



St. Clement's Episcopal Church
2376 Zinfandel Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

A Veteran Friendly Congregation

The Anchor

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March 2012

Diocese of Northern California

The Little Church that Could!

Put yourself in my shoes for a moment, if you would. I've been planning the annual retreat with our new vestry. The purpose is to become acquainted and comfortable together as the governing entity of the parish, and to set a course for the coming year. Many vestries do this as an overnight event at some distance. That doesn't seem to be an option, here. So, what *can* we do, what *do* we do to coalesce as responsible leaders of this congregation? Every year I lose sleep – *yes, I do* – over this. Please do me the honor of feeling a little sorry for me.

This year I put the same amount of effort into our vestry retreat, but I also used some new ideas (from my recent classes), and involved a few other people in the planning. As usual, we invited former (retiring) vestry members to join us, but this year we also invited employees and other parish leaders. In the end, 14 people, as opposed to the typical 10, got together at Ken Dunham's office facilities in Folsom. We began with lunch, tastefully assembled by Harry Shippy. Once fortified, we began our work together.

Without giving a blow by blow, suffice it to say that we concentrated not on what St. Clement's lacks, but on what we do well – what we are proud of. We did this in groups of two, then four or five, and then all together, and we posted the individual items on the "sticky wall" provided by Bobbie Keill (who, along with Betty Chapman helped enormously in coming up with the right questions to ask). It's amazing how much energy gets generated when people are invited to talk about positive things. (Energy is generated by talking about negative things, too, but the by-product is anger.) We focused on our strengths, and we kept coming up with more of them! Everyone got involved in organizing strengths into categories, because each group had named so many of the same or similar items.

Here's what we learned – affirmed, really. St. Clement's is a small but mighty congregation. We do a lot of things about as well as a very big church:

- ❖ a wonderful music leader and program

- ❖ consistently good worship
- ❖ welcoming and well-done fellowship events
- ❖ education programs (especially Bible Study and Sunday School)
- ❖ financially solvent
- ❖ strong commitment to community outreach
- ❖ successful Thrift Store ministry

How can we do all this at our size? Doesn't it defy logic? We looked at that in a couple of ways. For one thing, a lot of people get involved in *particular* aspects of our parish life – just not everything. That's fine. Some people do things that are very visible on Sundays, but may not always be visible themselves on Sundays. Think of flowers.

In addition, we are a diverse congregation in so many dimensions. Our Fijian members are sometimes in attendance on Sunday mornings, but more often congregating at one of their monthly Fijian-language services.

These are all strengths. When we look to the future, we can be aware of things we are missing, groups we would like to see more of (children and young adults, for example), but where we can build first is where we already are strong.

Several people suggested more fellowship events, perhaps regular pot-lucks. Others wanted to put on a monthly FREE dinner for anyone in the community who is hungry. We wondered if we should offer another Vacation Bible School – aka Kid's Kamp - this summer (last summer's Lion King Kid's Kamp was a wonderful event).

I don't intend to report all the ideas generated. I only want to share the sense that we are a community of possibility and faith! How exciting it is to hear about the gifts and abundance that we recognize ALREADY. Building from such a bountiful base is not a question but a certainty.

The entire vestry retreat was a joyful experience, because we, collectively, focused on what we do well at St. Clement's. When you look for good ideas, good acts, and good feelings, you find them everywhere!

This is my personal testimony about our vestry gathering and our collective outlook for 2012. Ask other vestry members for their impressions. St. Clement's is a great place to be serving God by being messengers of Jesus Christ! We may be small, but we are mighty!

In humble thanksgiving for a wonderful, caring and generous community of faith,

Pastor Christine +

Bible Readings

for the month

Revised Common Lectionary
Year B

March 4

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

PSALM 22:22-30

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

March 11

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

PSALM 19

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

March 18

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

PSALM 107:1-3,17-22

Ephesians 2: 1-10

John 3:14-21

March 25

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSA;M 51:1-13

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

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Treasurer 662-6985

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Randy Grimwood 458-8196

Bobbie Keill 852-6837

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At a Glance

Saturdays	Thrift Store open 9-1
Each Tuesday	Bible Study 7:00pm Parish Hall
Each Friday	Bible Study 10:30am Home of Saralu Methven
March 1	Lunch Bunch 12 noon
March 4	Youth Sunday
March 10	Acolyte Festival Trinity Cathedral
March 15	Anchor Deadline
April 1	Music and Poetry of Palm Sunday 4:00 pm

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 2	Ian Knox
March 5	Johnny Griffin IV
March 12	Naomi Rubenstein
March 17	Matt Honeycutt Gail Sullivan
March 18	Gerald Smith
March 19	Sarah Moridi
March 23	Esther Sullivan
March 27	Sherry Stults
March 30	Sarah Sullivan

Clergy and Lay Eucharist Visits

Please call the church office(635-5282) or send an e-mail to the church (st.clements@hotmail.com) if you would like communion brought to you or a family member.

The Rev. Christine Leigh-Taylor, Rector

Harry Shippy, Editor

The Anchor

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Please email your news and photographs to st.clements@hotmail.com or shippyharry@yahoo.com
Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month. Articles are subject to editing.

The Bible Challenge

Whether or not you have ever read the *entire* Bible, making a habit of daily reading is a life-giving practice. In her sermon on Feb. 19, Pastor Christine announced that she had accepted “The Bible Challenge” (see below for background) to read the entire Bible in ONE YEAR, from Lent to Lent, starting Ash Wednesday 2012. She had made 18 copies of the one-year schedule, and all 18 were claimed by the end of both services. In fact, more were requested. We will be posting one week’s readings on our web-site each week, and encouraging people in our weekly Anchor-Lite posts.

Here’s how it works: we read three chapters from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in order each day, plus a psalm, and a chapter from the New Testament. At the end of 365 days, we will have completed the whole Bible and formed a wonderful new spiritual habit. If something comes up and you have to miss a day, you have the schedule to get you right back on track.

Pastor Christine asked those who accept the challenge to fill out a form. That’s so that we can support each other, and also to let the founding church of The Bible Challenge know how many from St. Clement’s are joining in. This is a spiritual activity available to all – invite friends and family to do it, too. The schedule is for 365 days, with Sundays off, and you can adjust the Sundays to accommodate any day of the year that you decide to begin. The recommended Bible is the Oxford Annotated New Revised Standard Version, because it has so many helpful footnotes and chapter introductions. But any version of the Bible will work.

The background: The Rev. Marek Zabriskie, Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Fort Washington, PA wanted to challenge himself to form a daily habit of reading the Bible, so he developed the daily schedule. Rev. Zabriskie announced the plan to his parish a year ago, and then challenged

others to join him. He hoped that maybe 15 people would take him up on his proposal. He was astounded when 178 parishioners and 83 friends accepted The Bible Challenge.

Pastor Christine found out about this program from our Bishop, who would like to invite the entire diocese to accept The Bible Challenge next September, at the beginning of the program year for most congregations. However, Pastor Christine was ready NOW.

There will be extra copies of The Bible Challenge reading schedule in the narthex. And do let her know you’ve taken up the challenge. You won’t get sales or reminder calls; you’ll just be included in a growing, swelling number of people who are reading the Bible every day.

Tuesday Bible Study

We have a new helper – leader? – in David Bridges. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Sewanee School of Theology (University of the South, an Episcopal seminary) and a Doctor of Divinity from there as well. He has made himself available to substitute for Betty Chapman – or other leaders. Come Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Parish Hall for a look at the Sunday readings. Saralu Methven offers another weekly look at the readings on Friday mornings at 10:30 am at her home. Both groups use the same Paraklete Press Lectionary Bible Study, which has been published by St. Clement’s for 22 years! It is one of our unique offerings to the wider church.

Out of My Suffering
O Lord

Make those lives around me
Just a little more comfortable;
Take me and use me,
Broken as I am
Make me more worthy
To accept more pain
To lighten the burden of others
For whom I pray
Out of my suffering
I hold them in thy Light.

Sarah Moridi
2008

Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti: the soul of a nation

The Episcopal Church has made a pledge to rebuild the Church in Haiti, after the earthquake in January 2010 left the cathedral and many of its buildings in rubble. Seventy percent of church buildings, clinics, and schools that served over 100,000 Episcopalians, as well as the general community, were wiped out in thirty-five seconds. After the earthquake, people immediately turned to the church for aid and spiritual support, and the church responded far more quickly than the government, offering food and shelter on church properties until temporary shelters could be arranged.

Haiti is a diocese of The Episcopal Church, and its Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin has requested help to rebuild. Every diocese is taking part. The Diocese of Northern California has set its goal to raise \$100,000 by Easter 2012. Congregations around the diocese are holding bake sales and dinners and other fund-raisers to meet this goal.

St. Clement's wants to raise \$1,000 of this amount by Easter. Greg Voetsch, who has been to Haiti and has even attended worship at the former Holy Trinity Cathedral, spoke to us at the Mardi Gras dinner about the beautiful, hard-working Haitian people, and showed his own slides of the poverty there.

We're asking everyone to donate what they can by Easter: \$10, \$20, \$50 – or more. There are pledge cards in the Narthex.

Engineers and architects are already at work. The Haitian government has granted the church more land in the center of the capital. Masons are being taught earthquake-safe building methods that are no more expensive than the masonry that crumbled.

Haiti continues to be one of the poorest countries in the whole world. They have asked for our help. Let's give it!

Do you have a will?
Have you remembered the Church in
your will?

A Different Lenten Study: Who are those "Episcopals?"

When we worship together on Sunday we do it as a collected body. It is very different from praying or reading the Bible in the quiet of our own room. Corporate and individual worship are both important; one does not diminish the need for the other.

For our Lenten Study this year, I would like to do it as one body, for a change, instead of a small group activity mid-week. I would like it to be personally enriching as well as informative for all of us.

Because we come from diverse religious backgrounds we represent a variety of training and education in the Episcopal form of our Christian faith. Some of us may have come up in Episcopal faith from kindergarten, so to speak, while others transferred in at the graduate level, and we missed out on some basics.

So, for Lent this year I am offering a Sunday "class" during the service, called, "Who are those Episcopals?" (That's one of the names we are called – lots of folks really don't like saying "Episcopalians"!)

We'll do this for just a few minutes after the sermon for the five Sundays in Lent (not Palm Sunday or Easter). The sermon will be a little shorter to make room for our "class." But don't worry, this is the kind of class you enjoy – no tests, no papers, no reading. We'll all do it together, so we'll learn new things together. I hope and pray that it will be life-giving. Please keep an open mind and see for yourself.

Pastor Christine +

Transfiguration

Where are you going

When you are already there?

Is there anywhere

That He is not?

What are you looking for

When you have already seen Him

Transfigured

In all His handiwork?

Sarah Moridi

Empty Bowls March 6

River City Food Bank is the only Sacramento food bank open every weekday. It was founded by the Episcopal Church of Northern California, and although it is now a community agency, Episcopal churches in the valley take a great interest in its services. RCFB's clientele keeps growing, as economic recovery has been slow in our region, and it is always slowest for those in greatest need.

RCFB has one big fund-raiser each year – the Empty Bowls event. It used to be just a lunch, where you buy your ticket (\$30), select an empty bowl – contributed by artists around the area – and enjoy a bowl of soup (in a plastic bowl). Now they also offer an evening event with hors d'oeuvres and wine – it costs a bit more.

The Lunch has two seatings – 11:30 am and 12:30 pm. It is very popular, and usually sells out, which is a good thing. However, this year the event will be held at Sacramento Community Center, which can accommodate more people. I go every year and always enjoy the camaraderie with other community members who believe that a good food bank is an important asset. To order your ticket on line go to www.rivercityfoodbank.org.

See you there! The fact that you get a hand-made bowl is icing on the cake (actually, they don't serve cake, but there are cookies!). I now have a lovely collection of bowls to my name, and every time I use one I remember where it came from and the fact that I have food to put in it.

Pastor Christine

A Perennial Wish List for RCFB

Peanut butter (there's a shortage!)
Mac & cheese
Ramen, canned soups, canned chilis
Canned tuna
Toiletries: travel or regular sized
Baby items



The Music and Poetry of Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, April 1, at 4pm the choir will present The Music and Poetry of Palm Sunday. The traditions of Palm Sunday are rich with history and symbolism. It is the day we remember the “triumphal entry” of Jesus into Jerusalem, exactly one week before His resurrection. Some 450-500 years earlier, the Prophet Zechariah had prophesied, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.” Matthew records the fulfillment of that prophecy. The donkey, though seemingly humble, was chosen most likely because it was seen as a symbol of peace as opposed to the horse which was considered a symbol of war.

The program will be presented in three sections. The first part of the program will be focused on the triumphal entry. The second part of the program will focus on the road to sacrifice and help to prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week. It is interesting that the same crowds that on Palm Sunday were crying out “Hosanna” were crying out “crucify Him” five days later. And the last part of the program is Jesus' premonition of glory. We hope that you will mark your calendars for this event, a Lenten gift from your choir.

Carole Maxson

Lay Ministry Schedule March 2012

	SUNDAY March 4 2nd Sunday in Lent	SUNDAY March 11 3rd Sunday in Lent	SUNDAY March 18 4th Sunday in Lent	SUNDAY March 25 5th Sunday in Lent
Altar Guild	Kathleen Gallagher Stephen Souلمان Randy Greenwood	Irene Grant Phyllis Rayburn Randy Greenwood	Debbi Honeycutt Len Honeycutt Randy Greenwood	Jennifer Yee Phyllis Rayburn Randy Greenwood
Ushers 8:00 a.m.				
Ushers 10:00 a.m.	Pam Quarles Chris Wash	Ray Stults Sherry Stults Jim Wash	HELP NEEDED Janelle Fallan	HELP NEEDED Harry Shippy
Acolytes 8:00 a.m.				
Acolytes 10:00 a.m.	Debbie Popp Jim Wash	Debbi Honeycutt Ken Dunham	Kathleen Gallagher Jim Wash	Debbi Honeycutt Chris Wash
Lectors 8:00 a.m.				
Lectors 10:00 a.m.	Mike Chapman Chuck Maxson	Bill Murray Sarah Morici	Pam Quarles David Bridges	Quintilla Wells Muriel Murray
Intercessors 8:00a.m.	Harry Shippy David Bridges	Saralu Methwen Ray Stults	Chris Wash Chuck Maxson	Jim Wash Mike Chapman
10:00 a.m.				
E.M. (Chalice) 8:00a.m.	Chris Wash Bobbie Keil	Jim Wash Len Honeycutt	Janelle Fallan Deidra White	Harry Shippy Debbi Honeycutt
10:00 a.m.				
Coffee Hour 8:00 a.m.	Harry Shippy	Phyllis Rayburn Mary Norsweater	Jim & Chris Wash	Irene Grant Randy Greenwood
Coffee Hour 10:00a.m.	Debbie Popp	Carol Cartwright	Bobbie Keil	Kathleen Gallagher Betty Chapman
Counters	Debbi Honeycutt Sharon Burke-Polana	Harry Shippy Ray Stults	Stephen souلمان Len Honeycutt	Sherry Stults Betty Chapman
PIE 8:00 & 10:00	Muriel Murray	Debbi Honeycutt	Betty Chapman	Mickey Boughton

MARCH 2012

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M. RITE I HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 A.M. RITE II HOLY EUCHARIST

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

FOLLOWING EACH SERVICE



The Anchor

St. Clement's Episcopal Church

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March 2012

First Class

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



Lunch Bunch March 1

The first Thursday of March is March 1. We'll have Lunch Bunch that day, and Harry and Pat Shippy are planning a corned beef and cabbage feast! A call to the office to say you're coming is helpful, but just come on over anyway. We've been running 12-14 people each session, and not the same ones, either. There's always room for YOU!

Mardi Gras Dinner on Shrove Tuesday

We enjoyed a very festive and delicious feast together on February 21. Ken Dunham made a fabulous gumbo, Chris Wash brought rice, Randy Grimwood served pancakes and sausages, and Marj Heineke brought decorations and made two yummy Kings Cakes. Greg Voetsch gave a heartfelt and informative slide presentation about living conditions in Haiti, where he visited some years ago to consult on a water project. See the separate article on our effort to rebuild the cathedral there.