



Alive to God

BY REV. DANIEL GREEN

THE EPISTLE READING AT THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, from Romans 6, includes the words: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the essence of the Easter faith – that Jesus died on the cross, and was raised from the dead. He submitted to the power of sin and death, but his resurrection has vanquished that power. And we, through faith and baptism in Christ, share in that sacrifice, but also in that victory and that liberation.

Christians sometimes think of the “benefits of his passion,” as the traditional Book of Common Prayer speaks of these things, as a simple change from one state to another – dead to alive, sinful to redeemed, condemned to saved. But this view ignores the richness of the church’s imagination of Jesus’ resurrection. And this is precisely what the six weeks of Easter Season offer us: a sustained time of reflection on the risen Christ, and the life he lives to God – a life now also lived in us.

The Gospel of John, which we hear from a lot during this time, is a particularly rich source for this reflection, as is the two-volume work of Luke and Acts. These latter books are the source for the tradition of the **Great Fifty Days of Easter** as inscribed in the calendar of the church, and the **Feasts of Ascension** and **Pentecost**, which illuminate the whole creation and all humanity with the dazzling light and quickening fire of Christ’s glorified body. So you are encouraged to stay “woke,” to the stories and symbols and songs of this ongoing revelation of Easter grace and joy.

And to remember that all of this is for you, so that you might be “dead to sin and alive to God.” We can’t say, in the hard-edged speech of moralism or doctrine, exactly what that means. But it does suggest that the conditions of sinfulness that produce so many interrelated forms of needless suffering in the world, from poverty, oppression, and war, to road rage and addiction, from ecological devastation to domestic violence, do not have to define who we are or our prospects for the future. Rather we are given a higher vision of human possibility: to share in a creative and embodied aliveness, rooted in faith, hope, and love, that grows beyond our selves toward God. ♥

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 25 Rogation Day Procession
Flyer – see page 9

JUNE 1 The Russian River Deanery
Spring Convocation – See page 7

JUNE 29 Ordination of Rev. Canon
Megan Taquair – See page 7

JULY 28 Annual Parish Picnic

We will celebrate the anniversary of St. John’s founding in 1856 with a special service, followed by our annual parish picnic, on Sunday, July 28. The picnic will begin at noon at Steve and Jeanne Nelson’s Liberty Garage and Soda Fountain.



In My Travels...

BY DEACON MARA

Last month, George and I visited four friends who live in Arizona, among whom are the Rev. John and Sarah Leech of Tucson. John is an Episcopal priest who was called to ordained ministry while a member of St. Patrick's, Kenwood, where George worshipped for decades. In fact, George happened to be on the vestry when John sought approval for his application for holy orders. I met the Leeches when they visited St. Francis, Fortuna, because John's sister lives in Fortuna, as did his late mother. John and Sarah now serve – she in music ministry – at St. Andrew's in downtown Tucson, in what was the barrio until "redevelopment" ("urban renewal") virtually destroyed the community. Both are active in interfaith border and refugee

justice work, and John regularly participates in distribution of water jugs in the desert. They took us to an outdoor memorial (below) for those who die trying to reach sanctuary in our country. Below is a liturgy reprinted in *Border & Immigration News* that John sent me that each of us can participate in, alone or with others.

Pray

Pray for the souls of Luis Armando Castanon Morales; David Morales Esparza; Lusio Palma Vizcarra; Unknown / Sin identificación; Unknown / Sin identificación; Unknown / Sin identificación and Unknown / Sin identificación, all of whom died in the Arizona desert.

Pray for those whose names and whereabouts are known only to God.

A Moment for Grace – A Prayer for Refugees

God of our Wandering Ancestors, long have we known that your heart is with the refugee: That you were born into time in a family of refugees fleeing violence in their homeland, who then gathered up their hungry child and fled into alien country.

Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages: "Will you let me in?"
Give us hearts that break open when our brothers and sisters turn

to us with that same cry. Then surely all these things will follow: Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices. Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat. Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate. And hands will reach out - working for peace in their homeland, working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.

Lord, protect all refugees in their travels. May they find a friend in me And so make me worthy Of the refuge I have found in you. Amen

-- Catholic Relief Services

Scripture

...[T]here are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus. -- Philippians 2: 5-8

Reflect

The absence of lament in the liturgy of the American church results in the loss of memory. We forget the necessity of lamenting over suffering and pain. We forget the reality of suffering and pain.

– Soong-Chan Rah



The outdoor border Memorial



WISDOM of the Ancients

.....

*From the May, 1904 edition of **The Instructor**, the monthly newsletter of St. John's, Petaluma, along with an advertisement for Healy's Ground Floor Studio: "We are strictly first-class in every department of the art. Life size portraits from sittings a specialty."*

From the Parish Notes column.

The blessed Easter festival was on one of the most enjoyable we ever celebrated in this parish. Every communicant in town, who was able to be present, communicated at either the early or later service.

We had the pleasure of listening to the splendid voice of Mrs. Robert Trumbull in the Easter offertory, who will be remembered as Miss Edith Brown. Mrs. Trumbull is a general favorite and her singing always gives us great pleasure.

The chicken pie lunch given by the Women's Auxiliary was the best of the kind we have ever had, realizing over \$45.00, which has been forwarded to our own beloved Bishop, to help him in his arduous work. ■

Senior Warden's Report

BY WALTER LEDERHAUS

To bring you up to date on the Vestry and key committee's activities, I offer this report.

The Strategic Planning Committee is very close to presenting their report to the Vestry. Although the process has taken longer than first thought the findings and recommendations will have been well considered and comprehensive. The report will be made to the Vestry in early September.



As you may know, we have two important leadership opportunities to fill. **Clif Hill** has stepped down as chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and **Walter Hellmuth** has stepped down as chair of the Finance Committee. Both of these folks have served for many years as the chairs and due to newly established Charters, agreed that it was time for new leadership. If you have interest in either of these leadership roles, please contact any member of the Vestry or Father Green.

You may remember from the Annual Meeting Reverend Green expressed some concern regarding his compensation. The Vestry is very aware of this troubling situation and is in the process of reviewing our options in light of our current budget deficit. As Senior Warden, I have contacted the Diocese office to find what would be considered an appropriate salary. Reverend Green has been a great leader for our Church, the Deanery and the Diocese.

Additionally, we are looking at adding some help for Father Green in the creation of a Parish Administrator. We are working with the other Churches that have such a person to develop a job description and livable compensation package. We have reached a point where we need to add this important position to continue to grow St. John's. This position would be responsible for running the day-to-day operations of the office including volunteer training, office management, and assisting in facility management.

Our Building Fund is depleted. However, much still needs to be done to return St. John's to its former majesty. In that regard, the Vestry is looking for someone to step forward with fundraising ideas and leadership to commit the time and energy to this cause. In the past we have held events such as the Big Night Out, and the Estate and Stuff sale. Both of these events were very successful and brought, not only our members, but the Petaluma community together. The idea is to find events that St. John's could do that would not be limited to just our membership. The Big Night Out also benefited the Mary Isaak Center.

You can see that there are plenty of challenges facing the Vestry and St. John's. We are looking for your help and ideas in solving these important issues and challenges. ■

Clif Hill's Dedication & Talents

BY WALT LEDERHAUS, SENIOR WARDEN

Betty Petrillo and **Walt Lederhaus** decided that this month's Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting would be about **Clif Hill**. Clif has served as the Chairman of the Buildings & Grounds Committee ever since it was formed. In his honor, Betty organized a potluck luncheon and composed a poem. The center piece of the meal was delicious lasagna accompanied by homemade bread, several wonderful salads, wine, a fruit bread, cookies and, of course, cake.



Clif served on the Vestry (shown here attending a meeting with Father Daniel), as both Junior and Senior warden, and lead the formation of the Building & Grounds committee.

It felt like the good old days with several former members returning to honor Clif. Among those present were Connie and Frank Primm, Gail Reid, Joanne Woodland, The Right Reverend Daniel Curry Green, Steve Nelson, Kate Klarkowski, Dennis and Alison Adams, and Susan Hadefeldt.

Stories were shared about the work done under Clif's tenure. Daniel+ said that he recalled asking Clif if he'd be Junior Warden. Clif agreed with the understand that Clif didn't know which end of the hammer to use. In the early days of the Buildings and Grounds committee, Clif would assemble work days asking for members of the Church to volunteer a few hours on a Saturday once a month. From there the committee started to take shape and lists of needed projects developed. Some of the many accomplishments included the painting of the interior of Cram Hall, the installation of the handicap bathroom, repair of the stained-glass windows, building the handicap ramp from the parking lot to Cram Hall, and the new courtyard. Other projects were less visible but still needed attention like repairing the dishwasher and kitchen exhaust fan, building a wired network, a new copier, replacing the hot water heater in the Altar Guild room and replacing the faucets in the kitchen and Altar Guild room. Under Clif's leadership the committee started a program to replace all light bulbs with



Clif had many talents to share at St. John's, including participating in plays

LED bulbs, saving energy and extending the useable life of lighting to 25 years. So far, the kitchen and Cram Hall have been relit. Clif was also instrumental in assisting in the development of ideas to raise funds for the Committee. Fundraisers like the Estate and Stuff Sale and the Big Night Out were done by many parishioners raising enough money so that needed work could be done without using our reserves.

Clif's leadership, patience and discernment was the glue which has held the committee together and led to getting so many important projects finished. We all know that there must have been times when he felt like he trying to herd cats.

St. John's is a big part of his life as is demonstrated by his continued service on the Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, volunteering for office duty almost every Friday, doing readings, and serving on the altar. Clif has offered to stay on the committee as a contributing member. Filling his shoes on the Buildings and Grounds Committee is going to be a hard task. If you hold St. John's in a special place in your heart, please consider the Chairmanship of this very important work. ■

Clif

As you pass the baton to a new team to lead

We'll all do our best to try and succeed.

Knowing your patience and gift to discern

Are gifts that this person is willing to learn.

I found out the hard way in centering prayer

It's not very easy to sit in a chair.

We know you're not leaving;

just stepping aside

Yet that makes us anxious, without you to preside.

You've taught us well and we truly believe

We're ready to fly and we will achieve.

So thank you Clif for your leadership role.

You truly are a beautiful soul.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL



MAY 201

BY
ALISON ADAMS

May in Sunday School

Sunday School schedule through the end of the year for Godly Play (GP) and Connect! (C):

May 5: Jesus and the Twelve (GP) and Jerusalem (C)

May 12: Mother's Day and The Good Shepherd and World Communion (GP) and Parables (C)

May 9: The Synagogue and the Upper Room (GP) and the Last Supper (C)

May 26: No Church School (Memorial Day)

June 3: Mystery of Pentecost (GP) and Pentecost (C)

Planning Meeting

Come one and all to our annual Sunday School planning meeting on Wednesday, **May 1** at 5:00 PM. We will take time to review how this year went in our Sunday School program and think about changes/enhancements we would like to make for next year. The success of this program is based on the thoughtful input of all our families!

THANK YOU to our fabulous teachers: Heather Oehm, Robyn Klein, Kari Klein, Emily Betts, Monty Sullivan, and Alison Adams.

Easter Egg Hunt 2019



The Easter Egg Hunt was fantastic! Thank you to all who contributed eggs and helped hide. It was a beautiful day and a fun event for all!

POETRY CIRCLE

Two more meetings of the *Living Word Poetry Circle* before Summer break: **May 17** and **June 21** at 7:15pm in the chapel. All are welcome to read your own or a favorite, or to just listen. The following poem is from **Pamela Hiller**.

Getting "There"

Striving at the speed of fear
(Grandma plants seeds in her garden)

Steeling self to actualize plans
(She knows rain & sun are part of God's design)

Sense of worth = success or failure
(Rustic bread nourishes body & soul)

Survival means trudging well-worn path
(Wind breathes through the trees, my spirit sings)

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Opportunity to Serve

There are many ways to offer one's gifts and talents to Christ's mission at St. John's, Petaluma, and everyone is invited and encouraged to grow in servant leadership through active participation in the work of our community. From time to time, we will feature in these pages a particular opportunity that may spark your interest. – Chair, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is a committee of our church board, or vestry, assisting the vestry to fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities, and providing St. John's Episcopal Church Petaluma with a financially healthy and accountable organization for advancing its mission and ministry. The Chair is appointed for a three-year term by the vestry, and is responsible for setting the agenda for, and chairing, the Finance Committee meeting, monthly on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m. The Chair also assists the Treasurer in preparing an annual report on the financial state of the parish. If you are interested in learning more about this position, contact the Rector or Senior Warden. ■

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

We the Future

Perspectives from the
Peace & Justice Committee at St. John's



FRANCES, EVA, GAYLE, JOANNE

On Friday, April 12, four of us from the Peace and Justice Committee ventured into the land of vibrant and diverse emerging adults at the SRJC Petaluma Campus for a social justice conference called We the Future. It was an opportunity to definitively be in a minority group, but we spoke up and were welcomed, and we earned the title White Elders With Attitude. Gayle attended the morning session on The State of Fake News: The Impact of Algorithms on Social Media. Eva went to the workshop on Law and Policies for the Undocumented, which discussed tools to support the healing and empowerment of undocumented students. Joanne and Frances joined North Bay Organizing Project's workshop on post fire resiliency and building lasting power through a strategy for change called Just Recovery. Dr. Victor Rios, a leading critic of the U.S. school-to-prison pipeline, wowed us all with his keynote address on a vision for systemic change that will support rather than harm "at promise" youth - a phrase he coined to replace the more stigmatizing "at risk youth."

EVA Comments from Eva are unavailable as she is presently in the Czech Republic.

GAYLE I chose the workshop on Fake News, which provided strategies for evaluating information from different sources, especially social media. They had one warning, to always check the source of a news report. He stressed that all information now comes through algorithms, and we don't choose what we receive on our smart phones.

JOANNE I went reluctantly and was so glad that I did. It was a very special experience. I was in the NBOP (North Bay Organizing Project) workshop, and was reminded of the wonderful variety of helping groups within the NBOP that keep us from having to reinvent the wheel. For example, there were at least two groups that provide help for immigrants who don't speak English and who need legal assistance.

There were workshops we attended with hundreds of people mostly not like me, with throngs of young people - the energy was palpable. Clearly we were all there because of our concern for the world and its people; we did have that in common. Clearly diversity was implicit in the strength and muscle of the message. I loved the speaker's story, Dr. Victor Rios, who talked quite personally about the school to prison pipeline for Blacks and Hispanics; his speech would have been an inspiration for anyone capable of mentoring, of giving back. What I am realizing that there is no way of making a difference without becoming more personally involved. It is person-to-person help and connection that occurs on a daily basis which makes the difference. What we see within our own St. John's community are examples of relationship building for which the world is so hungry. Let's spread this nourishing food! ■

EASTER SCENES



Flowering the Cross on Easter Sunday Morning



Scene from an Easter Passion Play brought to St. John's by Kayleen Asbo

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of St. John's in 1856



We will celebrate the anniversary of St. John's founding in 1856 with a special service, followed by our annual parish picnic, on **Sunday, July 28**. The picnic will begin at noon at **Steve & Jeanne Nelson's Liberty Garage & Soda Fountain**.



Ordination of the **EIGHT BISHOP** of the Episcopal Diocese of N. California
 REV. CANON MEGAN TRAQUAIR

The ordination and consecration of the Rev. Canon **Megan Traquair** as the eighth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California will take place **Saturday, June 29, 2019** at 11:00 AM at the Mondavi Center in Davis. More information will be available this month. If you would like to carpool to the service, contact the office at 762-8872 or office.sjecp@gmail.com.

CREATIVE CONVERSATION

The recent bishop search process engaged us in vital discernment about our **hopes and needs** for our Diocese of Northern California and its future. But the successful election of our new bishop is no reason for these conversations to end. In fact, now we can move on to a more open-ended and creative kind of conversation. We in the Russian River Deanery have asked the Bishop-elect how we can support her in becoming the bishop for our place and time and, with her input and blessing, we now invite you to a **World Café** about the vision of the church that is emerging in our congregations, deanery, and diocese. The clergy of the Deanery will be with her in person at the May Clergy Conference, but here is an opportunity for the rest of us to join the conversation.

SPRING CONVOCATION

The **Russian River Deanery** will hold its Spring Convocation on **Saturday, June 1** at the Veterans Memorial Building at 205 West 1st Street in Cloverdale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. World Café is a powerful tool for engaging congregations and other groups in conversations that matter, in a natural process that welcomes the wisdom of everyone present. A \$10 donation will be requested for the luncheon that will conclude the program. **Please register** at Eventbrite.com [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-convocation-russian-river-deanery-tickets-61187024036] **For more information** contact the Dean at rector.episcopal.petaluma@gmail.com or 707-762-8872.



PETALUMA PEOPLE SERVICES CENTER,
PETALUMA SUNRISE ROTARY, &
PETALUMA WOMAN'S CLUB

present

A Special Tea for Mom

Saturday, May 11, 1-2:30 p.m.

Petaluma Woman's Club
518 B Street, Petaluma

Complimentary for Mothers to attend.

Sponsor a Mother - \$15

Family and friends-\$10 per person

Petaluma People Services Center and Petaluma Sunrise Rotary present this afternoon tea event to celebrate moms around Petaluma. Invite your mom, celebrate the memory of your mom, or sponsor a Petaluma mom or a table of 8 to enjoy tea with other families.

Includes: tea, light food, entertainment,
and special treats

Call (707) 765-8488 today to reserve your seat!



Petaluma People Services Center
(707) 765-8488 • admin@petalumapeople.org

Rogation Procession and Garden Blessing

Saturday, May 25
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Gathering in the courtyard garden at St. John's, we'll process to the NcNear Park Community Garden at 8th Street and G, behind the Cavanaugh Rec Center, stopping along the way to bless gardens and gardeners with prayers for well-being and fruitfulness.

The marking of "Rogation Days" before the Feast of the Ascension, with outdoor processions to pray for protection and prosperity for the Earth community and a bountiful harvest, is a tradition dating to the 5th century CE.

This is St. John's fifth year observing the custom in Petaluma. If you are in the neighborhood, and would like a blessing for your garden, contact the church at 762-8872 or saintjohns.episcopalchurch@gmail.com



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | PETALUMA