



The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour

A community of the Spirit of God, rooted in Holy Scripture, history, traditions, sacraments and worship; sharing the love of Christ through our service with others in our parish, neighborhoods and the world.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We have just entered the season of Advent, a season of preparation. But, I feel we've been preparing for something all fall! For rains and the return of "seasonal" weather, for better reports about the progress of the pandemic, for good news about the fires that stopped us cold in September, perhaps for relief from political in-fighting – oh, we've been waiting for GOOD NEWS. Well, that's what Advent is about! We need a jolt, a reminder that Jesus is with us, always with us. And so, we re-envision the story leading up to his birth, because it invites US to re-imagine new birth in us.

I suspect we are all ready for a little new birth in us. Please read the next article, which really focuses on Advent. Here, I'd like to just thank everyone for a wonderful fall season.

Because, this fall has been a very busy time at Our Saviour. We had a blessing of the animals on October 10 in our courtyard; I hope you saw the charming photos printed in the Mountain Democrat. We kept adding to our "Ofrenda" – our altar honoring El Dia de los Muertos in the Parish Hall – until we blessed it, and everyone it represented when we observed All Saints AND All Souls Days on November 7. In church we renewed our Baptismal Vows, and blessed about 30 new quilts that Lorna Perpall had created for recipients at Marshall Hospital, Progress House and other agencies. After worship that day we told stories about the loved ones we remember. It was such fun! After the second service we had a good crowd who enjoyed a lively coffee hour filled with lots and lots of humorous and heartfelt tributes, and even a song! about our ancestors. It was a great time!

On Saturday, November 13, about 55 of us were enthralled – ask anyone – with Paul Hauck's presentation of "The Trials of Clarence Darrow." We had lots of friends and guests on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, and the delicious refreshments in the courtyard added to the festive ambiance. But the star was Paul Hauck, who in a few episodes, portrayed several different characters, with regional accents, and reminded us of key turning points in our collective American history. The team who supported this wonderful event included Lee Weikert, LeAnn Bettencourt, Karin Aguilar, and Ruthie Sinclair, among others. Thank you all! A heartfelt thank you letter was sent to Paul the next day. He had proposed this as a fund-raiser for Our Saviour. A total of \$1,140 was raised in ticket sales. Thank you, thank you!

And the next day we had our In-Gathering at both services. The offering plates were over-flowing with pledge envelopes, which was very exciting and fulfilling. A separate article will give the details.

Cherie Raffety showed off the growing Godly Play Sunday School classroom. It is filled with Bible stories that can be touched and moved around and “wondered” about. She has been a real evangelist in inviting families with children to “come and see,” as Jesus said to his first curious disciples. Sunday School began again at 9:30 am November 28.

Also that day we bid farewell to Leta Parks (who preached) and Randy Douglas. They moved to Sacramento last year, and need to find a closer church. We thank them for all they have contributed to our common life!

The “Fixes and Flourishes” team was also very busy this fall. They replaced the deteriorating sink cabinet in the kitchen with a new, beautiful one, and re-connected the plumbing. They are also coming close to a solution to the broken window(s) in the Peirce Hall Library.

It has been my privilege to serve as your priest during these exciting months! You have been so loving and appreciative. I will continue as a devoted member of Our Saviour after Rev. Debra returns – although I occasionally supply at other churches that need a priest. But, know that this is my church home, and you all have made that very obvious to me. Thank you!

Pastor Christine+

Parish News and Events

It's Advent, the Beginning of a New Year - in Many Ways

I hope you have picked up this year's Living Compass Advent meditation booklet. I've already read it, so I can enthusiastically recommend it to you. We have copies in the church; you can also request a copy to be sent to you from LeAnn Bettencourt.

I started reading the introduction and was hooked! The theme is Patience. Then I read the reflection for the first day, November 28, Advent I. These short offerings are just what I need. Patience is not my long suit. And, yet, I suppose, I have had to be patient at many points in my life. Maybe, I thought I was “getting through a tough time;” maybe I thought I was “just getting by.”

Leta Parks preached some very sound words on patience on Advent 1, November 28. You can watch it on Facebook if you missed it.

This year, some of us will be involved with family members that we don't see that often. Maybe we are hoping that X doesn't bring up Y and start an argument. Or, we get stressed out planning to make perfect celebrations.

This is the time to invoke patience. I, for example, am anticipating a reunion of all three of my children and their families, plus my brother. After last year's solitary Christmas, I wasn't sure what was born in me, except a sense of loneliness. You, too? This year, I may be too excited. I need patience to balance my expectations. What I am awaiting is more than just the family gathering. It is the new spirit of Jesus in my life.

Would you be willing to share a story of patience during Advent? You can do that during the Sunday service or in a short article in the January newsletter. Blessings of Advent patience to all!

Pastor Christine+

A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Paul Hauck's performance of his solo play "The Trials of Clarence Darrow" was a sold out success. We raised \$1,120 for the Building Fund while providing an afternoon of entertainment and fellowship.

Thanks are due to many: Most especially to Paul Hauck for volunteering his time and talent and for the design of the seating, Ruthie Sinclair for the flyers, tickets and programs, Cherie Raffety for publicity including the distribution of flyers and for ticket sales, the Mt. Democrat for the great spread, Karen Cornell for putting the flyer on Facebook, Karin Aguilar, and Marcia Goodrich for the refreshments, Terry Berkery and the Mighty Marthas for shampooing the chairs and setting up, Becky Leighton and others for selling tickets, for all of you who invited friends and family, Lee Weikert for directing traffic, our guests who put everything back together at the end of the afternoon, and many others who helped in ways too numerous to count.

We proved we can do it! So let's think about doing it again. We will be exploring similar events to this such as our Celtic music concert and other performances we've had in the past, for the coming year. Not everyone will be so generous as to donate their time and talent as Paul did so we will be looking for sponsors to maximize what we can add directly to the Building Fund. Our repair, update, and upgrade projects require a number of different skilled planners, contractors, and workers and all must be paid. If sponsorship appeals to you, please contact Lee Weikert, 530-644-0382 or eklktcwe@earthlink.net. Also, talk to Lee about what type of events you would like to see.

Exciting News from Bishop Megan

We are now authorized to offer Holy Communion in both kinds via "Clergy Intinction." This is how it will work, at least to begin with. The priest, holding the blessed Body of Christ in wafers, will stand behind the altar rail, as usual, with the Eucharistic Minister holding the Chalice. The priest will in "intinct" – or briefly dip – the wafer into the blessed wine in the Chalice, and then place the wafer into each communicant's cupped hands. Communicants will stand or kneel at the altar. You may also request "No intinction" to receive only the wafer.

Singing in Church and Physical Distancing

Many of us LOVE, LOVE, LOVE to sing in church, and it has been a serious detraction to NOT sing. Well, we started singing a couple weeks ago when Betsy was not able to be with us. Perhaps that was premature, and I take responsibility for that. When we sing we project air droplets which can be contagious, if anyone among us is ill. Rather than ask for proof of vaccination before letting in worshippers, it seems much, much easier – and more welcoming Yes, to just put on a mask when we sing. Is it a pain? Yes. Might it protect others? Yes. And, it follows Bishop Megan's recommendations. We have ordered many masks, so if you don't have or forget one, there will be one for you.

And, please keep a pew apart as you join for worship. We can do this! We do it for the safety of others. El Dorado County has a 56% vaccination rate, and has reported 16,478 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. As of Nov. 26, 169 of our neighbors have died from Covid, and most were in their prime of life. We have to be realistic about the climate around us.

Pastor Christine+

Fixes and Flourishes Committee

The committee has accomplished projects large and small this past year and will present a full report in time for the annual parish meeting. The kitchen project is nearly done. The delay is one small hot water connection. Once it's reconnected we will have a meeting with the coffee hostesses and host to run through the operation and we will then be able to use it on a regular basis. The total cost was less than expected thanks to in house work done by Steve Boilard, Mike Berkery, and Boyd Roberts.

Vestry approved a bid from Taylor Made Construction for the repair of the dry wall around the library windows and the replacement of the window sills. Painting was not included in that bid. The job requires two days which we have requested to be a Monday and Tuesday to impact the fewest number of people. We are waiting for dates.

Camerado Glass has made a template for the cracked library window. We are waiting for an estimate on replacement. They also will be offering suggestions for reducing the light from the three arched windows that would be less costly than plantation shutters.

Plantation shutters remain a popular choice for an attractive, permanent, low maintenance solution.

We are developing a list of completed tasks with costs and a list of maintenance services that need to be scheduled for completion on a regular basis.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns, please talk to Lee Weikert when you see her or call her @ 530-644-0382.

Invite • Welcome • Connect Update

Art Show

Because we want more people to know who we are as a Christian Community, we are planning a couple of events at the Church. The first is a two-person (Kathy Fritschi and Michael Raffety) Art Show scheduled for over two weekends .—**December 11-12 and 18-19**, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall. (Yes, purchasing art for yourself or as a present for your best friend will help benefit the church, but most importantly anyone you invite to the church for a play or an art show will find where the church is and they'll find nice people in the church and well maybe, just maybe, they will decide this is a Church they would like to visit again.)

Kathy and Michael will have art on display and for sale and a portion of the proceeds will go towards the church. The Parish Hall, under the church, is at 2979 Coloma St. in Placerville.

\$5.00 Taco Dinner January 15, 2021

The second event planned is a \$5.00 Taco Dinner for January 15, 2021. Hours: 4-7 pm. (Children 9 years and under will eat for free.) **Boyd Roberts** is providing the music, **Marcia Goodrich** is making a Mexican Cake, and Mike & Cherie Raffety are providing the tacos, rice, beans and other fixen's. Again, this is an opportunity for us to invite our family and friends, have a good meal and join in a fun event. There will be prizes to add to the festivities.

Be sure to save the dates on your calendars today!

Sunday School Update

We have the beginnings of a Sunday school. Yeah! The kids that attended had a very nice time and each one learned their first lesson. (And the 'door person' learned what their favorite cookies are.)

The children lit a candle at the beginning of the lesson. This starts a sacred space of time for the school.

Lesson one was about the Church calendar and they discussed Advent. This is the 4 weeks leading up to the birth of baby Jesus. They also discussed the colors on the annual calendar of the church. Everyone was attentive and they discussed what green means and what red means. These are colors used at certain times of the year for the Church altar.

After the lesson, the children chose to reflect on the lesson and march their biblical figure through the sand in the sand box.

The Montessori style is so appealing. It is calm, interesting, and the student has the opportunity to have a 'hands on' experience with the lesson of the day. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this very special Sunday school. We want all children to experience the joy of knowing Christ's message to the world.

Pledge Drive Update

Our Stewardship Season felt a little different this year; the world around us is different, and, perhaps, we appreciate our faith community a little more. Our latest tally, as of Nov. 24, is 36 pledges for \$71, 700 to support Our Saviour's mission and ministry in 2022. This compares to the final numbers for 2021 of 31 pledges and \$65,900. Thank you all!! We hope that when all the pledges are counted, we can thank God even more gratefully!

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will begin a new study on Wednesday, December 29, at 10:00 am. It will be NT Wright's study of the book of John. If you would like to join us or have questions contact LeAnn Bettencourt at lkbett@live.com or at 644-4789.

Sacred Ground Circle ~ A Personal Experience

Sheryl Trainor

My experience of Sacred Ground incorporates my personal family history of being a grand-daughter of Italian immigrants. As I mature, I am aware of how my family history affects who I am today and what I value. Our family story included an experience of my maternal grandmother not being taken seriously at a hospital when her three-year-old daughter became ill with appendicitis. My grandmother was labeled a "hysterical Italian mother" and told her daughter only had the flu and to go home. Unfortunately, her daughter had a burst appendix that became septic and without antibiotics she succumbed to the infection and died. Perhaps if the attending physician had not been affected by his pre-judgement and labeling of my grandmother by a cultural stereotype, my maternal aunt would be alive today. This is a lesson in how cultural stereotypes can affect our objective judgements.

Part of my work in this world has been to accompany families with children with disabilities to access services to support their health and well-being, including those from different cultures. Even in high school I became interested in learning a second language to better communicate with those still learning English (including one grandmother). I see how access to services can be limited or denied based on circumstances and stereotypes.

Participating in Sacred Ground helped me get in touch with my own cultural history and stereotypes, and learn about others' history. In addition, it helped integrate my faith and response to the difficulties encountered by many people during the course of history in our country. As I listened to stories from participants, videos, and authors my understanding broadened and I came to see through the lens of faith that there is more work to be done to build a Beloved Community.

If you are interested in participating in a Sacred Ground Circle, please contact me. We will be facilitating a group beginning in January.

Sheryl Trainor

Sheryl.ghcot@gmail.com

530-306-8487

A New Sacred Ground Circle Coming in January



SACRED GROUND is a race dialogue series designed for these times. The series is intended to bring a community together to participate in transformational conversations about race. Attention is given to the history of race and racism in America. Documentary films and readings focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino and Asian American histories, as well as recent thinking of scholars and practitioners of racial healing, racial equity, and whiteness.

SACRED GROUND is framed as a spiritual journey to help us hold and nurture the vision of Beloved Community.

Participants in the Sacred Ground Circle will be provided access to the online Study Guide and Curriculum resources for this 10-session process. This 2022 Sacred Ground Circle begins Thursday January 20, 2022. It will meet weekly on Thursdays from 2:30 – 4:00 pm through Thursday, March 24, 2022. Experiencing SACRED GROUND is an opportunity for honest conversation meant to begin healing the broken people and places harmed by racism. SACRED GROUND will inform you, challenge you, and bless you.

SACRED GROUND is part of the Becoming Beloved Community initiative of The Episcopal Church. The resources are available to members of a Sacred Ground Circle regardless of church affiliation or no affiliation. You are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of this dialogue committed to peace and reconciliation in our society, personal lives, and ministries.

There is no charge for participation; however, participants will need access to a computer to attend sessions and access materials and will also be asked to read two books (available from libraries or online sellers—approximate total cost of less than \$35).

Facilitated by Sheryl and Dan Trainor

Call or email for questions and/or to register: 530-306-8487 or sheryl.ghcot@gmail.com

Scheduling a Meeting, Conference, Training, Forum, Counseling Session or Event?

We are thrilled that things are beginning to happen again in person at Our Saviour. This means that we will inevitably have more than one person who wants a particular space at a given time. All scheduling must be done through our Office Administrator, Karen Cornell. Email her at cornellkl@me.com or send a text to 530-417-2951 (be sure to identify yourself in the text). Karen will make sure your space is available and put your meeting on the website calendar. (You can check there for conflicts before scheduling, www.oursaviourplacerville.org)

Looking Ahead to Christmas

We look forward to a joyous service on Christmas Eve at 4 pm. More to come.

News from the Diocese

Links for the Convention Results and Overview

Click on the following links for Convention updates, presentations, and results:

[Election Results](#)

[View Flip Books](#)

[Virtual Exhibit Hall](#)

[Pre-Convention Workshop](#)

[Archived Pre-Convention Content](#)

[Commission for Intercultural Ministries](#)

[Center at St. Mathew's](#)

[Episcopal Community Services](#)

[Episcopal Foundation of Northern California](#)

Please contact the Convention Manager Alan Rellafor at alan@norcalepiscopal.org or convention@norcalepiscopal.org if you have any questions.

Around the Diocese - St. John's, Petaluma, launches Afghan Allies Project

The Very Rev. Daniel Currie Green

We are pleased to announce the launch of our [Afghan Allies Project](#) at **St. John's Episcopal Church, Petaluma**. This is a story that began only two weeks ago when our volunteer receptionist took a phone call from Ali, an Afghan refugee who had just arrived in Petaluma and was hoping we could help.

When parishioner Frances Frazier and I went to visit Ali and his wife and three small children in their new apartment, he told us how he had done an internet search for “refugee resettlement agency near me” and St. John's was at the top of the search results. I can only think it was because we have had information on our website for a couple of months about how to donate to Episcopal Relief and Development and Episcopal Migration Ministries for relief of refugees.



But search algorithms aside, it has become clear that this was God at work. Since that day Frances and others at St. John's have been very busy getting to know these incredibly courageous families, and in partnership with Mr. Shir Haidari, Project Director from the ULM Family Foundation, we are now in a position to invite others to join us in this effort.

Our new webpage, saintjohnsepiscopalpetaluma.org/afghan-allies-project has more information and a link to our volunteer information form, where anyone can sign up to help out.

The Bishop's Mission for Disaster Resilience was honored to assist the **Commission for Intercultural Ministries** and **Russian River Deanery** in the settling of Afghan refugees through the delivery of **Project (Re)Start** bins to help the displaced people find their place, in their new communities. Bins containing the basics for infants, bedrooms, and bathrooms were delivered from the following congregations:

- Holy Trinity | Ukiah
- St. Barnabas | Mt. Shasta
- St. Michael's | Carmichael

Links to Diocesan Commissions and Committees

- [Commission for Intercultural Ministries](#)
- [Commission on Ministry](#)
- [Christian Formation Committee](#)
- [Episcopal Community Services](#)
- [Ministries of Health Committee](#)
- [Investment Fund Committee](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Recovery Ministries](#)
- [Episcopal Foundation of Northern California](#)

December Birthdays



<i>Birthdays:</i>	
Gary Ames	Dec. 21
Elise Piazza	Dec. 21
Elsie Cannon	Dec. 27

December Calendar

Please see our website Calendar for current scheduling:

oursaviourplacerville.org

Ministry and Hospitality Schedules

Date	Time	Readers	Ushers	EMS	Prayers of the People	Hospitality
	8:00 AM					
Dec. 5		L. Perpall	TBD	D. Zelinsky	B. Leighton	B. Hill
Dec. 12		L. Weikert	TBD	T. Weikert	D. Adams	L. Weikert
Dec. 19		L. Perpall	TBD	B. Leighton M. Leighton	K. Aguilar	M. Goodrich
Dec. 26		B. Leighton	TBD	D. Zelinsky	L. Weikert	K. Aguilar
	10:30					
Dec. 5		B. Roberts	D. Adams, B. Roberts	Y. Giordano	T. Naylor	L. Bettencourt, S. Mathews
Dec. 12		T. Fritschi	M. Berkery TBD	T. Berkery	D. Adams	K. Fritschi
Dec. 19		L. Weikert	M. Berkery, D. Lightfoot	T. Weikert	K. Fritschi	T. Naylor
Dec. 26		M. Berkery	M. Berkery, T. Berkery	M. Muetz	Y. Giordano	C. Raffety, M. Raffety

Vestry News

Summary of meeting held November 21:

Date to remember: Rev. Deb will be back on December 19 and there will be a 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

Other items discussed ~

Ed Mathews gave the Treasurer's report. Income is falling behind, while expenses are close to the budget.

The Clarence Darrow play was a huge success and fit well within the Invite • Welcome • Connect project. Other aspects of the project are coming along including an Art Show in December.

Aspects of the Building Use Policy were discussed including making the process more user friendly and clarifying the need for proper insurance coverage to be provided by the users.

Lee Weikert reported on the Building and Grounds projects. *Many* projects are underway and status was provided.

A future Disaster Resiliency workshop was discussed as a collaboration with Mike Dibelka in the Bishop's office.

2021 FINANCES FOR OCTOBER

Actual October Revenue	21,455.35
Budgeted October Revenue	13,176.26
Actual October Expenses	17,497.37
Budgeted October Expenses	12,617.84
October Net	3,957.98
Total Revenue (Jan - October)	125,131.08
Total Expenses (Jan - October)	136,684.95
Year-To-Date Net (Jan - October)	<11,553.87>

If you have an article you would like to include in the newsletter please send it to cornellkl@me.com.

And be sure to check out our website at www.oursaviourplacerville.org.

~ Our Values ~

Authentic

We are a community of the Spirit of God.

Rooted

We are rooted in Holy Scripture, history, traditions, sacraments and worship.

Christ-centered

We strive to encounter and emulate Jesus Christ.

Inviting

We seek out and invite all to this holy work.

Welcoming

We welcome all whom God has created, extending hospitality and compassion to them.

Relevant

We engage the world in which we live with the love of Christ.

Serving

We share the love of Christ through our service with others in our parish, neighborhoods and the world.

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TIME DATE MATERIAL. PLEASE EXPEDITE

