Dear all,

I became very familiar with the phrase “You do you and I’ll do me” several years ago when my children were in their teens. They would say it to each other, to their friends, and to me during those temperamental teenage occasions. I think it’s a fairly recent slang that tells others to mind their own business. It is also a quite common phrase and comes at a time when people feeling are feeling more isolated and lonely than ever. Recent studies (from Cigna, Kaiser Family Foundation and the Economist) found that loneliness has become an epidemic and that millennials and Gen Z are lonelier than people 72 and older. It can’t all be blamed on social media. The studies showed that people who spent a lot of time online were as lonely as others. Rev. Jennifer Bailey, executive director of Faith Matters Network said that “What was actually predictive [for determining loneliness] was the presence of in-real-life conversation and connection, the relationships in your life.”

In our recent Forum series, “Politics, Religion and Guns,” we learned that two-thirds of the 33,000 gun deaths in America were due to suicide. This data was from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2017. The suicide rate is at a 50 year high. The causes for suicide vary from relationship conflicts, substance abuse, health, jobs, finances, alcoholism and mental illness.

’You do you and I’ll do me’ is not a good philosophy to live by. People need each other. We need community, a place to belong and a place to feel safe. We need places where we can be who we are even when we don’t agree with the person sitting next us. I confess that I was a bit nervous when I began the Politics, Religion and Gun Forum, but it created a space where people who are divided on many issues could share their thoughts and be heard. I believe much of our loneliness, isolation and violence are indicative of a spiritual emptiness. In order to build an authentic community we need to be able to continue engaging with each other in ways that learn about and respect each others differences and affirm the the presence of Christ within us.

An Invitation to Brave Space
by Micky ScottBey Jones

Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a ‘safe space’
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.

In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love”

We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.

http://www.oursaviourplacerville.org
We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be
But It will be our brave space together,
and We will work on it side by side”

Blessings,
Rev Deb

Stewardship

Churches often speak of stewardship in terms of Time, Talent and Treasure. Stewardship involves all of life; our body, mind and spirit, our material possessions, friendships, and more. All we are and have is a gift from our God. Each fall we hold a pledge drive which culminates on an Ingathering Sunday when we gather in worship and celebrate as we pledge our time, our financial commitment for the coming year.

Time
Many of us feel we don’t have enough time for all the things we want to do. Everyone is given the same amount of time: 24 hours each day, 168 hours each week. The question is: How do we choose to use our time? Henry David Thoreau once said: “It is not enough to be busy, so are ants. The question is what are we busy about?”

Talent
Each one of us is blessed with various talents. Some have the gift of music, others have the gift of listening, others can sew, and others are mechanically minded, etc. There are many ways to share your talent with the church. We will be mailing material in the pledge mailing that includes the various ministries that we are involved with at the Church of Our Saviour.

Treasure
Henri Nouwen wrote that “Fund-raising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission . . . . Fund-raising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission.” Giving of a yearly financial pledge is the primary method of funding our ministries and operations – it literally keeps the lights on. Making an annual commitment enables our parish to plan for the coming year based on a predictable financial base.

Creating a sound budget is the result of two ongoing disciplines: clear visioning, discernment and articulation of a congregation’s mission and ministry. On November 13th we are having David Lopez, Vice President of Lester Consulting Group (and Stewardship Guru par excellence) is going to meet with members of our congregation to help us with visioning. David has asked the attendees to give some prayer and thought to simple but important questions:

What would Our Saviour look like in 10 years?
What is your dream for the community?

He asks that you write out your “dream” (not a plan, just your “dream”) and send it to him by Friday, November 6th. You can make your response as long or as short as you wish. We will be talking more about this at the meeting, but my having the comments in advance will be helpful. Dream BIG!

http://www.oursaviourplacerville.org
Let Rev Deb know if you would like to attend and she will give you David’s contact information. We will meet in Peirce Hall from 2-4 pm on Nov 13th.

A pledge card will be enclosed in the stewardship mailing that you will receive soon. These can be brought in and put in the Offering Plate on Nov 24th at the Ingathering. It is our hope is that these will all be returned to the Church office or the offering plate, no later than December 1st. This will give our finance committee time to formulate a budget for the 2020 calendar year.

**Save the Date**

Join us as we welcome the Christmas season

**ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS**

**DECEMBER 14th @ 7 PM**

Join local choirs and the Millington String Quartet for an evening of singing and sharing Advent lessons of hope and light.

For more info email: oursaviour.placerville@gmail.com

2979 Coloma Street, Placerville, California
530-622-2441  http://oursaviourplacerville.org
8:00 AM Hospitality Team Members Needed!

Please consider committing to serve on the 8:00 Hospitality Team! There is one Sunday a month that will not be covered unless someone commits to it. We need the 4th Sunday of the month covered. You can sign up as a team of two or even three people and then if you are unable to serve the other person (or persons) on your team can serve. Also, two of our 10:30 hospitality volunteers will be moving out of the area soon. We could use one or two volunteers to be part of a regular team or a substitute and fill in when needed. Please call Elsie at 644-3636 or LeAnn at 644-4789 if you are willing to help in any way. Thank you!

Veteran’s News

Friday
Went to court in Cameron Park.
They are still working on getting the young combat Veteran into Veterans Court. Sacramento county has to have buy in.
Navy wants to fight his case. Vet Court is only for the guilty, and the DA does not want to give you a jury trial first. Too bad. He has all the issues. Homeless, self medicating, PTS(D), untreated.
Takeit has been found not guilty in a criminal court. Purported victim Now wants to take the fight to a restraining order. Takeit is concerned that Mr. Purported will start something. Alert deputies to the situation, and his defense attorney agrees to stay with him through the civil hearing.
Vietnam shows up. He is an attorney representing himself. Hope it goes ok.
Off to mechanic. Her boyfriend ruined car by trying to fix it. Will cost a bit over $1000. At least. Get’er done
Tell Marshall social worker how to contact Health Care Eligibility, as well as county VSO.
Tell Vet Court participant how to reach EDCA/Lifekill for DUI classes and how to get financial help for blow and go.
Eat lunch.
Meet intern who is going to shadow me.
Off to pay PG&E bill with a Navy Vet Court participant.
Jail. Her mom is freaking out. She is freaking out. In for over a year. What us going on?
Making progress on getting intern admitted to go with me into jail.
Ride with MAM. She is welcome to talk to me, but VSO needs to help her with respite programs.
Meet Navy again. See he has food from pantry. Still homeless. Get him bus passes, and Taco Bell gift card.
Here is the HELP number for one night stay. Here is the Only Kindness number for more permanent and long term help.
PAD’s mom calls. Good news. He is back in El Dorado County jail. Either he gets conserved, or he dies. Put out pleas for help to Vet Court team, and APS.
Failed to make two calls. Probably did some more, but forgot by the end of the day.

David Zelinsky
Service Officer
American Legion Post 119
530-919-8488

http://www.oursaviourplacerville.org
THANK YOU TO ALL THE PRAYER QUITERS!

The Vestry decided to do something to show our gratitude to the Prayer Quilt Ministry Team. They have been having a hard time completing the prayer quilts on Saturday mornings (they meet on the second Saturday of the month at 9:30 in the parish hall). We have two new portable sewing machines to give to the group to help.

They always welcome anyone who would like to join us, whether it be for learning a new craft or helping with a great outreach project. These quilts help many people as they are used by chaplains in the local area.

Poinsettias

It's time to start thinking about the beautiful poinsettias and flowers that decorate the church in celebration of Christmas. Decorating the church with an array of beautiful flowers and plants is a tradition of love and gratitude at Our Saviour. We suggest a donation of $15.00 for each poinsettia.

Please fill out one of the regular flower donation forms, found in the narthex, and indicate the number of poinsettias you would like to donate. Describe why you wish to donate and for whom you are giving. We suggest a donation of $15.00 for each poinsettia.

Please make your check payable to Our Saviour and put “Altar Guild” on the memo line.

Place the form and the envelope with your check in the offering plate.

With gratitude,

The Altar Guild

http://www.oursaviourplacerville.org
On being a Pilgrim on the Camino de Santiago

Between September 11 and 18 my husband, David Weber, and I walked over 80 miles (and many more in towns) to cover the last portion of the Camino de Santiago – the Way of St. James – in Northern Spain. That is the minimum necessary to earn a “Compostella” or certificate that the pilgrimage had been undertaken and completed for either religious or spiritual reasons. (There is a third option: to simply do it because, because it’s there or to prove you can, or whatever. For example, David was not interested in earning a Compostella; he went to accompany me.)

To receive the Compostella, which is a beautiful document in Latin with the pilgrim’s name on it, one has to produce a “Credential” that has been stamped by at least two places on each day one walks the Camino. Of course, many people collect as many stamps as possible. It’s like a passport that gets stamped each time you enter or leave a foreign country. The places with stamps can be churches, inns, hostels, and cafes. It’s a self-service activity. You go in to get a cup of coffee and stamp your Credential.

Why did I want to walk the Camino? I had heard about it from several people in recent years, but I was really motivated by listening to Deacon Steve and Leslyn Shortes describe their experience two years ago. When Leslyn announced that she was repeating the route with a friend while Steve and another friend tackled the whole Camino from the French border, I wanted to tag along with Leslyn. She shared her itinerary with me, but I couldn’t get bookings at the same places she was staying. I also had lots of trouble finding air fares that were not through the roof. That’s when David, who had staunchly maintained that he had no interest in the Camino, suddenly reversed himself and took over making flight and inn reservations – for both of us!

We started taking “training” walks to prepare physically. Our walks were really not long or often enough, but at least we did some.

Inner preparation is a different process. My “intention” for walking the Camino was focused on the word “purification,” even though I didn’t know exactly what that could or should mean for me. Ridding myself of impatience and resentment figured prominently.

We began the Camino with some trepidation about how well our old bodies would hold up walking 10-14 miles day after day. When we finished the first day at 10.3 miles we were elated. It got harder after that! The long stretches uphill, to be followed by a long stretch downhill – meaning the uphill climb had to be done all over again – got very tedious. We were passed by everyone, even couples pushing baby carriages. The only people we passed were a man in an unmotorized wheelchair, who would wait in the middle of the path for someone to come by and push him, and a couple about our ages who had gone to the high school in Los Angeles (University High) that was my high school’s (Santa Monica High) chief sports rival. I’ll bet they were there about the same time as I, but I didn’t get to ask.

In the mornings the trails were almost crowded. Other times it was just the two of us. And sometimes, David would decide he’d had enough and slowed to a pouting crawl, so I was walking alone for a spell. I found that using walking sticks – something about the right length that I would find under trees – helped propel me forward, but I usually left them somewhere and had to look for new ones. I think I used seven different sticks over the eight days.

Some of the take-aways from walking the Camino were the amazing connections we constantly made with absolute strangers. They won’t be friends for life; instead they were friends when and where we needed them. Another blessing was quality time with my husband. We began each morning’s walk with a kiss, and I said a little prayer. Even though we had periodic melt-downs we went the distance, experiencing an unforgettable journey together. There were times when we were discouraged, frustrated or disappointed, but by just living in the present moment we found that these set-backs were not major problems, and we could adjust our expectations. These three conclusions are lessons I need to re-learn each day. They keep my impatience and resentments at bay and make my spirit a little purer. I thank God for the Buen Camino!

Pastor Christine
Dear Friends:

California certainly has many strengths - a strong and vibrant economy, an abundance of natural resources and beauty, a diverse and energetic populace.

Unfortunately, we also lead in some negatives, not the least of which is the frequency of hate crimes. California is home to more officially-designated "hate groups" and to ideologically extremist organizations than any other state in the union. This is not new. The uptick in hate crimes more than a decade ago led the state to create one of the most comprehensive and thorough anti hate crimes laws in the nation. Hate crimes are particularly pernicious because they target not just the immediate victims but the communities around those victims. They are designed to strike fear in all who are similar to the immediate victim, to intimidate whole populations as well as to inflict direct harm on the few.

California has a second tier of enforcement: good training for our law enforcement agencies. Through the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) state agency, every law enforcement office may obtain updates on the law, on the means of enforcement, on strategies for interacting with victims and their communities. There are training videos, "model orders" that let departments know the standards of new laws, and many other resources.

That said, many jurisdictions use a private service, Lexipol, from which to obtain those "model orders". There are many other resources from Lexipol, so obtaining the model orders seems reasonable - one organization to provide guidance and updates as well as other services. However, Lexipol is rather...liberal...in its interpretation of California state laws. They don't always adequately interpret our laws in ways that they were intended.

It is California Council of Churches IMPACT's belief, as longtime anti-hate crimes activists, that POST does a far better job. Addressing this growing menace to our fellow human beings and state residents, it is essential we have the best tools. POST provides them.

Therefore, to combat the rise in hate crimes, we are urging each of you to contact your local law enforcement, police and sheriff, and asking them to adopt the POST model orders on the issues of hate crimes. These standards include:

- An instruction to officers that the agency requires that hate crimes be given a high priority.
- The department should adopt the simple, statutory definition of "hate crime." [“Hate crime” means a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: (1) Disability. (2) Gender. (3) Nationality. (4) Race or ethnicity. (5) Religion. (6) Sexual orientation. (7) Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics/]

Nineteen years after adoption of this definition, some agencies still use confusing, noncompliant definitions, leading officers to overlook some hate crimes.
- A statement that any form of bias motivation against a protected characteristic -- not just hate -- makes a crime a hate crime. "Depending on the circumstances of each case, bias motivation may include, but is not limited to, hatred, animosity, resentment, revulsion, contempt, unreasonable fear, paranoia, callousness, thrill-seekings, desire for social dominance, desire for social bonding with those of one’s “own kind,” or a perception of the vulnerability of the victim due to the victim being perceived as being weak, worthless, or fair game because of a protected characteristic, including, but not limited to, disability or gender."

- A requirement that all officers and other staff and volunteers be trained in hate crimes

- Detailed check lists of the responsibilities of first-responding officers, investigators, and supervisors, including assistance and outreach to affected communities. The State Auditor found that lack of adequate training and protocols lead some agencies to adequate response to hate crimes

- "Hate crimes are not only a crime against the targeted victim(s) but also have impacts on the victim’s family and community. Working constructively with segments of this larger community after such crimes is essential to help reduce fears, stem possible retaliation, prevent additional hate crimes, and encourage any other previously victimized individuals to step forward and report such crimes. This is particularly important if an upward trend has been identified in these crimes. Although hate incidents are not criminal events, they can be indicators of, or precursors to,"

We helped create both the original law and the POST supplemental materials. We have fought for many years to make sure victims are fully represented in the law and that hate crimes are not dismissed as "pranks" or the work of young people who just don't know better.

These are important laws, important resources that will assure that our communities have the tools and the commitment to battle hate crimes. If your department has no other incentive, remind them that the POST hate crimes model orders are free. That, sadly, may be the strongest argument, but whatever gets the job done is fine with us. Please speak up for your local law enforcement adoption of the POST model orders on hate crimes. It will make us all that much more safe.

Thank you!
Folsom Freecycle

Folsom Freecycle group (freecycle.org), is a worldwide a nonprofit group that helps recycle usable items and keep things out of the landfills.

Anyone may post items. If you have something you no longer need, post it on Freecycle. If there’s something you want, post it on Freecycle. The best part is everything is free.

Locally there are Cameron Park and a Placerville groups. From the green bar at the top of freecycle.org you can “Browse Groups” to find other locations.

As an example, recently I was looking for a crib mattress to use as a dog bed. I posted what I wanted on Freecycle and within 24 hours someone offered me one. We had some llama treats, but the neighbor’s llamas didn’t like them. Put them on Freecycle, and *poof* they were gone. Someone may post on up to 3 different groups.

Below is a bit history about Freecycle.

History & Background Information
The Freecycle Network
The Freecycle Network® is made up of 5,000+ groups with over 9 million members across the globe. It’s a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns and keeping good stuff out of landfills.

Membership is free, and everything posted must be free, legal and appropriate for all ages. As a nonprofit, The Freecycle Network's server and operating expenses are funded by corporate underwriting, on-site advertising (in the form of a Google sponsor bar), grants and individual donations. Our IRS 990s are available for review and also posted on Guidestar.com. Groups are run by volunteer moderators and members take part in the worldwide gifting movement that reduces waste, saves precious resources and eases the burden on our landfills.

A Brief History
On May 1st, 2003, Deron Beal sent out the first e-mail announcing The Freecycle Network™ to about 30 or 40 friends and a handful of nonprofits in Tucson, Arizona. At the time Deron founded The Freecycle Network, he worked with a small nonprofit organization, RISE, which provides recycling services to downtown businesses and transitional employment to Tucsonans in need.

As the team recycled, rather than watching perfectly good items being thrown away, they found themselves calling or driving around to see if various local nonprofits could use them. Thinking there had to be an easier way, Beal set up that first Freecycle e-mail group in a way that permitted everyone in Tucson to give and to get. Freecycle was off and running.

The Freecycle concept has since spread to more than 110 countries, where there are thousands of local groups representing millions of members -- people helping people and 'changing the world one gift at a time.' As a result, we are currently keeping over one thousand tons a day out of landfills! This amounts to fifteen times the height of Mt. Everest in the past year alone, when stacked in garbage trucks!

By giving freely with no strings attached, members of The Freecycle Network help instill a sense of generosity of spirit as they strengthen local community ties and promote environmental sustainability and reuse. People from all walks of life have joined together to turn trash into treasure.

Incorporation
The Freecycle Network is incorporated as a nonprofit in the State of Arizona.

Nonprofit Status
The Freecycle Network is a private, nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Arizona. Our application for federal nonprofit status -- what's known as a 501(c)3 ruling -- was approved in November, 2006 by the IRS. This means that any donations made to The Freecycle Network are tax deductible retroactively stretching back to our original application date in July of 2004.
Greyhounds By Deb Dennis

Your calm and gentle presence touched the lives of many.

Although my time with you was only five short months, in that time you taught me so much about trust and forgiveness.

You arrived at a very difficult time in my life and made me realize that when we cease to exist as we know life, there is more beyond. Your gift to me was teaching me that I will see my son again and for that I am eternally grateful.

You will always hold a very special place in my heart and are forever missed.

The Story of Durham

I was at a very dark point in my life when a greyhound named Durham arrived at my front door. My son, Keith, had died by suicide just a couple of months before.

I had joined an online support group for parents whose child had died by suicide. Many wanted some sort of sign that their child was okay. I didn't give that discussion much thought other than I liked the comfort some found in it, but it wasn't something for which I hoped.

Let me preface the following with... I do not consider myself an "animal communicator" and have questions regarding such things. That being said...

I received a call from a man asking if we’d take a dog named Durham even though he had not adopted through our group. My answer, “Of course.” When someone calls and wants to turn in a dog, I find it to be a matter of urgency. We arranged for him to bring Durham to my house that evening.

When I opened my front door before me stood a dirty, emaciated greyhound with toenails so long that they had curled under the pads of his feet. His color was a beautiful blue brindle, a color that I’d never seen before nor since. I immediately felt a strong connection to this dog. I just didn't know then that it would be to the extent that it would become.
As soon as Durham’s owner left, I checked his ear tattoos to find out how old he was. I made a mental checkmark that he shared the same birth month as Keith, August. One of my greyhounds shared the same birth month and day as Keith and I would have thought if there was to be any sort of connection it would have been with that one.

Durham had been adopted and in a home for two years after his racing career ended. Using his tattoos, I researched and found his racing record to discover he was 10 pounds below his racing weight; greyhounds are very thin when raced. Durham gained 20 pounds in the first four months he was with me.

When we were together, which was most of the time, Durham NEVER left my side. He would literally stand two-, three-hours at a time with his head placed, ever so gently on my lap as I worked at the computer. I liken it to that of a whisper. If his head wasn't on my lap it was on my foot. I always felt it was as if he were saying, "I am here should you need me, but I won't intrude."

I took him on my home visits and it was Durham they wanted to adopt. I'd decided that I would place him, but it would have to be in a very special home as he'd already endured so much abuse in his five short years of life. I watched as he started to come out of his shell and begin to play. And then things started to change.

He would still come and stand by me and put his head on my lap, but I felt the message was different. Now, I felt like he was saying, "I'm tired." Shortly thereafter it became very apparent he was sick, but Laurie, my friend and vet, couldn't find anything wrong...all tests came back negative. She quickly fell in love with him Durham and made noises about adopting a greyhound. I jokingly told her I'd bring the adoption papers the next day as she certainly qualified as that special home.

He was started on antibiotics as he had some pustules on his skin, was given some IV fluids because he was dehydrated, and he received a bolus of steroids. He rallied for 4 or 5 days and staying true to form continued to place his head so very lightly on my lap, but then the message changed again. I felt like he was saying, "I'm just so tired; I can't do this anymore." That message was LOUD and CLEAR, but I chose to ignore it. I called Laurie and told her I felt like he was sliding down the slippery slope. That was on a Thursday.

When I woke up Saturday morning, I saw him lying in the yard. I was angry with myself because I thought he'd gone out the doggie door and died alone in the yard. I went outside and he got up. We came back in the house and I again called Laurie and told her he was telling me it was time. Her voice cracked as she said she didn't want to give up on him and that her friend could do an ultrasound. Again I told her, "Laurie, he's telling me it's time." I asked her to come to the house that evening.
Since Durham touched the lives of many, I wanted them to have the opportunity to tell him goodbye. I was met with resistance when I made the calls...How could it be? Did I have tests run? Could I take him to another vet? Was I sure this was the right decision? How could I put him down when I didn't know what was wrong? Once everyone arrived those questions were no longer asked; he made it very clear it was time for him to go. Laurie came to the house that evening and helped him cross The Bridge* while I held him in my arms surrounded by those that loved him.

Laurie said she'd do a necropsy if I wanted one. I said I didn’t need one, but she chose to do it anyway. She called me the following Monday and said that initially she couldn't find anything wrong and that she had to leave the room. She said she had to have a talk with herself as she was crying. "You're a vet, you can't do this", but in the next breath found herself saying, "...but it's Durham.” She went back downstairs and started looking again. She found a six-inch section of his small intestine to be four times the normal size with thickened walls. She felt it was an early lymphoma.

The night Durham died, my mom said she’d had a dream about Keith and Durham. She said, Keith wanted me to know “Durham was with him and that God had given him [Keith] the task of taking care of the dogs at The Bridge.” She also said Keith told her she couldn't come yet as I needed her, but when her time did come it would be swift.

This four-legged creature that was with me for five short months touched my soul unlike any other. This dog came into my life, touched the lives of many with his gentle and loving ways, communicated so clearly with me, shared the birth month of my son, and left my life far too soon. Several parallels...was this August Angel "my sign" that Keith was okay? I wasn't even looking for one.

Rainbow Bridge

* Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager
body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown...

When Rev. Deb asked me to write an article on greyhounds and greyhound rescue, I didn’t know where to begin. So…

In 1993 I saw a documentary published by National Geographic. It depicted the some of the horrors of the greyhound racing industry including pictures of dogs being trained on live bait and wheelbarrows full of dead dogs. It was at that point I realized I had to do something to help the stop the cruelty to rabbits and other small animals and the slaughter of innocent dogs. Some of the images from the documentary are forever etched in my mind.

My efforts to try and find a rescue group were unfulfilled for several months until I walked into a pet shop and there was a tall skinny dog behind the counter. I asked the girl standing with him if he was a whippet. I have since learned that’s a very common question. She told me he was a greyhound. When I asked how she found him, she pointed to a poster on the wall.

The poster was from group called Greyhound Friends for Life (GFFL), a nonprofit, all volunteer group. It had an 800 number, so I called. I spoke with a lady named Barbara Eichener. Her beliefs regarding the racing industry were the same as mine. This was someone I wanted to know. After we talked for a while, I filled out an adoption application and was soon on the way to becoming the guardian of an ex-racing greyhound and an enmeshed member of GFFL.

Barbara was located in Gilroy, so I drove down to pick up my dog. When I got to there, I was shocked. On the wall, several inches thick, were dirty worn racing collars. These collars were from dogs that Barbara had fostered. It is estimated she fostered 1,500 to 2,000 dogs before she passed in the mid 1990’s. In addition to her fostering ex-racing greyhounds she was devoted to older and special-needs greyhounds. Because of this, our (GFFL’s) Sanctuary Sponsor program was renamed B.E.S.T., the Barbara Eichener Sighthound Trust program.

Barbara introduced me to Jewel, a black very sweet little girl. (I later learned that black greyhounds are more difficult to place.) Jewel and I made our way back home to begin a new life. Little did I know then that adopting a greyhound would change my life and Jewel would be the beginning of 16 more dogs with which I’d have privilege of sharing my home. Many of those were ill and some were owner turn-ins.

I discovered Jewel had severe separation anxiety, so I took her to my mom’s house every day when I went to work. After a few months my mom became ill and could no longer babysit. I had to return Jewel to GFFL which broke my heart. I later learned Jewel was rehomed with a retired nurse and took Jewel with her wherever she went.
So, it began. I wanted to know the history of these dogs. Where did they originate? How did they get to the United States? How did they end up running at a racetrack?

Greyhounds are sighthounds and Wikipedia describes them as, “Sighthounds, also called gazehounds, are breeds or types of hunting dogs that primarily hunt by sight and speed, rather than by scent and endurance as scent hounds do.”

I became very active in the adoption process of greyhounds holding Meet and Greets, interviews, and visited homes of potential adopters to assure a safe and loving home. It was imperative that new adopters knew the oddities of greyhounds in that greyhounds are not like other dogs. Their blood values and physiology are different. In those early years most veterinarians were not aware of this and it was the responsibility of new adopters to advise their veterinarians.

Greyhounds cannot be off lead unless they are in an enclosed space. Since they are sighthounds, they key on movement and start chasing whatever it is that they see. They can run up to 40 mph and are often lost if they get loose. Greyhounds are sprinters; they run fast for short distances. They may run fast, but they’re also known as the 40 mph couch potatoes!

Over the years I’d had some very special dogs in my life. One all-white male named Frosty became my service dog. I lose my balance and he would brace, so that I could use him to help stabilize myself. Frosty knew what I needed before I knew what I needed. He flew with me on Southwest Airlines in the passenger section and rode with me in ambulances. He was an amazing dog and I miss him terribly.

Two more that come to mind were owner turn-ins. One was Durham. He was 6 years old; his nails were curled and were growing under the pads of his feet. He was emaciated. There was a very calm and soothing demeanor about him. The word “soft” comes to my mind. Everyone wanted to adopt Durham, and he was a main attraction at Meet and Greets. One lady put a $100 bill in our donation box and came back again the following weekend just to see him. There was something about him that drew people in. I decided that if I was going to place him it would have to be in a very special home. Unfortunately, Durham only lived 5 months after he came to live with me. As it turned out he had lymphoma and it became obvious that his life was no longer of good quality. It was time for him to earn his wings.

The other was a 16 year old dog living outside. I drove up to the Redding area to pick him up. It was summer and the temperatures were 100º plus outside. (Greyhounds have very thin skin and little fat, so they have difficulty adapting to extreme temperatures.) He hopped on 3 legs and he was also very emaciated. His owners said he wouldn’t eat. I was supposed to transport him to our facility now located in Santa Rosa, but due to his age and condition I didn’t want him to go to a location where there was a lot of activity.

I called Lyman, my husband, to tell him I was coming home with a dog. We hadn’t been married very long so I wasn’t sure how Lyman was going to accept the news that I WAS coming home with a dog. Lyman was and remains good about putting up with my dog “stuff”, but then as it turns out he’s just as bad as I am. We named the old guy Hoppy which lovingly became Magoo because he reminded us of the character Mr. Magoo. He’d been hit by a car and never vetted so his broken leg healed crooked. Magoo stayed with us for a few months before he developed laryngeal paralysis and it became hard for him to breathe. It became apparent it was time to let him go.

In the beginning there were 16 states that had numerous racetracks in each state. Greyhounds were readily available. We were getting most of ours from Colorado and the vet we were
working with there would get them from directly from the track, spay or neuter them, and clean their teeth before personally driving them to our kennel in Gilroy. The number of states that have racetracks is now thankfully down to 5.

The Colorado vet that used to provide us with greyhounds has since retired. Our group now has the cost of doing a spay or neuter and teeth cleaning. We sometimes get greyhounds with various injuries such as broken legs. Our group absorbs the cost of getting those dogs ready for adoption.

Because there are far less tracks now and because we are an anti-racing group, we find it very difficult to get track dogs as the tracks are not releasing them to us. As a result, our group now takes all sighthounds needing refuge, some of which come from shelters.

We get Galgos, a Spanish sighthound, from Spain, Salukis from Dubai and, occasionally, dogs from Korea. The dogs have “fly-buddies”. When someone travels from Spain, Dubai or Korea, we pay the cost of transportation for the dog as an “extra-baggage” fee.

We recently received a dog from Korea. He was in a shelter with an injured rear leg—it had probably been caught in a trap. He was also heartworm positive. He was placed in a foster home in Korea while his leg healed, and he completed his heartworm treatment. When he came to GFFL he was taken to Sacramento VCA to see if he was a candidate for a prosthesis. The surgeon said yes, so he was fitted with one. He’s remains in a foster home and is currently looking for a permanent home.

Spain is particularly cruel to Galgos. At the end of February, when the hunting season ends, dogs that didn’t perform as well as expected are killed by heinous acts. One of the most famous means of torture used by hunters is the “piano dance”, which involves hanging the dog by the neck with the tips of its feet barely touching the ground, as it slowly suffocates. It is believed the longer the dog suffers the more prosperous the next year will be for the owner. Some hunters choose to simply abandon their Galgos when they no longer have need of them, but make sure to break their legs so they don’t come back. They usually starve to death or end up in municipal shelters where they are eventually euthanized. There are now several Galgo rescue groups in Spain.

GFFL makes a life-time commitment to all dogs that come into our organization. We will always take back a dog should it need to be returned and we will provide care for them. Because of the B.E.S.T. fund we are able to provide medical care to any dog adopted after the age of 7. If a special-needs dog requires long-term care, we will provide for them as well.

Most recently we had an owner turn-in a 9-month old female whippet mix. She went to live with a family that has a young son with complicated medical issues. “Penny” has fit in very well…she jumps on the trampoline with the boys, makes her own salad in the back yard by stealing vegetables from the garden, and seems to have a great appetite for the home grown pumpkins. She also jumps on the kitchen counters to retrieve the bacon. Whoops! She’s not supposed to do that! I love getting updates from Penny’s family.

My heart is filled with so many emotions. The sad memories are forever there, but then I have those like Penny to make it full. I get a great sense of satisfaction, joy and warmth from all the dogs that I have placed. It’s all worth it when I have heartwarming stories like the one about Penny.

http://www.oursaviourplacerville.org
As for the history, it seems greyhounds have been around a very long time. At one time only royalty could have greyhounds.

**Ancient Egypt**

- In ancient Egypt, the ancestors of modern greyhounds were used in hunting and were kept as companions. The favorite hounds of the upper class were mummified and buried with their owners. The walls of Egyptian tombs are often decorated with images of their hounds.

- The only breed of dog mentioned by name in the Bible is the greyhound (Proverbs 30:29-31, King James Version): "There be three things which do well, yea, Which are comely in going; A lion, which is strongest among beasts and Turneth not away from any; A greyhound; A he-goat also."

**Ancient Greece and Rome**

- The Greeks probably bought some of these hounds from Egyptian merchants, some time before 1000 BC. The first breed of dog named in western literature was the ancestor of the greyhound.

- Art and coins from Greece depict short-haired hounds virtually identical to modern greyhounds, making it fairly certain that the greyhound breed has changed very little since 500 BC. A reason for the lack of change in 2,500 years is that, until very recently, the function of the greyhound has remained the same: to thrill humans with its agility, speed, and intelligence as it chased the wild hare.

**Arab Tradition**

- The Arab peoples have kept greyhound-type dogs for several thousand years. The Saluki, which almost certainly shares with the greyhound a common ancestor, is still used as a hunting dog by some Arabs today. In early Arabic culture, the birth of a Saluki ranked in importance just behind the birth of a son.

**Middle Ages**

- Greyhounds nearly became extinct during times of famine in the Middle Ages. They were saved by clergymen who protected them and bred them for the nobility. From this point on, they came to be considered the dogs of the aristocracy.

- Dogs in general were at times looked down upon in the Middle Ages, while greyhounds were highly valued.

- The greyhound was used as an emblem, often in tombs. Where tombs are concerned, the greyhound always was associated with knighthood (along with the lion, symbolizing strength) and never with ladies.

**Renaissance**

- Coursing races, with dogs chasing live rabbits, became popular during the sixteenth century.

- William Shakespeare (1564-1616) mentioned greyhounds in several his plays.

**Nineteenth Century**
• Greyhounds remained a familiar sight among the royalty and nobility of England in the nineteenth century.

• At huge coursing grounds spectators followed the dogs on horseback. In live-hare coursing, two greyhounds are slipped (released) together. The winner was judged by a code of points.

• Spaniards brought greyhounds with them to the new world. One greyhound accompanied the conquistador Coronado all the way to present-day New Mexico.

• Greyhounds were imported to North America in large numbers from Ireland and England in the mid-1800s not to course or race, but to rid Midwest farms of a virtual epidemic of jackrabbits that was ruining their farms. Greyhounds also were used to hunt down coyotes who were killing livestock.

• One of the first national coursing meets was held in Kansas in 1886. American coursing has been most popular in the western states.

• The US cavalry used greyhounds as scouts to help spot Native Americans, since the greyhounds were fast enough to keep up with their horses. General George Custer reportedly always took his 22 coursing greyhounds with him when he travelled.

• The evolution from coursing to track racing began in 1876, when the first enclosed or "park" course meet was held.

• Also, in 1876, greyhound racing began at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, England, when six dogs raced down a straight track after a mechanical lure. This attempt to provide a humane alternative to coursing failed, however, and the experiment would not be tried again until 1921.

Twentieth Century

• Track Racing—Around 1912, Owen Patrick Smith invented another mechanical lure. He opened the first greyhound track (circular in shape) in Emeryville, California.

On the farm…

• For the first year of their lives greyhound puppies live together with their litter mates and are handled frequently by the breeders and other staff associated with the breeding "farm," but they are not exposed to other breeds of dogs. As a result, they often do better with unknown people than with other breeds of dog.

• They are given a lot of exercise in large pens that allow them to run at full speed. Training starts at about 8 weeks of age, as they race each other in runs that are 250-300 ft long. They are placed in individual crates in the kennel between 4-18 months of age, where they spend most of their time between exercise periods and training. The crate becomes the dog's refuge from other dogs. At 6 months of age their training starts in earnest.

• Training with the drag lure begins around 10 to 12 months of age. A mechanical device drags an artificial lure along the ground so the puppy can see it and pursue it. By age 18 months, their training usually is over, and they are sent to the track.

They are given six chances to finish in the top four in their maiden race. If they do not, they are retired—put up for adoption or euthanized.
Over the years public awareness has grown of the often inhumane disposal of greyhounds. For the most part dogs are no longer found shot and dumped into mass graves; their tattooed ears cut off so that they cannot be traced back to the trainer or owner.

Most racetracks in America have a kennel compound which houses the approximately 1,000 greyhounds needed to operate the track. Each track has a list of 16-20 kennels which may operate there. Greyhounds must be leased to one of those kennels by their owners in order to run at that track. Normally the kennel owner takes 65 percent and the dog owner 35 percent of the greyhound's earnings.

American Coursing Competitive coursing is an amateur sport in the United States today. The greyhounds compete for honors, not money. Due to concerns over humane treatment of hares, live hares have been replaced by artificial drag lures. A white plastic bag is attached to a thin line strung along a series of pulleys in the ground. A motor winds up the line, causing the bag to mimic the movements of a hare. The greyhound's front legs are usually wrapped to prevent cuts from the line.

Wrapping it up

I believe, even though illegal, some trainers continue to use live bait.

I believe there will always be atrocities surrounding greyhounds and breeds like them.

I believe that dog and horse racing are a money sport, and there are sometimes illegal methods used to win races.

I believe I can’t personally change global beliefs concerning sighthounds and hunting, but my voice, along with many others, will eventually be heard.

I know I can make a difference in the life in of dog that has been entrusted to me.

As long as I am able, I will do what I can to stop the ugliness surrounding sighthounds and how they are treated.

Sources:
# Ministry Schedule November 2019

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>November 3</th>
<th>November 10</th>
<th>November 17</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8:00 AM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EM</strong></td>
<td>T. Weikert</td>
<td>D. Zelinsky</td>
<td>C. Griffin</td>
<td>S. Bert</td>
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<td>C. Persse</td>
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<td>S.Bert/N.Lawson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EM</strong></td>
<td>Mike M</td>
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<td>Leta P</td>
<td>Sandy B</td>
<td>Becky L</td>
<td>Gigi N</td>
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<td>Boyd R</td>
<td>Mike B</td>
<td>Donna D</td>
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<td>Gigi N</td>
<td>Tom W</td>
<td>Sandy B</td>
<td>Marcia G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Mon</td>
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<td>8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist</td>
<td>3 p.m. - New Morning @ Anam Cara</td>
<td>4 p.m. - New Morning @ Anam Cara</td>
<td>10 a.m. - Qi Gong</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - Welcome Home Group NA</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m. - Family Service with Music</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - Family Service with Music</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - Family Service with Music</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. - Harp Service 4 p.m. - New Morning @ Anam Cara 5 p.m. - New Morning @ Library</td>
<td>10 a.m. - Qi Gong</td>
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<td>9 a.m. - New Morning</td>
<td>11 a.m. - Women's Bible Study 4 p.m. - New Morning @ Library 6:30 p.m. - Contemplative worship</td>
<td>10 a.m. - Qi Gong</td>
<td>10 a.m. - Arts Council 6:30 p.m. - Welcome Home Group NA</td>
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<td>Veterans Day</td>
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<td>11 a.m. - Women's Bible Study 4 p.m. - New Morning @ Library 6:30 p.m. - Contemplative worship</td>
<td>10 a.m. - Arts Council 3 p.m. - New Morning @ Anam Cara</td>
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<td>10 a.m. - Qi Gong</td>
<td>11 a.m. - Women's Bible Study 4 p.m. - New Morning @ Library 6:30 p.m. - Contemplative worship</td>
<td>11 a.m. - Women's Bible Study 4 p.m. - New Morning @ Library 6:30 p.m. - Contemplative worship</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m. - Harp Service 4 p.m. - New Morning @ Anam Cara 5 p.m. - New Morning @ Library</td>
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<td>10 a.m. - Arts Council 3 p.m. - New Morning @ Anam Cara</td>
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**Event Details:**
- **Daylight Saving Time ends:**
- **Halloween:**
- **Diocesan Convention:** Sacramento, CA, USA
- **Veterans Day:**
- **Thanksgiving Day:**
- **Black Friday:**

**Location:**
- Placeville, CA
- 2979 Coloma St, Placerville CA
Financial Corner

If you are a pledging member please mail your monthly pledge into the church if you are going to miss a service. You can also schedule “direct payments” with your bank. They will cut a monthly check to the church after you provide them with the amount to pay, the church name and address. They will cut the check on the day you tell them and mail it directly to the Church for you. If you have questions please contact Trish in the Church office. This helps the church meet their financial obligations.

If you have questions please contact the office. Thank you and we hope to see you all soon!

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November Birthday’s:
Laura Filsinger Nov 5th

November Anniversary’s:
Tom & Lee Weikert Nov 11th
Mike & Joanne McCormick Oct 25th

http://www.oursaviourplacerville.org
Episcopal Church of Our Saviour
P.O. Box 447
2979 Coloma Street
Placerville, CA 95667-0447

TIME DATE MATERIAL. PLEASE EXPEDITE