



## Prayer & Leadership

BY REV. DANIEL C. GREEN

*A*s this newsletter goes to press the clergy and lay delegates of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California are making the journey to Faith Church in Cameron Park for the special convention to elect a new bishop. This will be the next step in a transition which began in August 2017 when Bishop Beisner announced his retirement, and which will culminate on June 29th with the consecration of the 8th Bishop of the diocese. At St. John's, we have prayed regularly for the leaders guiding us through this process, the Bishop Search Committee, and then later for the slate of candidates, and always for the person, as yet unknown to us, whom we will elect to be our chief priest and pastor. This work of prayer has not simply been a request for guidance in selecting the best choice among the available candidates, which we certainly need. It has also been a way of acknowledging that, ultimately, it is God the Holy Spirit who is in charge of this process. Our prayer is based on the understanding that God already has been preparing someone to be our next bishop, and preparing us to receive him or her, and from that understanding we ask the Holy Spirit to help us recognize the person whom God has prepared.

And this says something important about how we hope our new bishop will lead. Because the perspective of prayer helps us to see the work of leading the Diocese of Northern California not as a series of institu-

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### FEBRUARY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

#### Celtic Evensong

Dedicated to Mary Oliver  
Sunday, February 10  
5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

#### Poetry Circle

Friday, February 15  
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

#### Ramayana: India's Sacred Epic of Love & Devotion

Saturday, February 23  
7:00 p.m. in Norm Cram Hall  
Tickets are \$20 from [www.brown-papertickets.com/event/4027304](http://www.brown-papertickets.com/event/4027304)

#### First Friday Taize

Friday, March 1 at 7:00 pm  
In the Sanctuary

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BY REV. DANIEL C. GREEN

CONINUED FROM PAGE 1 tutional problems to solve, or executive tasks to accomplish, but as a journey into a deeper trust in God. Only a bishop who is actively seeking, in a disciplined life of prayer, to discover each day — in each board meeting, each parish visitation, each call to the spouse of a clergyperson who has just died, and talk with a group of youth on a summer pilgrimage — the ongoing revelation of God's purpose for us as a diocese, will be able to lead us toward realizing that purpose. This is what it means, at the deepest level, to equip the people of God for ministry.

Sure, there are skills and methods and best practices for doing all manner of things in the church. But real ministry, flowing from the compassion and love of Christ for us and for the world, is more than these things. It is living the lives we lead every day, both in and away from the church, as divine callings. Certainly we want our new bishop to have well-honed administrative, pastoral, liturgical, and executive skills. But most of all, we want someone whose prayerful commitment to learning what God wants the 8th Bishop of Northern California to be, and trust in God to reveal what that is from day to day, invites us into a loving and purposeful communion of spiritual gifts in which each of us discovers our own particular vocation to ministry. This kind of leadership is what will inspire and encourage us to lead in the same way. ■

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE Peace & Justice Committee

BY FRANCES FRAZIER



At our last meeting we were joined by **Joshua Torres**, a local photographer, skateboarder and activist who took his camera, skateboard and astute powers of observation down to the Tijuana border to record what he saw there. He has family ties with both Guatemala and Nicaragua, and, as many in our committee have had close encounters with Central America as part of our own histories, we were eager to share stories and impressions.

Another guest that afternoon was **JoAnne Consiglieri**, a friend who has traveled extensively to tumultuous parts of the planet, including Benning, Georgia, where the CIA has a training ground for soldiers, many from Central America, to learn how to fight effectively against their own people by employing U.S. military tactics. It is called the School of the Americas, and now has morphed into another name. JoAnne visited the border with a SOA Watchdog group that was conducting workshops, seminars and visitations at the border.

The process of witnessing one another's work with Christ as our brother and guide is an important step in the direction of building a community which listens to one another and is willing and able to change with the intake of new ideas and approaches to living one's life in an edgier, more dynamic and Christ centered way. We found it hopeful and promising to view border life from Joshua's youthful and realistic perspective, and welcome the opportunity to explore diverse ways of making sense of this world through connecting with folks quite different from us.

Now our sister **Joann Woodland** is off to Honduras on a medical mission, and we will listen with great interest as upon her return she relates her stories of the Honduran culture and her interactions with the people. We anticipate that these connections will be transformational for her. ■



## Petaluma Conversations

**Aqus Cafe** invites you to an evening of conversation about what is important to you, on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, beginning **February 19**, at 7 p.m. (please arrive by 6:30). Aquas Café is at 189 H St. (at 2nd). Small circles will be facilitated to ensure careful listening and be listened to. Please RSVP to [aquas.com/talk](http://aquas.com/talk)



## Community Volunteers Sought

THERE ARE MANY PROGRAMS where volunteers make all the difference, but St. John's parishioner John Cinnamon knows of one that he thinks might be just right for some in the St. John's community.

"Most of you know that for the past couple of years I've been volunteering as a driver for the Petaluma Village Network," Cinnamon said in a recent e-mail. "Typically I am taking Network members who no longer are able to drive themselves to their medical appointments, church services, lifelong learning classes, enrichment meetings, exercise and yoga classes."

All of his activities as a driver, Cinnamon said, are a component of the Petaluma Village Networks' mission to help elder network members stay longer in their own homes.

Village Network Member and Volunteer Manager, **Joanne Martin Braun**, said volunteer driver is one of the most popular volunteer positions in the network, but there are others that are equally useful. For those interested in being a volunteer driver there is a **driver training program on February 13** from 1-4 p.m. at the Village Network offices, 955 Petaluma Blvd. So.

For those who would like to join the 90-plus volunteers at the organization there are volunteer opportunities on the office team, friendly visiting team, handy person team, hospitality team, and technology team.

Village Network is "a vibrant member and volunteer based community of people dedicated to changing the way we age," Braun said. "Give us a call to learn more about how you can join our helpful team of volunteers. Most of our volunteer positions are flexible and do not require having a set schedule. Volunteering is a great way to meet new friends and enrich your life and the lives of others."

**For more information** about volunteer opportunities at Village Network call the office at 776-6055 or visit the website is at <https://www.villagenetworkofpetaluma.org/>. To contact the organization by e-mail send to [info@VillageNetworkofPetaluma.org](mailto:info@VillageNetworkofPetaluma.org). ■

## Joanne Woodland Headed to Honduras

ON FEBRUARY 3, at our Sunday liturgy, we commissioned **Joanne Woodland** who, at 87, may be the senior member of our congregation, for a special ministry. Along with her daughter **Kristin**, Joanne is journeying to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where she will take part in a week-long medical mission to El Hogar [<http://www.elhogar.org/>], a residence and education program for desperately poor boys and girls that is affiliated with the Episcopal Church. Joanne learned about El Hogar when a group of us met for dinner last summer with **Liz Kinchner**, then the Executive Director of the foundation here in the U.S. which provides it with financial support. Ms. Kinchner had been speaking earlier that day at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa, which sent a service group of youth and young adults to El Hogar in the summer of 2018. Since that evening, Joanne has become an advocate for El Hogar, telling people in the Episcopal Church about it wherever she goes in her frequent travels to visit friends and family around the country. We are very excited for Joanne that she is able to go in person, and will be praying for safe travel for her and the entire medical mission team, and that God will touch their lives through their experience in Honduras, and the lives of those to whom they minister. We look forward to hearing about the trip on her return.

We also hope that others may be inspired to visit as well. **Daphne Vernon** of the Church of the Incarnation has offered to organize another service trip to El Hogar for youth and young adults, **July 27 - August 3, 2019**. There will be an informational meeting about this opportunity soon, so stay tuned. **If you are interested in finding out more**, contact Fr. Daniel at [rector.episcopal.petaluma@gmail.com](mailto:rector.episcopal.petaluma@gmail.com) or 762-8872. ■





The 2019 Vestry, from left to right: Jacqueline Woytich, Jonathan Hiller, Gayle Steward, Adam Klein, Walter Lederhaus, Caroly Hyman, Linda Lee Boyd, Betty Petrillo and not picture, Rebecca Smith.

## Rector's Presentation to the Annual Meeting

By Rev. Daniel Green

I've thought long and hard about what I wanted to say to you all today. I said some of it in my article in the annual report. I amplified on it in my sermon this morning. And now that we have heard about the state of our financial resources and real property, and something about our Strategic Planning process, I thought it would be good to say a little more about our human resources.

Of course, the primary human resource of the parish is me. I am in my ninth year at St. John's, and in December I completed 13 years in the ordained priesthood, with 12 more to go before I am eligible to retire. Over my time here, the parish has been generous and faithful to me, keeping up with my pension payments and the rising cost of providing me and my family with good-quality health insurance, for which we are very grateful. I have also received some of the annual cost-of-living adjustments recommended by the diocese. Still, my base salary remains essentially what it was 8 years ago, which is now a hair above the diocesan minimum.

My family has managed to make it work because my wife's psychotherapy practice has grown; so my ministry at St. John's is effectively subsidized by Meg's earnings. I do not say this to complain. We continue to be willing to accept

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## St. John's Annual Parish Meeting Report

By Linda Lee Boyd

THE ANNUAL MEETING, held on Sunday, February 3, was well-attended. After an opening prayer by Father Daniel, and a poem from **Eva Cooper**, the congregation heard reports from the various committees responsible for the care and maintenance of St. John's.

The theme of the Finance and Building and Grounds reports is that although St. John's has accomplished more than it was thought possible ten years ago, more resources are needed for the future. We ran a small surplus last year, but next year's budget will run a deficit. This deficit can be filled by dipping into our endowments. Long-term, however, more resources are needed to continue our current programs as well as to plan for any kind of expansion, such as more administrative help, or improvements to the physical plant, such as a new roof and new shingles.

This past year, the Vestry formally charged a team to do the strategic planning needed to find out what our future should and can be. **Monty Sullivan** is the chair and the members are **Jason Klein, Victoria Temple, and Emily Betts**. The Strategic Planning Team is currently in the process of doing a needs assessment with the congregation. The next steps will be to collect the data, develop findings and make recommendations to the Vestry. The process should be completed by this summer.

After Daniel delivered his thought-provoking report, there were many questions and much discussion from the congregation, especially concerning what kind and how much administrative help he needs. Daniel said we need someone present in the office 15 hours a week. This should be a person who can master the administration of the parish and develop improvements; have good computer skills; and have good people skills to work with Daniel and office volunteers to make better use of their talents.

The new bishop will be elected on February 9. We are entitled to five delegates to the convention. We have three (**Walt Lederhaus, Susan Hadenfeldt, and Jerry Taylor**). Daniel asked for two volunteers. **Joanne Woodland** volunteered and **Bill Rhoads** said he will move from alternate to delegate. **Larry Temple** volunteered to become

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## Rector's Presentation to Annual Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 less than I'm worth, because we believe in the cause of renewing this congregation. I just want to point out that if St. John's truly believes that it requires a full-time, experienced, seminary-trained priest, sooner or later it will have to assume the full cost of having one.

Meanwhile, I am entering the prime of my priestly ministry. Thanks in large measure to the kind and patient support of the people of St. John's, I've matured as a pastor, preacher and teacher. Over 8 years here I have earned the trust of the congregation, and have formed good relationships in the wider community. I sense the possibility for a new phase of community engagement and dynamic growth in the congregation. However, I am concerned that I personally, and our parish organization, are already at the limit of our capacity. We've been through promising periods of growth before, but have not been adequately staffed to sustain them. As long as I am our de facto parish administrator, I will not be fully-effective in my ministry as pastor and priest, nor will the church organization be properly run.

This is a cause for concern, not just because of how it impacts my ministry, but because of the extra burden it puts on our many able and dedicated member volunteers. Our church depends on them—on you—in all areas of our ministry, and, though we have had some successful leadership transitions recently, such as in the director of our children's Sunday school, many of our volunteers have been working in their present positions for almost a decade. They might be the last to say so, but I know that some of them are getting tired. And they would all benefit from additional support. There may be oth-

ers in the congregation with the gifts and the time to step up and help, but it takes management-level staff to engage, coordinate, and train them.

All of this makes me ask if it is not time to invest more of our resources in our parish administration. It would be a calculated risk, as it would add in the short-term to our deficit. And there's no way to know for certain if the further growth we hope for would materialize. But a window of opportunity is there for us now, and who knows how long it will stay open. One thing is certain—if we are serious about becoming once again the kind of Episcopal parish we have often said we want to be, truly self-sustaining, with a full-time priest, varied and excellent worship, a rich array of programs for all ages, and robust engagement with the wider community, all based in this facility, we are going to have to build the staff it takes to support it.

There are other models of healthy congregations out there. Smaller, more intimate, more modest in their aims. They have part-time or volunteer clergy. It is hard to imagine one successfully keeping up a facility like this one, but I suppose that by partnering and co-locating with another faith congregation or other institution it could be done. There is no shame in being a church like that—we have examples right here in our own Russian River Deanery of how such a congregation can survive and do vital and transformative ministry. But when we came back to this building almost ten years ago, we decided to aim for more. It may be that we overshot the mark, but I don't think we're ready just yet to draw that conclusion. I do believe, however, that the next few years may be decisive one way or the other. ■

## Annual Meeting Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 the second alternate. Their election was by voice vote.

The meeting concluded with the recognition of retiring Vestry members **Geri Olson** and **Jerry Taylor** and the election and commissioning of new Vestry Members. The new members were elected by voice vote.

The following people are now on the vestry:

### Class of 2020

Linda Lee Boyd  
Walt Lederhaus  
Emily Betts  
(filling an unexpired term)

### Class of 2021

Adam Klein  
Rebecca Smith  
Jacqui Woytych

### Class of 2022

(new this year)  
Jonathan Hiller  
Carole Hyman  
Betty Petrillo  
Gayle Stewart

The full minutes of the annual meeting are available at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/mychurch-website/c2093/sjecp-annual-meeting-february-2019.pdf>



## WISDOM of the Ancients

From the March, 1902 edition of *The Instructor*, the monthly newsletter of St. John's, Petaluma, along with an advertisement for Webb's Cough Cure: "One dose will stop the cough. A few more will cure it."

In the section titled "Parish Notes":

- The Bishop will be with us again on Easter Sunday, when it is hoped that the new organ will be dedicated. The organ chamber has been enlarged and is now ready to receive the new organ.
- A few more wet Sundays and we shall be completely bankrupt. The attendance at church this month has been very poor, consequently the offerings have been small. Will not somebody try to invent a Sunday umbrella?
- The chicken pie lunch was a great success in spite of the rain, over \$32.00 being cleared in money, and a very happy social hour spent.
- The first Deanery meeting of this District will be held at Santa Rosa March 10th and 11th. The Rector of Petaluma will preach at the opening service.
- The Guild Hall is in use every day of the week at present, and some days three times during the day. The new electric current was put in last week and we hope will be more satisfactory than for sometime past. ■

## Our Deacon Returns on February 24!

Deacon **Mara Arack** and her spouse **George Arack** will be returning to St. John's on February 24, when she will also be preaching at both services. George and Mara have been serving at St. John's during part of each year since 2016, the year of her ordination, and at St. Francis, Fortuna, in Humboldt county during other parts of the year. They have modest homes in Glen Ellen and Fortuna. They also spend time each year in Todos Santos, Baja California Sur, México, enjoying the local culture and studying Spanish.



**For those of you who may be unfamiliar with a deacon in a congregation:** deacons are ordained clergy who focus on ministry to "the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely." They are the sign to "Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself," as the Book of Common Prayer puts it (BCP 543). In addition to serving at the altar during the Eucharist and preaching, Deacon Mara encourages social justice efforts in the congregation, as we all fulfill our baptismal covenant together. She is also involved in a diocesan-level ministry, Episcopal Community Services (ECS), as an officer on the board and communications agent. ECS raises funds for social justice work by congregations in the diocese, provides cash grants and mentoring for congregations engaging in such work, and administers additional grants for the diocesan Board of Trustees. Deacon Mara also engages directly in community justice work, for example, recently as an *acompanante* (one who supports and goes with) to asylum seekers from Central America, traveling with two women from Humboldt county to the ICE office in San Francisco for a regularly-scheduled but still highly tension-ridden check-in, under the auspices of **True North**, a faith-based community organizing nonprofit.

George and Mara, who met in 2013 at the School for Deacons in Berkeley and married there in 2015, have six grown children and six grandchildren, from four months to ten years of age, who live as close as Santa Rosa and as far away as Pittsburgh, PA, with others in Grass Valley, Modesto, and Orange county, so they are often on the road or in the air supporting the next generations. They are excited to be back at St. John's for this "go-round," where George will be taking a more active role in the liturgy than heretofore. ■

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL



FEBRUARY 2018

BY  
ALISON ADAMS

## February & March in the Church School

**Godly Play:** Seeing nothing but gold! In February **Elizabeth Schroeder** tells the *Parable of the Great Pearl* and **Heather Oehm** will be telling the *Parable of the Sower*. The wisdom and messages hidden in the parables reveal themselves to us in untold ways and are magical at any age!



**Lent** begins in the middle of February and the children will again visit the *Faces of Easter* stories which build week by week telling of Jesus' life. **Heather, Kari** and **Robyn** will be sharing these stories with our younger children.

**Connect:** Connect continues to meet every Sunday this year. We have been visiting many different themes each week, including: **Kingdoms, Prophets, Annunciation,**

**Nativity, Consecration, Herod, and Authority.** Each week we explore bible passages and discuss their meaning in our present day lives. These lessons ask us to "See" and "Explore" how the Bible reveals each lessons' theme with the help of a funny video.

**Kari, Elizabeth, Alison,** and **Monty** have all joined us in exploring these topics with the older children of St. John's.



## Calling all to the Children's Ministry in 2019-2020!

It won't be long before we hold our spring planning meeting for the children's ministry program. I ask each of you to consider volunteering your time next year to teach in one of our Sunday School classrooms. The materials are fantastic and very easy to follow. The children are amazing and bring such joy. **A meeting time and date will be published in next month's newsletter — be on the lookout!**

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Rector, **The Very Rev. Daniel C. Green**  
Senior Warden, **Walter Lederhaus**  
Junior Warden, **Betty Petrillo**

Vestry Members: **Linda Lee Boyd, Emily Betts,**  
**Adam Klein, Jonathan Hiller, Carole Hyman,**  
**Rebecca Smith, Gayle Stewart,**  
**Jacqueline C. Woytych**

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Rev. Daniel Green, Rector

The **MISSION** of  
St. John's Episcopal  
Church is to  
Bring Christ to Life:  
Celebrating the mysteries;  
Honoring the beauty and  
wisdom of every person;  
Healing the soul;  
Serving the peace and  
renewal of the Earth.

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