

THE BELOVED DISCIPLE

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1 FEBRUARY 2015



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SINCE 1856

40 Fifth Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 www.saintjohnseiscopalpetaluma.org

707-762-8872

Everyone Welcome!

The Power of Love

BY REV. DANIEL C. GREEN

As we've been preparing for the Renewal of Ministry celebration that is going to take place here at St. John's on February 13th, I've been thinking a lot about a similar service that took place over four years ago, when I first came to Petaluma. When we started planning for the upcoming event I felt some resistance to doing it—why do what we'd already done once before? Why go to all the trouble? But as the planning and preparation have moved along, my enthusiasm has for it has grown, because it has become apparent that this is going to be an entirely different experience from the last one we had.

The last time we did this, we gathered in an atmosphere in which undercurrents of pain left over from the schism still coursed through the congregation. There was anxiety about our future, and an entirely reasonable residue of mistrust of the clergy. There was uncertainty about me, and whether I would be the kind of leader who could help us heal and recover and grow. I was uncertain myself. So when we had our Renewal of Ministry celebration

it felt a little bit like Senior Prom. We dressed up in our formal clothes, but they were uncomfortably stiff; we did the things we were supposed to do, but it felt like playing grown-up. We acted as though we liked each other, but we weren't really sure if we did, or what it would mean if it were true.

This time it feels more like a wedding. It feels like the celebration of a relationship that is mature, that has been through some fights and soul-searching, and long heart-to-heart talks. We've had time to really get to know each other, to work through some of the unrealistic fantasies and see one another for who we really are. And in that process we've found love and trust. We are proud of the hard work we've done to get to this point, and are full of wonder and excitement for what we can become.

I don't want to press the metaphor too far, but it is an apt one because I think there can be no disputing that what has powered the renewal of St. John's over the last seven years is love. Our efforts have prospered, and we've been blessed with good fortune and capable leaders with good ideas, but the inspiration and the energy have

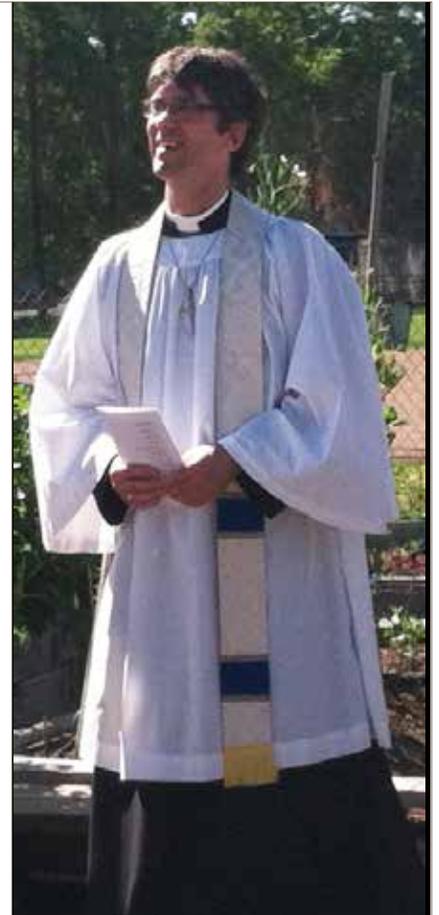
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Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18 | 12:15 & 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday, the fast that begins the season of Lent, will be observed on February 18th with services of the Holy Eucharist and imposition

of ashes at 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. If you have saved palm fronds from last year's Palm Sunday processional please bring them to church on the preceding Sunday, February 15, so they can be burned for Ash Wednesday.



Celebration of New Ministry

Celebrating the renewal of Petaluma's historic congregation of the Episcopal Church, and formally installing the Very Rev. Daniel C. Green as the 21st Rector of the Parish

Friday, February 13, 2015

Eucharistic Service 5:30 PM
with Dinner to Follow

Everyone Welcome!

The Power of Love

BY REV. DANIEL C. GREEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 come from love. We have acted for the love of lofty ideals: the future of the Episcopal Church in Petaluma; justice; full inclusion of everyone in the church; a wise, humane, and life-affirming vision of the Gospel. But we have also acted out of the down-to-earth love of one human being for another. After all, that has always been the basic measure of Christian faithfulness, and of the power of the church's witness—the love that we have for one another.

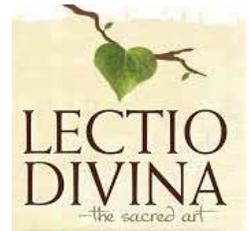
As I look around the parish today, I see signs of that love everywhere I turn. It is nothing dramatic or showy, but I do see a community where people are genuinely open to each other, turning toward each other with real interest, caring, and appreciation. It is not perfect. Like people in any family or community we have days when our tempers are thin, and ordinary human foibles are more irritating than we like to admit. We all depend more than we know on the forgiveness of others, who accept our faults and careless missteps without censure or recrimination. I am sure we have always more to learn about how to bear each others' burdens, speak the truth in love, and to reconcile when we have hurt one another. In all this I most definitely include myself. Nevertheless, I see around me the continuous formation and strengthening of the strands of friendship that weave the fabric of a healthy and resilient community.

The church talks a lot nowadays about "mission," and it is not always clear what it is referring to. It can sound sometimes like we mean gearing up for a trip to a far-off destination. But if our mission is to be the continuation of Jesus Christ's, then its motive force must be a love which is already present, within and among us. After all, his mission began with calling disciples, forming relationships with them and teaching them to trust, to learn from, and depend on each other. The love of God that called each of us to this place, that makes us want to keep coming back and to belong, not just to an institution called "St. John's Episcopal Church" but to one another, is the same force that makes us want to call new friends into this communion.

This will require us to stretch ourselves and take new risks, to cultivate new disciplines and learn new competencies, and to do a lot of very intentional and prayerful discernment. It will require real integrity and faithfulness to our unique identity and to the purpose for which God brought this parish back to life. That is to say, it will require us to love each other even more than we feel we do now, and to extend our circle of friendship more widely, maybe more widely than we can now imagine. But why wouldn't we want more love? ■

A Passiontide-Lenten Lectio Divina

Continuing the practice begun by **Tom Rotella** — who will be moving with his partner Michael to Virginia this spring — there will be a *Lectio Divina* circle every Wednesday evening during Passiontide-Lent again this year. Now facilitated by **Larry Temple**, this "sacred reading" will begin on **Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 pm**, continuing every week until April 1.



We will meet in the chapel, by the choir, in front of the altar. Feel free to participate as often as you find possible. Each week we will contemplate readings from the Gospel and share from our hearts and minds. All are welcome. If driving in the evening is a problem for you, call Larry at 707-628-9870, there may well be a ride for you, door to door!

Lenten Evening Prayer

AND HOLY HOUR
WITH THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT



All are invited to participate in Evening Prayer and a quiet, self-directed Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament as part of your Lenten observance. **Laurie Warren** will lead the Office of Evening Prayer, after which you are invited to stay for a Holy Hour praying with the Blessed Sacrament. During the Holy Hour you are welcome to meditate, pray, reflect on a sacred text of your choice, devote the time to a specific prayer intention, or simply be present with other faithful people in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We will meet on **Friday evenings from 7:00–8:15 pm** in the sanctuary on **February 20, 27, March 13, 20, and 27**.

We celebrate the Eucharist with one another in communion with Jesus, the Holy Trinity and
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Annual Parish Meeting 2015

The Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 25th saw the election of five new members to St. John's vestry: **Alison Adams, Kate Klarkowski, Teresa Peter, Larry Temple, and Laurie Warren**. The meeting concluded with the commissioning of the new and continuing members. Continuing members are **Joanna Butler, Kathryn Dayton, Susan Hadenfeldt, Kristin Ikola, and Rebecca Smith**. Fr. Daniel announced his choice of Kathryn Dayton to serve as Senior Warden. The vestry will elect a Junior Warden from among its members later this month. The Wardens, along with the Priest-in-Charge, form an Executive Committee that helps steer the vestry's business forward between meetings.

The vestry's next regular monthly business meeting will take place on February 17th at 7 pm in the Library. Members of the parish are always welcome to observe. Requests to be on the agenda should be made by a week before the meeting, to the Rector.

Also elected at the meeting were **Kathryn Dayton, Susan Hadenfeldt, Laurie Warren, and Bill Reid**, to serve as Delegates to Diocesan Convention. Bill Rhoads was elected to serve as an alternate.

Clif Hill, Buildings and Grounds Chair, announced the awarding of a contract to Willet Hauser Architectural Glass of Winona, Minnesota to undertake the repair and protection of the stained-glass windows in the church in 2015. Funding for this project comes from two main sources—a bequest from the Dr. Robert Buffum Trust, and the proceeds from last year's Big Night Out gala.

Bill Reid and **Walter Hellmuth** made a presentation on the financial position of the parish, which included mixed news. 2014 ended with operating income exceeding expenses, and increased value in endowment funds. The 2015 budget, however, has a projected operating deficit of over \$20,000. This is due to termination of grant support from the Episcopal Diocese and a slight decline in overall pledged giving.

Other highlights of the meeting included a delicious potluck lunch, and conversation at the tables about our experiences of finding welcome at St. John's, and how we might offer a similar experience to others. ■



Father Daniel said farewell to the outgoing vestry members who were honored for their years of service to the mission of St. John's.

An Interfaith Labyrinth Walk for Peace



WITH TAIZE AND KIRTAN CHANTING AND THE POETRY OF RUMI

Saturday, February 28 at 7 pm

The extraordinary labyrinth of Chartres Cathedral in France was created as a pathway of healing during the worst times of war and violence between Christians and Muslims. With the current religious tensions in our world, and in memory of all victims of religious violence throughout history, we invite you to a heart-opening evening of interfaith devotional chanting, prayers and poems as we walk the labyrinth in a ritual for world peace and reconciliation. Led by **Kayleen Asbo, Christopher Love, Robin O'Brien** and friends.

\$10-20 donation suggested, no one turned away

Lenten Evening Prayer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 Saints before us each Sunday. The Blessed Sacrament from the services is reserved in a special tabernacle or "aumbry" on the altar. A candle burns perpetually above the aumbry, reminding us of Christ's Presence with us. The practice of Venerating the Blessed Sacrament dates back to the 13th century. Traditionally, Roman Catholics pray with the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays, throughout the entire year. Many Episcopal churches, such as St. John's, observe this practice during Lent in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Please join us if you feel drawn to participate in this quiet, contemplative practice with others. There is no registration required and you are welcome to any or all of the offerings on February 20, 27, March 13, 20, and 27. If you would like more information, please email Laurie Warren at lewarren@gmail.com or phone (707) 775-1884.



St. John's vestry members for 2015 are Kate Klarkowski, Rebecca Smith, Laurie Warren, Theresa Peter, Susan Hadenfledt, Alison Adams, Larry Temple, Joanna Butler, Kristin Ikola and Kathryn Hardt

REFLECTIONS ON OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Count Us In!

by Frances Frazier and Susan Stewart

Having learned that 40% of our pledge income comes from just five contributors and that St John's is facing a deficit this year of over \$21,000, we each found ourselves wondering how we might assist our beloved community in finding its way to firmer fiscal ground.

Both of us were moved by the Treasurer's observation that the deficit would disappear if everyone increased their pledge by just 15%. The fact that a small stretch on the part of many could have such a big impact inspired us. So we've taken the plunge and increased our pledges 15-20% and are hoping that each of you might consider raising yours as well. *Perhaps some of you already have.*

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

... and in Addition

In response to the announcement of the anticipated shortfall in the 2015 operating budget, some members of St. John's have expressed a desire to increase their pledged estimates of regular giving for the year.

If you are one of those who would like to record a new pledge, simply contact the pledge secretary **Kevin Jones** at jkevinj4@gmail.com. And, of course, if you have not yet made a pledge for 2015, it is not too late! ■

Congregational Leadership Conference

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | GRACE CHURCH, ST. HELENA

Every year at this time the Office of the Bishop of Northern California presents a Congregational Leadership Conference at various locations around the Diocese. This year's conference in our region will be on Saturday, March 7 at Grace Church, St. Helena. The conference is especially intended for vestry members and congregational leaders in areas of finance and administration, but it is an excellent informational and networking resource for anyone involved in parish leadership at all levels. The theme of the conference is "Evangelism," and there will be plenary



meetings and workshops focusing on the theme, as well as "how-to" seminars on such topics as communications, risk management, financial best practices, and organizing effective committee meetings. The best thing about the conference is the opportunity to meet people engaged in similar work in sister congregations around our area, and to get to know the Diocesan staff and the professional services they are able to provide in support of your ministries.

Conference registration is free and includes lunch, but pre-registration is required of all participants. You can register on-line at <http://www.norcalepiscopal.org/clc-online-registration>. The deadline to register is March 4.

If you have questions about the conference, feel free to contact Fr. Daniel. If you would like to offer or receive a ride to the conference, contact the parish office at office.sjecp@gmail.com or 762-8872.



WISDOM of the Ancients

From the February 1904 edition of *The Instructor*, the monthly newsletter of St. John's, Petaluma, along with an advertisement for The Blackburn Undertaking Parlors, "business conducted as in the past."

The primitive Christians observed [the Lenten] fast with great devotion and strictness, abstaining from flesh-meat and wine, taking but one meal daily, and that not until the evening. They curtailed their sleep, rising often to pray; they lived in retirement, and allowed themselves only such recreations as were indispensable. All classes kept the Fast, excepting where sickness or infirmity rendered a dispensation necessary.

The strict and severe rule of the early Church would be impracticable in these days of luxury, self-indulgence, and neglect of the practice of fasting. But even though you cannot with safety and prudence fast to the full extent, you may do so in part, at least, and after a time you will acquire increased power of self-denial, and may be enabled in some measure, however imperfectly, to follow the practice of the saints of old. ■

Art of the Annunciation

MARCH 14, 2015 FROM 10 TO 12 NOON
with BRUCE ELLIOTT, Ph.D. in the PARISH HALL

Some of the most evocative art work of the Great Masters such as Duccio, Botticello, Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, Tintoretto and Rubens, has been on the theme of the Annunciation of the Virgin. As we come into the season of spring-time and the Festival of the Annunciation, cultural historian Dr. Bruce Elliott will give historical commentary on some of the most outstanding examples of art on this theme. This art history presentation will be a creative blend of lecture, discussion and extensive visuals.



Cultivating Local Food Access

INTERFAITH SUSTAINABLE FOOD COLLABORATIVE

3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2015
Petaluma Woman's Club, 518 B Street, Petaluma, CA

Join the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative to cultivate local food access at our 3rd Annual Conference. The conference will provide tools for your congregation and emphasizes participation and problem-solving to empower congregational leaders. The conference program emphasizes presenters with hands-on congregational program experience as well as leaders from outside the region who can share successful models.



Plenary discussions will:

- Shine light on how our work on sustainable farms and food access for our neighbors is deeply rooted in our diverse faith traditions
- feature successful program leaders from outside our region who can inspire us to grow creative programming locally

Breakout sessions include:

- Advancing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- "Greening" Food Pantries and Community Gardens
- Advocacy for Policies Promoting Local Food Security
- Food access for neighbors in need.

Registration 1:30 pm, Program 2:00-7:00 pm.

To register, go to <http://interfaithfood.org/programs/annualconference/>

FROM HELEN MOSSMAN

Sharing Our Stories

GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU

Meg Tinsley, wife of our Rector, Daniel Green, generously agreed to share her story in writing, responding to questions provided by Hellen Mossman.

I grew up back East, outside Washington DC, in Virginia and Maryland. After my parent's divorced when I was two, I shuttled back and forth between my father's house in the Georgetown section of DC, on the weekends, while living with my mom during the week. I have one older sister FOUR years my senior. Being so young and fairly nonverbal when my parents split up, I developed a life-long affinity for nonverbal ways of connecting, like dance, emotional expressions, and the world of symbols and dreams, which led to many decisions later on.

My mom was an English professor at the Naval Academy and a published creative writer; my father was a research economist at the Federal Reserve Board. They were both highly intellectual and interested in exposing their children to a host of cultural experiences, like Shakespeare plays, musicals, museums, as well as physical experiences, like playing football, playing ice hockey the few times the Potomac River froze, (even though it was illegal to do so), and hang gliding down at Kitty Hawk where the Wright brothers took their first flight.

I didn't grow up in a overtly religious home, though my father's father was an Episcopal priest and my dad still wears a host of religious symbols around his neck, including a cross, and the star of David. I was baptized Episcopalian and we were faithful Easter and Christmas attendees. What I remember about church when I was little was being intimidated to make noise (like cough), and feeling I had to ask permission to do so. Despite this anxiety, the hymns made a deep impression, as well as communion, which I was drawn to even as a young child.

My mom, being an air force brat, was used to moving around a lot, so we ended up moving every four years or so, getting ever closer to Annapolis, but far enough away to preserve her anonymity—having grown up on bases around the world, she was not interested in living in military community again. The summer before tenth grade, my mom remarried and we moved to Silver Spring, Maryland and I started a new high school. To help get over the



MEG TINSLEY

rest of high school and college, being a jock became my default identity. In general, I don't like to watch sports; but I do like to play them!

One of the most adventurous times of my life occurred right after graduating from college in upstate New York. Having contracted mononucleosis at the end of my senior year, the idea of staying in Maryland with my parents to completely recover was so depressing that a few friends and I decided to drive cross country to San Francisco with two cars, and a set of old-school CB radios. It's not something I would ever do again, but looking back, I'm glad I had the adventure. I was still struggling with the virus, and needed to be in bed by about 8pm, so I opted out of things like night time dancing in Texas and New Orleans. But I do remember the stunning hike down the Grand Canyon and an unexpectedly moving visit to Graceland, Elvis's former home.

After college, my interest in athleticism turned more to dance, specifically Haitian dance, and then later contact improvisational dance, which is how I met Daniel at a San Francisco dance jam called Barefoot Boogie. I was immersed then in a graduate program for somatic (body-oriented) psychology and was also a practicing massage therapist. Daniel had just left a Zen community where he had been organic farming and meditating for the past seven years. Because of my reserve about marriage, having seen the pain it caused my family of origin, it took six years of dating Daniel to finally convince me that marriage could be a good thing. Twelve years later, I'm glad I took the leap!

I have always been interested in creative arts, and spent a fair amount of time in my twenties, thirties, and early forties in community college classrooms writing poems, short

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BACH CHURCH

with Kayleen Asbo, Ph.D.

Sundays at 5 pm St. John's Episcopal Church
40 Fifth Street, Petaluma, CA

Monthly interfaith candlelight gatherings of poetry,
meditation and the music of J.S. Bach

JANUARY 25

The Season of Epiphany: Following the Light

FEBRUARY 22

The Season of Lent: The Return to Simplicity

MARCH 22

The Annunciation: Welcoming the Unexpected

APRIL 19

The Season of Easter: Opening to Joy

MAY 17

The Everyday Sacred

Sharing Our Stories

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6 stories, drawing and painting. When Risa was young and we were living in Carmel, I was lucky enough to win a short story contest which allowed one of my short stories, "Balcony Game," to be published in a small local publication called *The Homestead Review*. I say lucky because having grown up with a writer mother, and having several creative writing friends, I know how much luck plays into getting published. "Balcony Game" was one of a series of stories loosely based on my childhood living in DC.

I have always wanted to be more involved in yoga, and have had a series of dreams since my twenties where I am a super flexible yogini. (I think that's termed a wish-fulfilling dream!) This year I've started to go to flow yoga on a regular basis and am practicing a little bit every day at home. Though of course yoga puts me face-to-face with physical limitations as well as that pesky and competitive ego mind, I am pleased with the subtle changes that I feel in my body. There are obvious transformations that I can point to, like increased flexibility and strength, but the feeling of joy and aliveness is the most cherished result. My goal is to continue this into 2015 and beyond.

For the most part, these past two years, creative writing and painting have taken a back seat to developing a psychotherapy practice. Another goal for 2015 is to get back to a creative pursuit that is just for myself, perhaps drawing. ■