



Everyone Welcome!

Abiding and Bearing Fruit

BY REV. DANIEL C. GREEN

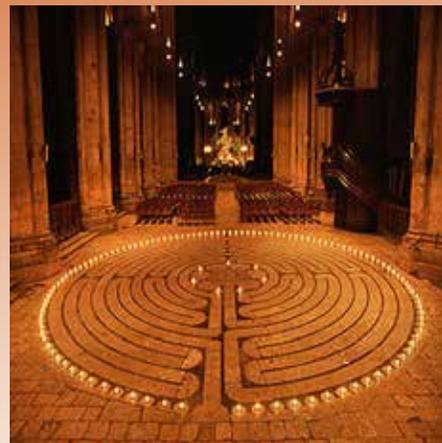
Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

"ABIDE," WHICH IS JESUS' COMMAND TO US in this passage, has different connotations which I think are relevant to this moment in the life of St. John's, the climax of this Year of Discernment. The meaning that immediately presents itself is to dwell, to find rest, to be at home. Christ invites us to find our home in him, and says that if we do, we will find that he has made a home in us. This is a pretty good description of our discernment, as we consider whether we are ready to call a Rector and support ourselves as a parish of the Episcopal Church. When we come together to imagine our common future we bring a welter of divergent thoughts and anxieties, hopes and opinions. But when we surrender all these to the simplicity of abiding in Christ, we find convergence. We discover that Christ dwells within and among us, and gives us the confidence to know, and to take, the next step.

"Abide" has another connotation that speaks to us now, and that is an element of duration. One who abides remains, endures. For the last seven years, when our congregation has looked to the future the chief concern has been to get to this point—we have asked "will we be able to support our ministry with a full-time priest, and do it without help from the Diocese?" We approached that question with doubt and misgivings, but with faith in Christ, and in the calling for which he established this congregation in 1856 and re-established it in 2007. Abiding in him, we have borne fruit, and found that it is possible to answer that question with a "yes." So now we begin to ask different questions of the future, about our abiding place in Petaluma, about bearing fruit that will last.

It is one thing to go out on dates with a boyfriend, it is another to get married and abide in the same house, and still another to sustain and grow a marriage for a lifetime. This isn't a bad analogy for the new commitment that stands before us. This is true to a lesser extent for me—even in the unlikely event that I remain your priest for the next twenty years, I will retire then, God willing, and be gone. But for many of you, the perspective of abiding in Christ includes knowing that St. John's may be your spiritual home for the rest of your days. And for all of us, this community will be part of our abiding legacy to the world. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Labyrinth Walk



TAIZE LABYRINTH WALK:
A FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINTS
with **KAYLEEN ASBO**

NOVEMBER 1 at 7:30 PM

To mark the Festival of All Saints on November 1, commemorating those precious individuals who have lit the way for humanity, St. John's will host a combination Labyrinth Walk & Taize service. This contemplative candlelit evening will be led by **Kayleen Asbo** on piano, accompanied by **Susan Stewart** on cello, with **Suzanne Gray** and **Connee Young** leading the Taize chanting. The All Saints Labyrinth Taize will be held in Cram Hall on Saturday, November 1, beginning at 8:00 pm. Donations are welcome.

St. John's regular First Friday candlelit Taize service of contemplative music and chant will be held in the Church sanctuary at its regular time on Friday, November 7 at 7:00 pm.

CONSIDER BRINGING A FRIEND

Abiding . . .

BY REV. DANIEL C. GREEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 This perspective calls forth a depth and constancy of purpose that are rare in our constantly-moving, boom-and-bust society. It also gives urgency to questions about the essential needs, core commitments, and rock-bottom truths on which an abiding covenant is founded. And it brings into sharp relief the knowledge that this cannot be an individual effort. It is our unity, our abiding together in Christ as many branches of one vine, which nourishes the spiritual harvest of a lifetime. But the nourishment flows in all directions. We are all fed and sustained by the one vine that is Christ, and this makes us lush and green and fruitful. But the leaves on the branches also nourish the vine itself, its woody stem and its roots, that abide from year to year and life to life. So we ask how Christ will take our gifts and our efforts and use them for eternity.

These are the questions that lie before us as we move towards the threshold of a new year, which will also be the first year of a new phase in the life of our congregation—abiding questions which invite us to a further measure of faith. This is a time to give thanks, because apart from Christ we can do nothing, and see how much we have done! It is a time for a certain amount of awe, and even fear, as we contemplate how our little project of renewing St. John's is one branch of the great vine of God's mission of healing and re-creating and glorifying the world. It is a time to reconsider our commitments and to ask what in our life together is a fruitless branch that needs pruning, and where is new life surging and flowering and ripening. And it is a time to trust, in Christ and in each other, and to abide there.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

October Is Stewardship Season

October is the time when we put extra focus on the role that stewardship plays in our lives, individually and as a community. Watch for our invitation to you to spend time over the coming few weeks in prayer and conversation, reflecting on the ways that you are able to share your gifts with your St. John's family, in gratitude for the abundance that God has made possible in your life, and as a commitment to doing God's work together. Stewardship packets will be available starting Sunday, October 12.

We will be providing several ways to support your prayerful discernment. In addition to more high quality preaching from Father Daniel, members of our congregation will again be sharing personal reflections on stewardship. This year's theme is "Abiding and Bearing Fruit", based on John 15:4-5:

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

The Stewardship packet will contain some additional information on stewardship, as well as a pledge form that identifies the ministries at St. John's which will help you consider what commitments of time and talent you will make for the coming year. New this year, we are inviting you to complete separately a Mission Pledge card that highlights the ways that you are doing God's work outside of St. John's. You can choose whether to share the information on the cards with Father Daniel, otherwise we will leave them sealed. All cards will be held in prayer and returned to you next year.

We will gather all the forms that are returned during the pledge campaign and bring them to the altar to be blessed and celebrated on Sunday November 2. While we do not have a financial goal for this year's campaign — we do have a goal of 100% participation. We are making plans to visit other forms of stewardship throughout the year — not only during our annual campaign season. Gratefully — **Kevin Jones, Rebecca Smith, Joanna Butler**

Casting Call for The Shepherds' Play

Most of last year's cast has signed on for another season with The Shepherds' Play, but there are a couple of openings for new members to join in! Rehearsals will begin weekly in November, which night of the week to be determined. The play will be performed in Cram Hall on Saturday, December 20, the weekend before Christmas.

To learn more: Contact **Larry Temple** at onezself2@gmail.com or 707-628-9870



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20



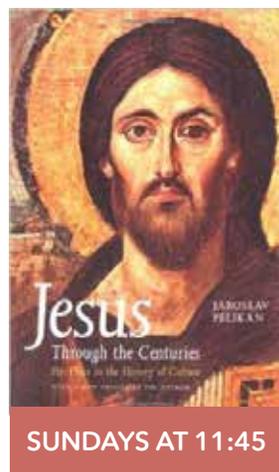
WISDOM of the Ancients

From the October 1902 edition of *The Instructor*, the monthly newsletter of St. John's, Petaluma, along with an advertisement for The City Market, "Wholesale and Retail dealer in Beef, Mutton, Pork, Veal, and Sausages of all kinds. Orders from the country will receive prompt attention."

Obedience is a divine thing when it means the free and hearty submission to the will of God, but if it means the surrender of the will in slavish subjection to the will of another, then it is in direct contradiction to the liberty with which Christ has made us free.

An Invitation to Lead and Serve

As the year's end draws near, St. John's vestry is preparing to accept new members. The vestry is the board of directors of the parish, with responsibility for our physical and financial assets. It is also a learning community of spiritual leaders, who work together with the Priest-in-Charge to guide and support the congregation in discerning and acting on God's mission at St. John's. Vestry members generally serve three year terms, and are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting at the end of January. The next three years promise to be exciting ones, as we move forward from our Year of Discernment with a new confidence and clarity of purpose. The outgoing vestry members, **Victoria Temple, Connie Prim, Monty Sullivan, and Joanne Woodland**, would be delighted to share their perspectives and answer your questions about this rewarding and vitally-important ministry.



Fall Study Continues

Our fall book study, reading and discussing *Jesus Through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture*, by Jaroslav Pelikan, continues until November 23. It is not too late to join, especially as the class is on a break until October 19. The class convenes Sundays from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Library. If you would like more information, or to request a course syllabus, email Fr. Daniel at rector.episcopal.petaluma@gmail.com



Sunday Morning Childcare Person Wanted

St. John's Episcopal Church is looking for a loving, experienced person to provide care for infants and toddlers in our nursery during Sunday morning worship. **Working hours are 9:30 to 11:30 each Sunday.** There may be opportunities for additional hours for special events at other times. An additional volunteer caregiver will be present. The compensation is \$30 per week.

The successful candidate will be comfort-

able in a faith community setting, and supportive of volunteers who may occasionally offer religiously-themed play, music, and other activities to children. Permission for criminal records check and reference check will be required, as well as completion of child-abuse prevention training module.

For more information or to request an application, contact the Rev. **Daniel Green**, Priest-in-Charge, at 762-8872, or rector.episcopal.petaluma@gmail.com

FROM THE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

An Update on October & November Activities

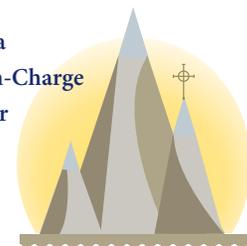
The Discernment process for calling a Priest-in-Charge as rector at St. John's in 2015 continues. The Committee has conducted its interview with Father Daniel. A very rich conversation will continue at the Discernment Retreat. Here's what's happening next:

OCTOBER This month the vestry and the committee will participate in a Discernment Eucharist on Friday evening, October 17, with **Dean Jeanne Forte** from St. Paul's Benicia presiding, and on the following day head up to Bishop's Ranch for a facilitated Discernment Retreat, together with Father Daniel. Parishioners are welcome to attend the Friday evening Eucharist.

NOVEMBER The fruits of recent activities will be gathered and addressed at the October vestry meeting on October 21, and then on November 3 the vestry and committee will meet with Bishop Beisner. We'll report monthly on these developments. Please keep us in your prayers. — **Victoria Temple**

Discernment Process 2014

Calling a
Priest-in-Charge
as Rector



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PETALUMA

Bringing Christ to Life

VESTRY REPORT

Choosing New Strategic Priorities

At its regular monthly meeting on September 17 the Vestry of St. John's concluded a conversation that we began the previous month about our fundraising strategy in the parish. As many of you know, we have conducted a large annual fundraising event in each of the last four years, either an Estate and Stuff Sale or, for the first time in 2014, the Big Night Out gala. The events have been successful on many fronts, raising funds that we used to refurbish our parish hall and make it wheelchair accessible, as well as supporting the Committee On The Shelterless and its programs to prevent and remedy homelessness. Other less tangible benefits of these events have been to build camaraderie and develop leadership in our congregation, and raise our positive profile in the wider community.

The vestry's conversation appreciated these outcomes and also took note of the enormous expenditure of time and talent by many members, and especially by the lead organizers, that has gone into these events. We asked ourselves questions about other fundraising models we ought to consider, and the other possible uses of the volunteer energy that goes into these events, which led us to strategic questions about the overall plan for the de-

velopment of the parish and our most urgent needs. We recognized that the sense of financial emergency in the parish has lessened significantly since 2010 when the first Estate and Stuff Sale was held, and that our focus is shifting toward programs that will build the strength and capacity of the congregation long-term.

After careful discernment, we arrived at the decision to take a year off from large public fundraising events in 2015. If there is a campaign to raise money for capital projects it will likely take the form of a direct appeal for donations to the Building Fund. The vestry has more work to do in setting strategic goals for the coming year, but there are many projects already in motion that will benefit from the sharper focus that refraining from large-scale fundraising will allow, in areas such as new member ministry, pastoral care, master planning for Buildings and Grounds, liturgy and music, and community outreach. Your questions and comments to the Priest-in-Charge, the Wardens, or members of the vestry about this decision, and the strategic goals of the congregation, are always welcome. ■



St. John's U Partners with Metta Center on Nonviolence



5 cents a year to provide iodized salt for one child, whereas it costs 2.1 million dollars to pay for one U.S. military person per year in Afghanistan.

Well acquainted with the misery and resentment that war and its marketing generates, she is a staunch advocate of nonviolent solutions to political, religious and economic conflicts, encouraging people to become literate about the true costs and ravaging consequences of war, to which she gave such a human face.

Ms. Kelly wore a light blue shawl embroidered as a fundraising product for sale by Afghan Peace Volunteers with the words, "Border Free", as a metaphor for the peaceful blue sky, that is free of the borders that keep us isolated and fearful. **For more information you can go to the Voices for Creative Nonviolence (<http://vcnv.org/>) websites.**

Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Nonviolence spoke at St. John's last Saturday evening, the 27th of September, launching both the Petaluma-based Metta Center for Nonviolence's weeklong Peace Harvest celebration and our St. John's U fall program.

A dynamic and compelling speaker, she offers first-hand experience of daily life in the Middle East, having traveled at least seventy times to Iraq and Afghanistan, living in people's homes, visiting hospitals and prisoners of war camps, climbing up steep mountainsides to where women live who have lost their husbands and need to fend for themselves and their children. She said that it would cost

The following evening our Priest-in-Charge, **Daniel Green** joined local Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim religious leaders for an Inter-Religious Dialogue on the legacy of Gandhi and the teachings of nonviolence in our sacred traditions. This ground-breaking event offered fresh and rarely-heard perspectives on topics ranging from the living tradition of Jewish biblical interpretation, and the link between Buddhist mindfulness and effective social action, to the Muslim legacy of religious toleration and inter-religious cooperation, and the role of women and ordinary, poor people in the Indian independence movement. — **Frances Frazier**

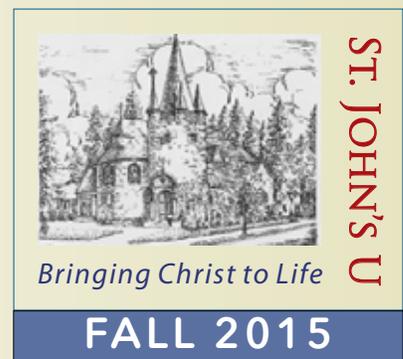
ST. JOHN'S U | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

The Celestial Hierarchies

from **Angels and Archangels to Cherubim and Seraphim**

Maybe the Michaelmas Pageant planning has captured your interest or maybe you'd just like to know a little more about "the choirs of heaven" we celebrate with every Eucharist, and especially this time of year. St. John's U offers a chance to come hear what the Bible and scholars have to teach about the heavenly choirs. A Michaelmas talk by **Larry Temple** on Thursday evening October 16th in the Chapel at 7:30 pm.

ALSO: In November, **Jeremey Strawn**, a local friend, mathematics teacher and farmer will offer a presentation on Projective Geometry that reveals the harmony inherent in the growth of plants, the movement of the stars, music and evolving consciousness.



In December, we welcome **Linda Manuilow** who is offering a singing workshop, for novice and seasoned singers alike. **Bill Rhodes** will provide piano accompaniment.



NEWS FROM **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL** **OCTOBER 2014**

BY

ALISON ADAMS

THEY SAY IT TAKES A VILLAGE to raise a child and what a village we have here at St. John's!! A big **THANK YOU** to the following parishioners for providing our children with such an assortment of fun and creative Summer Sundays:

Larry Temple, Marti Shortridge, Jonathan Hiller, Pam Hiller, Kate Klarkowsk, Geri Olson, Patti Graham, and Monty & Rob Sullivan

"GODLY PLAY IS SPOKEN HERE"

Godly Play is an approach to religious education that goes beyond the traditional, moral-informational approach to truly nurture the spiritual nature of the child. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language to enable them to know God first-hand rather than just knowing about God (second-hand knowledge). In Godly Play, children are encouraged and supported in their individual spiritual journeys so that they can truly own their faith. This is done through story telling!



Godly Play stories are written in the most beautiful language, and told using simple organic materials. There is a desert box used to tell stories from the Old Testament! There are golden boxes used to house the secrets hidden in the parables. All of the materials are durable and on the shelves for the children to take down and play with—to retell the stories in their own words—or not!

As the school year begins so does our telling of Godly Play stories. Heather began by telling the "Circle of the Church Year", followed by "The Holy Family" and "Creation".

Our team consists of **Heather Oehm** (our faithful leader!), **Larry Temple, Kari Klein, Monty Sullivan** and **Alison Adams**.

Please feel free to join us at any time in this happy ministry!



LEARN MORE ABOUT GODLY PLAY!

"And a great sign appeared in the heavens"



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

AUTUMN CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL OF MICHAELMAS

Larry Temple is directing and producing our first ever Michaelmas pageant following the 10:00am service on October 12. The story is based on Chapter 12 in the **Book of Revelations** and the children of the church school will act out the drama. It takes place in heaven between the Archangel Michael, his hosts and the great Red Dragon, as he protects the Woman clothed with the Sun, who is ready to give birth to the Spirit Child. Pageant preparations are almost complete with the creation of a very large dragon, knight and angel costumes, and more!

Everyone welcome! Tell your friends.

FROM HELEN MOSSMAN

Sharing Our Stories

GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU

If you've ever had the experience of walking alone into a roomful of people, all of them you've never laid eyes on before, wondering how you could strike up a friendly conversation with any of them without seeming pushy and buttinsky (my mother's terminology for interloper), what would you do?

You have three options: Grab your coat and walk out the door; or head for the nearest wall and lean on it for support; or option 3, peruse the faces, all of whom are deep in conversation with each other, seemingly oblivious of anyone else in the room.

If you choose Option 3 you sidle up slowly and when there's a break in the conversation you say your name and wait for the group members to respond. It's a crap shoot. They may immediately take you into the circle of conversation - or they can look at you in icy silence and then maybe repeat your name, mispronouncing the vowel sounds.

Good fortune! If you're lucky enough to make St. John's Episcopal Church Petaluma the setting for this little playlet, the odds are in your favor that several people in that room will spot you and (1) introduce you to the participants in the conversation, and (2) make you feel like you've just arrived at your family reunion or high school homecoming celebration.

Larry Temple is one of those gifted people whose antennae spot the newcomers, the loners and the awkward outlanders who aren't sure they have landed on the right planet. Larry Temple was that person — the first person I came to call "Friend" when I walked through the doors of the beautiful edifice that would be forevermore my church home.

Born in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, Larry Temple came to Santa Monica, CA when he was 16. His mother's employer, Douglas Aircraft, closed its plant in North Carolina and transferred her and her family to the West Coast.

Larry went to UCLA after high school, then became interested in the educational philosophy of the worldwide Waldorf System. He proceeded to become trained as a



LARRY TEMPLE

Waldorf teacher, a vocation that took him to Mexico where he taught in school rooms and trained future teachers as well. Ultimately he came to Northern California, where he worked with schools in Sonoma County and others throughout the area. (Larry maintains that his eldest son was entering high school and insisted that he be allowed to go to a Waldorf school)

At this stage of his life, Larry is devoted to being an advocate for people at the other end of the educational journey. He works as a fulltime caregiver for aged individuals who need at-home help and aren't ready to move into nursing homes. He is also spearheading the establishment of a day-care center for those who live with family but need to be in surroundings that meet their particular daytime interests.

There is one elder day center in Petaluma, said Larry, but it is available just three days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are those who need a schedule more like their working family members and he would suggest a center that is available Tuesday and Thursday, beginning at 9 a.m. and remaining open until 5 p.m. It could provide activities that are appropriate for the longer day, such as art and music, book clubs, exercise, outdoor games and nature walks.

Larry Temple's enthusiasm for such a center is gathering momentum in St. John's. It is one of the paths he views for the future of the church and he is welcoming that future just as he welcomes the newcomers who come through the church doors.