in the evenings.

The Church developed her own traditions around the feast, most especially the specific and self-conscious

use of candles; hence the feast's popular name, Candlemas. Candles are used in procession on the feast, worshippers carrying candles as they process. Traditionally, the candles were blessed in a place apart from the church building and the worshippers processed to the church with their lighted candles, symbolizing the procession to the Temple of Mary and Joseph with Jesus, the light of the world. In the Middle Ages (and after, no doubt) people carefully kept their Candlemas candle and lit it through the year at times of particular crisis, fear or uncertainty, as a special sign of Christ's light shining in the darkness. On this day too, all the candles to be used for worship throughout the coming year were blessed. Candlemas has been seen to mark the end of Christmas and Epiphany festivities, and some people used to argue that Christmas decorations should stay up until Candlemas.

The promise of the light which enlightens all people given at Christmas—the darkest part of year—is brought to fulfillment at Candlemas, as the days are beginning to observably lengthen. Perhaps this year you may want to make Candlemas a special celebration, particularly in the evening. Share a special meal with friends or family. Have lots of lit candles on the table and place at the center some special reminder of Christmas. At the end of the meal sing one last Christmas carol, put away your Christmas reminder, turn out the candles, and give thanks for the true light that has come into the world. □

Workshop for wardens and other church leaders

IN THE YEAR 100 A.D. there were 25,000 Christians in the world. By 310 A.D. there were 25 million. The Church grew nearly a thousand fold without any church buildings, without any clergy, without the Scriptures as we know them, without Twitter and while it was hard to become a Christian—and you could be put to death for becoming one.

What do 21st-century leaders need to know about helping God create the future of Christianity? How do we equip

ourselves for whatever comes next?

Sarah Shofstall, canon to the ordinary in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and Robin Hammeal Urban, pastoral response coordinator for the Diocese of Connecticut, will lead a workshop for wardens, vestry members, and treasurers, on Saturday, February 12, at 10:00 A.M. at Holy Family Church in Fresno. There is no cost for the workshop, but donations will be accepted for lunch. Please register by using the registration form available on the diocesan website. □

St. Sherrian's now meeting in a 'real' church

FROM PAGE A

The Methodists' Sunday service is at 9:30 A.M. and the Episcopal service is at 11:00. The two congregations have held joint services, including Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, and more are planned.

It is hoped that an Episcopal-Lutheran-Methodist (ELM) group can be formed so that Kern River Valley

ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Lutherans also will have a church home. ELM churches are already in the works in the southern part of Kern County, and we hope to be the northern ELM presence some day.

The Rev. Lauren Chaffee is pastor of the Kernville United Methodist Church. □

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'We're an outreach parish'

By Miriam Raub Vivian
Grace Episcopal Church, Bakersfield

FROM OUR INCEPTION as a house church in 2007, Grace has embraced a commitment to outreach. Indeed, parish leaders have made it a kind of mantra of the congregation, conveying a defining character of our faith community: "We're an outreach parish."

Early on this meant a commitment to Integrity, as well as the Bakersfield Homeless Center, where we serve dinner once a month, and the Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault (AAFVSA), which receives our weekly food donations.

As we've grown, we've expanded our reach considerably and committed to raising funds equivalent to a full 10 percent of our annual budget through our outreach efforts, not all of which have a monetary value. We considerably exceeded this in 2010, raising more than \$11,000, significantly more than the \$7,200 we aimed for.

To our weekly habits (the food basket



From left, John Eastridge, Curt Asher, and Miriam Raub Vivian, leaders of the Outreach Committee, lead a discussion with the 2011 committee.

and Miles for Pennies) and monthly traditions (serving at the homeless shelter), to periodic workdays (Habitat for Humanity and Helping Hands—the latter for parishioners to assist other parishioners) and seasonal projects (Advent = Angel Tree, which provides gifts for the young children of incarcerated females; Heifer Project; a winter wear drive for the AAFVSA; and UTO boxes), Grace has now added a major annual fundraiser: a wine-tasting

event with silent auction. "Nets for Nights" in October raised well over \$6,000 for a non-profit in Ghana that distributes insecticide-treated mosquito nets to villagers to help fight malaria. That event's success has emboldened us to make plans for a similar event in 2011, likely with a more local charity as the focus.

On Christmas Eve and Easter we also take up a special collection for the Grace Family Fund, which is

available to help parishioners who have financial needs.

The Outreach Committee has recently expanded its membership and meets at least quarterly to discuss the parish's outreach efforts. At our most recent meeting, 17 of us discussed ways to focus our outreach efforts in 2011.

Regardless of where we end up putting those efforts, outreach to the community, the nation, and the world will continue to define Grace in Bakersfield. □

PHOTO: PHILIP HOLT

SPOTLIGHT

The brief history of All Souls', Ridgecrest

By Fred Weals
All Soul's, Ridgecrest

THE ORIGIN OF All Souls' Episcopal Church goes back to early 2008. A small group of members of what had been St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Ridgecrest chose to remain Episcopal when the majority followed the bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin, who broke away from the national Episcopal Church, and joined the Anglican province of the Southern Cone, headquartered in Argentina. At that time, St. Michael's became St. Michael's Anglican Church.

All Souls' meets at 5 P.M. each Sunday at 230 West Ridgecrest Blvd., in a building rented from the Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert and once used as a USO building.

The Rev. Linda Huggard is the vicar, or priest in charge of the congregation. She lives in Bakersfield and serves churches there and in Taft, as well as All Souls'. As the Southern Area Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, she is also working with Methodists and Lutherans on starting a mission in Fraser Park/Pine Mountain. Before seminary training to be a priest, Linda worked for over 30 years as a commercial insurance broker, specializing in claims litigation. She has served in disaster relief and other humanitarian missions in Belize, Mexico, and New Orleans.

Linda is assisted by the Rev. Ruth Eller, a retired priest from the Diocese of Utah. Having earned degrees in drama and English, Ruth taught at various places, including Vassar and UC Berkeley, before being ordained. A longtime resident of California before her work in Utah, she returned to the state after her retirement.

Dr. Charles Andrews and Mrs. Susan Read are prominent lay leaders in the congregation, which is governed by a board called a bishop's committee. All Souls' is part of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, which still covers much of the southern portion of California's Central Valley and parts of the Eastern Sierra.

Episcopalians are also Anglicans, being part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Like other Anglicans, they use a locally-adapted Book of Common Prayer. The Anglican Communion is the world's third largest Christian group, with about 80 million members organized into parishes, dioceses and provinces. The Archbishop of Canterbury, England, is the spiritual head.

The Episcopal Church came into being at the time of the American Revolution, when it separated from the Church of England and became autonomous, because the clergy had been required to swear allegiance to the English monarch, not a popular figure in the colonies at that time. Now the Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion in the United States, some parts of South and Central America, Taiwan, and Europe. It is organized into nine provinces and over 100 dioceses. However, members of four dioceses (including the former Episcopal diocese in this area) and a number of parishes have broken away from the Episcopal Church. These, along with some that never belonged, also regard themselves as Anglican.

The Episcopal Church includes a wide range of Christian thought and likes to think of itself as a "Big Tent" organization. Church leadership tends to be progressive, with ready acceptance of women at all levels of church leadership, and tolerance toward other

Christian denominations and non-Christian religions. The church also welcomes gays and lesbians, abled and disabled—everyone!

The Episcopal Church tries at all times to be faithful to its founding principle of balancing Scripture, tradition, and reason. Therefore, like many other main-line denominations, it has reached an accommodation with modern science, while preserving the essential messages from Scripture. As noted above, congregations with different viewpoints on some or all of these issues, like St. Michael's Anglican Church in Ridgecrest, have chosen to leave the Episcopal Church. The people of All Souls' say they respect the wishes of those who chose to depart, but are glad that they themselves have opted to remain Episcopal.

The clergy and people of All Souls' emphasize their desire to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to worship with them, or take advantage of their educational offerings. Please call 760-499-1493 or 760-375-8148 for more information.



The Rev. Linda Huggard, left, and the Rev. Ruth Eller lead worship at All Souls'.

Come strengthen your relationship with God and each other

FROM PAGE A

"I am far from being offended by the randomness of human suffering—I would rather be troubled by the opposite number—a God willing to rain down horrors in order to instruct us."

So, if depressed, what are your directions, your seeking, your balm for your soul. Where do you turn beyond the psychotherapists and the medications which can help, but not truly heal the person of faith who feels doubly oppressed by a random or a deviant God? She initially explores this question at length. She cites varied people, their symptoms and their approaches to their affliction. She uses these people and their introspection as she studies and muses about the impact of depression in a person of faith. One can feel abandoned or neglected as one struggles with depression when all joy of prayer and intimacy with God seem to be gone.

She explores various treatments, and their impact on her spirit and her soul, and the depression which so inhibits and limits her. She struggles with her need for help, whether it be chemical or personal. For all of this she finds her greatest solace in her relationship with God and the healing benefits of prayer. I hesitate to say more, for it is far better said by Crafton herself as she leads you on this meditative journey. She is a most expressive and introspective writer and I can hardly wait to meet her in February.

More information about the retreat, a registration form and scholarship request form are available at the diocesan website, diosanjoaquin.org. □

PHOTO: SUSAN READ

St. John's, Lodi, celebrates children

By Carol Bower Foote

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, at 10:30 A.M., St. John's Episcopal Church in Lodi is holding a child-centered liturgy celebrating Candlemas and the Light of new life. The service centers around the story of the presentation of the infant Jesus at the temple and the blessing of the children in our lives.

Last September, with the assistance of Christian educator Beth Hammond, the parish formed a vision of St. John's as a place where "children are welcome and included as part of an intergenerational family that comes together to know and follow Jesus."

At the celebration of Bishop Nicholas Day in December, at least three generations came together to share a "learning story" and worship, led in part by the children, followed by activities where young and old created original Christmas crafts together.

The Candlemas liturgy on February 6 will once again give children, parents, and grandparents the opportunity to learn, worship, and create together. The children will be presented for a special blessing and will lead the Prayers of the People using prayers they have written together in Sunday school. After a simple Eucharist, all will be invited to make candles and other crafts while enjoying refreshments. □



Grownups work with children on Saint Nicholas Day projects at St. John's, Lodi. Clockwise from top left: Matt Bronson, Jay Bell, Ruth Diekman, and Elizabeth Valdivia.



PHOTOS: CAROL BOWER FOOTE



PHOTO: DORIS HALL

NEWS BRIEFS

- **Christ the King now has one service in Spanish every week**
Added to regular services at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Riverbank at the beginning of 2011 was a Spanish service, which is being held every Sunday at 12:30 P.M. The Rev. Kathleen West is celebrant and preacher. The Rev. Glenn Kanestrom, rector of Christ the King, provides guitar music.
- **CTK offers space for an AA meeting**
A first-ever Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for English speakers in Riverbank is being held at Christ the King on Mondays at 7 A.M.
- **All Souls', Ridgecrest, has Epiphany party**
The members of All Souls' Episcopal Church in Ridgecrest observed Epiphany with an open house at the home of the Rev. Ruth Eller.
- **Modern day circuit riders**
The Rev. Paul Colbert and the Rev. Linda Huggard both spend a lot of time driving. Paul celebrates and preaches at the Merced Episcopal Church (meeting at Sierra Presbyterian Church) on the first and third Sundays of each month and at St. Raphael's, Oakhurst, and Holy Trinity, Madera, on the second and fourth Sundays. Linda is Kern County missionary and serves as vicar or priest in charge at St. Andrew's, Taft, St. Brigid's, Bakersfield, and All Souls', Ridgecrest, all many miles apart. □

The Rev. Justo Andres enjoys his dessert at a past Pub Night at St. Anne's in Stockton. This year's pub nights are Friday, February 18, and Saturday, February 19. Call 209-473-2313 for more information.

Code 7 Café open for business at St. Anne's on Christmas Eve

By William Woolley
St. Anne's, Stockton

THE YEAR 2010 was the 15th year that the Episcopal Church of St. Anne in Stockton has provided emergency personnel who were working the night shift a hot meal on Christmas Eve.

Police, emergency medical services personnel, and sometimes firemen come in during the late-night hours. All the restaurants are closed on Christmas Eve night so providing a free hot meal is St. Anne's way of saying thank you to the men and women who keep our city safe every day, including holidays.

St. Anne's Code 7 Café opened at 11:00 P.M. on December 24 and closed about 3:30 A.M. on Christmas morning. The menu included

turkey, mashed potatoes, lasagna, lumpia, salad, rolls, hot vegetables, soup, pumpkin pie, and cookies, hot coffee, hot tea, bottled water, and sodas.

The contact person for Code 7 Café was Spencer Lockwood. Team members included Steve Bentley, Sue Dickson, Amy Miller, Melanie Dane, and the Rev. Lyn Morlan. □



PHOTOS: WILLIAM WOOLLEY

Left: The Code 7 Café logo. Right: Amy Miller and Spencer Lockwood at work in the kitchen. Above: Emergency responders enjoying a Christmas feast at St. Anne's Code 7 Café.

SPOTLIGHT

Isabel Neilsen of St. Matthew's, San Andreas, celebrates 98 years

By the Rev. John Shumaker

ISABEL NEILSEN WAS honored at St. Matthew's in San Andreas on January 2, 2011, for her 98th birthday. Isabel was born in Oakland, California, and later moved with her family to Lassen County, where her mother had been hired to teach grades one through eight in a one-room school.

After Isabel graduated from the eighth grade, she rode a bus to Susanville 35 miles in each direction to attend high school. She then attended the University of California at Berkeley. Her first job was in a one-room school, teaching all eight grades, and she rode a horse to get there every day.

She met her future husband, Ray Neilsen, when her family visited relatives in Calaveras County. Ray and Isabel were among the early organizers of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and faithful supporters throughout the church's 50 years. Even today, Isabel serves on the altar guild, painstakingly handling the

delicate washing of the altar linens. She is a wonderful role model for all of St. Matthew's members. □



PHOTO: KELVIN YEE

Isabel Neilsen with her special birthday cake.