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 all,

Most people are back in their homes, others will have to re-build and have found temporary shelter, others are moving out of the area and there are some who call themselves the ‘loose ends.’ They cannot move into their homes until their homes have been evaluated for toxicity levels or their water pipes have melted. Thanks to the amazing generosity of the diocese, parishioners and friends, we have been able to help provide basic human needs of food and shelter during the fire. We are helping some of the ‘loose ends’ and bought someone a portable water system used in RV’s so he can live on his property until the water system is repaired. This is not uncommon in the Grizzly Flats area.

Our Team Caldor is made up of several parishioners and headed by Terry Berkery. Please email or call Terry if you want to help. She will be working with Margaret Lewis, from the El Dorado County Office of Education, and Mark Dibelka, the Diocesan Disaster Resilience Officer, to address some of the longer term needs. We might be a small church but our heart to help is huge and your generosity always brings tears to my eyes. I am so proud of our church.

Church notes: We can begin receiving at the altar rail again. There will not be wine yet, but you can walk up to the altar rail and kneel, as has been our custom. We have removed the wires for the camera so that there will not be a trip hazard.

Also, if you need a name tag, please let Dona Adams, Marcia Hall or Brenda know. The blank name tags and label maker are in the library to make it easy for everyone to have a name tag. Brenda is looking for a way to put the wall shelving with name tags in the narthex.

Now for sabbatical: It is actually hard for me to leave at this time. I want to stay and help with Team Caldor, the beginning of a new Sunday school program and watch the fruits of Invite, Welcome, Connect and the Fixes and Flourishes team as they take care of our beloved building and grounds. It is an exciting time. I will leave the area on Sept 24. I am doing a wedding on Sept 25 at Fallen Leaf chapel and then
headed to Joshua Tree National Park. I bought a small ALINER camper on Craigslist and will take off with my dog, Tux, aka Captain Fitz.

From there we will go to the Grand Canyon for several days, Flagstaff, and on to Ghost Ranch Retreat Center in Abiquiu, New Mexico. I am taking a writing class there and will be able to go on trail rides at night in the area where Georgia O'Keefe lived. The website for Ghost Ranch is www.ghostranch.org.

After Ghost Ranch I will be going to Sedona, Black Rock, Joshua Tree, and onto Malibu. I will camp my way up the coast until I return home - date TBA.

I will miss all of you and know that you are in good hands with Pastor Christine, Fr. Mike Kerrick, Canon Mary Hauck and the Rev. Libby Vincent (from Trinity, Folsom). I will also miss my new grand daughter, Kinsley (the cutest baby ever born!).

With prayers, blessings and love,

Rev Deb
Parish News and Events

Hello Fall!

How did the summer slip by so fast? Oh, I know: heat waves and wildfires, and either evacuating or staying inside. So much for traditional ideas of summer fun – picnics at the river, mountain hikes, and so on. For me, as I was fortunately several miles west of the westernmost regions of the Caldor fire, it was almost a lost time. And yet, I could see how our community was helping those in need. That was a blessing. I hope it will become a new learning and model for El Dorado County.

We at Our Saviour never stopped worshipping together, although following the guidelines of our Bishop. We held two vigil services – on Sept. 11, in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our capital, and on Sept. 15, in appreciation and sorrow for the work of our fire-fighters and other safety personnel and the losses of many. Can I say that it is an amazing statement of effectiveness that no human lives were lost in this recent devastation?

And now we have passed the autumnal equinox, that twice-a-year event when daylight and night equal each other. From now on our light will decrease, and so will the leaves on our trees. As the trees let go, it may be time for us to let go of certain ideas or passions or histories or just “must-do’s.” I hope many of you read the Rev. Scott Stoner, founder of Living Compass (whose Advent and Lenten reflections we appreciated for many years) on Friday, Sept. 24, when he commented about fall: “The trees are about to show us how beautiful letting go can be.” I pray that this speaks to you, as it does to me.

Please read on in this newsletter for some exciting events coming up.

Autumn blessings,
Pastor Christine Leigh-Taylor, Associate

Update from Ed and Sandy Mathews

The gift card giveaway at the Pollock Pines Safeway went very well and was well received by many thankful evacuees. We gave away $2,250 in $50 increments and heard many stories from folks about their two-plus weeks before returning to their homes. Folks were very appreciative of the gifts from Church of Our Saviour. One lady that Sandy talked to was at the Cameron Park community center and met Rev. Deb on a number of occasions and really appreciated what she was doing. Another lady promised she’d be at our Sunday Church service. It was a good afternoon.

Also, Sandy attended the Board of Supervisors meeting and will have a report at the next care meeting.
The Fire Isn’t Over

The Caldor Fire wreaked havoc on many, many individuals and families – including school children – in El Dorado County. In the “recovery” period Our Saviour is working with Margaret Lewis, Homeless Youth Coordinator for El Dorado Co. Education Department, to target our contributions where they are most needed. We have a church response team, Team Caldor, tasked with getting resources where they are effective. Right now we are concentrating on gift cards and monetary grants. If you feel called to help contact Sandy Matthews or Pastor Christine or call the church phone. We do not need more physical supplies at this time, until we learn the particular needs of survivors. At this point we are focusing our efforts on the Grizzly Flats area.

Photos From the Day of Remembrance Service

Thank you Tom & Lee Weikert and Cherie Raffety for putting the Service of Remembrance together, to Rob Sabino and Betsy Moore for the music, and to all who came to honor those who died in terrorist attacks and the first responders who saved so many lives. It was an honor to have Board of Supervisor, George Turnboo, and members of the police force join us.
Invite, Welcome, Connect Update

Becky Leighton is a welcome addition to Invite, Welcome, Connect. As a retired missionary, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to any discussion about welcoming new souls into our historical church.

One of her ideas is to have an occasional dinner where we could invite friends and family to join us and celebrate the Christian Community of Our Saviour. The question is what would these dinners look like? Would we have a Taco(s) dinner with Mexican music for $5.00 a head? Or… would we have an Italian themed dinner? Or maybe we could have a Thai Dinner just to mix it up a bit. Kathy Fritschi suggested having a door prize. That is doable and would add to the fun factor of the festivities.

We're considering picking a date and going for it. So please express your thoughts on what type of dinners you and your family would most enjoy. Give Cherie a call at (530) 626 8020.

Sunday School

Coming soon: A Montessori-like Sunday School is coming to town as soon as we can collect the materials. In the interim, let's all talk to the young'uns in our lives. Let their parents know the Episcopal Sunday School is coming.(We may start classes with the old manuals, but that's OK. --- The important thing is we start the process going.)

Fixes and Flourishes Committee

The committee welcomed Steve Boilard. Steve is new to Our Saviour (Second Service) and brings his skills and willingness to help with fixing things. The work on the Parish Hall kitchen is set to begin October 18 with demolition of the damaged cabinet, and will be finished November 6 with the installation of two new faucets and a new sink. In September the AC in Peirce Hall needed repairs including an electrician for a cost of just under $500. The committee moved to recommend to the vestry the approval of the bid for $3240 to clean and repair the brickwork leading up from the street to the bottom of the front stairs.

Blessing of the Animals, October 10 at 10:30 am in the Courtyard

(followed by refreshments)

Your pets are welcomed for our outdoor service, which is always a fun time with our precious animals. If you cannot make it, or bring your pet, you can still email your pet's name and breed, and we will pray for him/her/it. PLEASE NOTE: The 8 am Rite I service will be held as usual in the sanctuary that day.
Annual Diocesan Convention

Friday/Saturday, November 5/6

The Bishop has announced that this year's convention will again be done remotely via Zoom. Our three delegates will attend this virtual convention.

Wonderful Play: The Trials of Clarence Darrow - Saturday, November 12, 2 pm

Paul Hauck, husband of the Rev. Canon Mary Hauck, and a psychologist and playwright on his own, has generously offered to present his one-man play as a Stewardship opportunity for Church of Our Saviour. We are so excited! Tickets are only $15, and that includes delicious refreshments. Tickets will be available at the October 10 service and beyond. You don't want to miss this event.

From Former Parishioner and Author, Frances Fuller

Can I Keep Learning?

A couple of years ago while consciously thinking about how to help myself grow old, I realized that it was really important to me to keep learning. This was partly recognition that learning had something to do with my brain health, and that I would need my brain when my legs were already worn out. But it was also acknowledgement that scientific reasons like that are to me just happy excuses for activities that I get a kick out of doing.

So when I chose a place to spend the end of my life, I took a careful look at the planned opportunities there to keep the residents growing intellectually. And now and then something happens here in my retirement community that makes me giddy the way one of my children was when he went running and leaping and clapping for joy, having figured out for himself that if h-a-t spelled hat and c-a-t spelled cat, then b-a-t must be bat. He felt, apparently, it was past time to know that.

For obvious, practical reasons we are behind, all of us, always, in our education. It's just that the body of things there are to know keeps expanding. Think about it. Once I was a kid, reading the newspaper on summer afternoons, partly because it was sometimes the only thing I had to read and partly because there was this fascinating thing happening: war in Europe that was blamed for personal disasters like my best friend leaving town because her daddy got a job building ships in California and then my own Daddy deciding he needed to join the Seabees. I sat on the front steps looking at those maps in the Memphis Press Scimitar, trying in vain to understand the moving battle lines, with absolutely no comprehension of why any of this was happening.

A few years later I graduated from high school, winning the history medal, but World War II was not yet in the history books, so I managed to get a B.A. and a couple of advanced degrees without ever reading a book that included the war that reshaped the world I lived in.

oursaviourplacerville.org
Adding insult to this injury is the fact that I was taught in high school that the atom was the smallest division of matter and could not be split, while simultaneously the US was building the atom bomb, 423 miles away from where I sat.

My point is that, because knowledge increases much faster than textbooks, the end result of almost any education is awareness of ignorance that only grows as one ages. And, while I am willing to leave physics to people with appropriate abilities, I would still like to understand how a paperhanger with a crazy idea managed to dupe people as smart as the Germans, how fighting as allies could create perpetual suspicion and tension between us and one of our friends, and how Nazism in Europe could result in the United States dropping bombs that obliterated cities in Japan, coincidentally exposing the truth that the atom could be split.

That is not even all. The war set in motion the long-discussed creation of a Jewish State in the Middle East which seemed like such a good idea until we noticed that Palestine already had homes and orchards and schools and culture and people who turned out to be possessive about the houses and land they had inherited or bought and paid for. And, of course, no one could have guessed that I could myself get caught up in some of the conflict that resulted from that.

This is the short explanation for why I have been happy to have history lessons in my retirement center. In a recent week the subject was the Berlin Wall, how and why it ever existed. A very fine history teacher, using pictures and graphics, walked me through the story. I say me, because no one else came. Nothing is compulsory after all; you have to want what you get. It was a Zoom event, and there were people in a classroom somewhere in another city, but in my community I was alone, scribbling furiously, remembering being a kid with a newspaper, sitting on the front steps when Russia announced the intention to invade the Balkans and take back territory occupied by the Nazis, sucking the Allied Forces of Europe into participation, then stopping at the border to watch them spend all they had in the effort, making it easy for Russia to move in afterwards and take the area for themselves. That’s what those maps had been trying to show me! That’s how Russia wound up in Berlin, building a wall! This was all in a one-hour lesson, planned and presented especially for elderly people, a review of a highly significant part of the history we lived through.

I admit that when it was over I was jealous of those people in the other community who had one another to talk with about it. I still had questions.

In that same week I saw on film - a stunning performance of The Swan Lake by the Australian Ballet. I had seen this ballet many years before without understanding the plot. Now, a few friends and I had a whole two hours of that wonderful music and a story told without words by actor-dancers doing the impossible with elegance! I confess I wiped tears.

It also happened one day that week that I sat here at this computer, while someone coached me through the phone, sharing a couple of technical things that I had been needing for a long time. The important thing about that is that when I tried the next day, I could almost do those two things, so I asked Google,
understood the answer because of yesterday’s lesson and did what I needed to do. What a relief! I am not
good at this sort of thing, and may have to learn again, but at least I think I can.

Meanwhile, my scribbles about history got cold, and I couldn’t read them very well. I wondered if I could
get permission to hear the whole lecture again, then remembered with dismay that it was not a film, just a
Zoom call. But, would you believe this? The administration added to our library a book on the subject of
reorganizing Europe after World War II. Then our activity director got in touch with the history teacher,
and he said he would be glad to do a one-on-one with me! That’s when I acted like an excited three-year-
old.

That’s when I resolved to advise you: before you decide where to go, whether you want independent
living or need assisted care, be sure to ask what kinds of programs they have to make sure you go on
learning.

And happy about how smart I was, I walked in the hall, half a mile according to the app on my phone,
and when I came into my apartment I was facing east and through the blinds saw the spectacular orange
full moon, the “flower supermoon,” my news sources told me, created by a total eclipse (far from here)
coinciding with the unusual closeness of the moon to earth. Even here on the edge of the real event, it
was magical, reminding me of my ignorance of the astonishing universe we live in.

Read more of Frances’s posts on this page. Learn about her books and see the main page of her site here.

News from the Diocese

Wildfire Relief Update

Thanks to your generosity, we have received $36,418.00 through online giving and checks to purchase gift
cards for fire victims! If you would like to give to fire relief, please visit the GIVE link on our web site, or,
if you prefer, send a check to:

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

Fire Relief

350 University Avenue, Suite 280, Sacramento, CA 95825

Your contribution helps us both to offer immediate, direct aid to those in need, and to sustain a long-
term commitment to heal and restore devastated communities.
The Very Rev. Matthew Woodward Installed as Dean of Trinity Cathedral

Saturday, September 18, proved to be a beautiful day for the installation of the new dean of the Cathedral.

The ceremony featured presentations of symbolic gifts, beautiful music, inspired preaching, a visit from Noah, and a video from Dean Matthew’s parents, who were unable to join the festivities due to Covid travel restrictions from the UK.

To top it off, the service was followed by a summer fete and cupcake challenge a la the Great British Bake-Off. A grand time was had by all. Congratulations Dean Matthew! Click on this Trinity Cathedral website link to meet Dean Mathew.

Help Afghan Refugees in our diocese

The CIM Afghan Resettling Team is working to coordinate the needs of the Refugees with the resources available from churches and individuals in the Diocese. The Team is partnering with the International Rescue Committee and World Relief in Sacramento to coordinate the flow of resources to the newly arriving refugees. The Center at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church continues to provide food and ESL education for current and newly arriving Afghans. A legal clinic will be launched at St. Matthew's later this month.

There are many ways you can help meet these needs and provide a loving warm welcome to our new Afghan neighbors. Check the attached flyer for updated information and links to donate and volunteer.

For more information contact:

Lynn Zender CIM Co-chair, Afghan Resettling Team  zenderlynn@gmail.com
Bob Wohlsen Resettling Team Volunteer & Donation Coordinator, bob.wohlsen@gmail.com
Jim Schaal Executive Director, St Matthew’s Center, stmatthewseiscopal@gmail.com

Links to Diocesan Commissions and Committees

- Commission for Intercultural Ministries
- Commission on Ministry
- Christian Formation Committee
- Episcopal Community Services
News from ECUSA

Urge Congress to Pass Ambitious Climate Change Legislation!

Congress is debating the most ambitious climate legislation in our nation’s history. It is critical that the US take immediate and aggressive steps to do all we can to avert the most extreme climate change scenarios. We call on Members of Congress to ensure that the Build Back Better budget reconciliation includes provisions to dramatically reduce emissions, establish a clean energy standard, and invest in communities that are already most impacted by climate change.

Scientific research tells us global greenhouse gas emissions must halve in the coming decade to avoid the worse impacts of climate change. As the second-largest carbon emitter and one of the top per-capita emitters, it is imperative the United States acts now to reduce its emissions to meet targets for 2030 and 2050.

The Episcopal Church supports numerous climate provisions in the Build Back Better bill, including:

- Enact the Clean Electricity Payment Program (CEPP) and other clean energy incentives to accelerate the clean energy transition.
- Incentivize building and vehicle electrification.
- Designate 40% of investment funds for communities with environmental justice concerns.
- Reduce methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030 through stricter regulatory standards and a fee for leaked methane.
- Invest in research and development for battery storage and carbon capture technology.

The Episcopal Church also supports mitigation measures that will help to address the consequences of climate change, such as climate migration impacts and threats to vulnerable ecosystems. As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry notes, “The work of saving this creation, on one level, it is saving our own lives, and on another level, it is saving the world that God has made and God has created, and we dare not deface what God has made.”

Click on this link to access the website and compose your message to our Senators and Representative!
Episcopal Church Resolutions

- **2018-D006**: Call for Public Investment and Community Participation in Transition to New Economies
- **2012-B023**: Seek Environmental Justice
- **2018-C020**: Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

---

A Statement on the Situation in Del Rio

September 22, 2021

Office of Government Relations

The situation in Del Rio on the United States-Mexico border with an estimated 14,000 migrants, mostly from Haiti, is a jarring manifestation of economic, human rights, environmental, and migration crises. The US response is deeply problematic – the use of cruel and inhumane enforcement by border patrol agents on horseback reveals inexcusable racist dynamics at play. The Episcopal Church decries the treatment of these migrants in Del Rio and denounces racism both explicit and systemic, just as we urge for broader changes to international assistance and immigration policy.

Haiti is in the midst of security, governance, and economic crises, and as a result, the government is not equipped to receive large numbers of Haitians. This is indeed justification for the Biden Administration rightfully redesignating Temporary Protected Status for Haitians in the US and a reason why Haitians should not be sent to an unstable and insecure environment right now. Indeed, many of the Haitians who recently crossed the border left Haiti more than a decade ago, following the 2010 earthquake, and thus are not well equipped to return. Migrants with viable asylum claims should have the ability to access protection at the border and the rapid expulsions of Haitians to Haiti under Title 42 is not acceptable.

Our asylum system is not designed to grant status to those who are fleeing economic hardship, and indeed, economic migrants around the world often struggle to find opportunities to make a living and provide for their families. For this reason, and for other shortcomings of our outdated immigration system, we continue to call for comprehensive immigration reform that reimagines immigration with compassion and a humanitarian lens while still acknowledging the need for secure borders. This would include respecting the right to asylum as required by domestic and international laws.

Finally, when considering the root causes of migration and the role the US plays in these causes, we call for a revamping of US foreign policy including particular changes to the country's engagement with Haiti. To this end, we joined this [Joint Statement on Haiti](#) that emphasizes the need for Haitian-led solutions to governance, security, and disaster response, and are engaging in regular meetings with US government officials about the situation on the ground in Haiti. In particular, we encourage attention to and support
of the work of the Commission for a Haitian Solution to the Crisis, which has been working for months to create a pathway forward for governance and build a consensus within Haiti.

Take action

Share this joint statement with your members of Congress.

If your church is engaged in direct ministry in Haiti, consider signing this pledge for new minimum standards of engagement.

Write your members of Congress about comprehensive immigration reform.

---

**Be involved**

*Action Alerts*

*Posts from the Hill*

---

**Episcopal Church Foundation - Vital Practices**

**Faith in a Sand Dollar**

*By Mildred J. Briones Reyes*

*This article is also available in Spanish [here. Este artículo está disponible en español aquí.]*

One of my favorite activities as a child was hunting for seashells on the beach. Although I didn’t live near a beach, it is one of the places that truly sought me out. I recall going to my godparents’ beach house in Honduras many times and enjoying the simple things the beach had to offer – fine sand, turquoise-blue water, coconut palm trees, and unspoiled splendor. My days at the beach were full of adventures that are memories today. Now I must confess that as a child I was afraid of the ocean because of its vast power – strong and bold, aggressive waves that crashed to their destiny on the shore, leaving behind a treasure as they receded.

Fast-track to adulthood, and that tendency to roam the beaches is still a part of who I am. For me, as for many of you, going to the beach is a way of relaxing and having fun. But through the years, the beach has become more than just sand and water to me – the more I visit it, the more likely it is that I will find something unexpected. There is an instinctive longing to be amazed.

Someone once said that “our memories of the ocean will remain long after our footprints in the sand are gone,” and this has proven to be true for me. Six or seven years ago, I had a change of faith encounter. Like many of you and many people we hear about in the Bible, I have questioned God many times. During that period of my life, I was too committed to my personal and professional responsibilities – until I found myself at a crossroads. A few years prior to that, I had been active in several parish
committees, leading Sunday School, and spending just about seven days a week at the church. But like many of us, there comes a moment in life when we start to question our purpose. So I contacted a clergy mentor who could help me discern just what I was being called to do.

**Discernment is a process**

In our Christian faith, spiritual discernment is “a decision-making process in which a person makes a discovery than can lead to future action.” And according to Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest from the Netherlands and author of over 40 books on spirituality, “Discernment is a discipline and a practice that invites us to cultivate trust, love, faith, hope and courage.” I had a lot of things going on internally and had no idea what it was all about.

One afternoon, I met with my mentor to discuss some of the books he had given me to read. This lunch meeting was to become the first ripple in the sand for my change of faith encounter. A question came up that had to do with discernment: *Would I be interested in working for the church?* Just as I had been taught, I said, “Let me discern in a spirit of prayer whether this is what I am being called to do.”

**Seeking a sign on the beach**

That summer, following our tradition, my family and I vacationed in Corolla, North Carolina, to disconnect from our everyday routines. The serenity this beach provided was more than I could have asked for. The house where we were lodged had a splendid collection of seashells, gathered during the low season when cars and people couldn’t disturb or destroy the treasures the ocean left behind. Beachcomber that I am, I coveted one special seashell – a sand dollar. If you’re a beachcomber, you know there’s nothing quite like the excitement of finding one of those elusive sand dollars. Avid seashell collectors will tell you how difficult it is to find a shell as beautiful and rich as a sand dollar, due to its fragility and the impact of the waves on the shore, and how difficult it is even to know whether it is still alive.

Facing a decision, I did what others have done. I had a conversation with God while walking along the shore on the first day of our vacation. I said, “Lord, if you want me to work for your church, please help me find a sand dollar that is perfectly intact, and I will go work for you.” Sound familiar? How many times have you asked God for a sign? I know that I’ve done this many times, but this was different. There was something in my request that was out of the ordinary. I was challenging God to answer me as part of my journey of faith.

The following days, I saw the sun rise and set as I walked along the seashore in prayer, waiting to see whether God had answered my request. I became impatient as days went by and there was nothing – no whole sand dollars, just fragments. I began to think that maybe working for the church was not what I was being called to do, maybe God had other plans for me, maybe I shouldn’t have asked for a sign. I was actively waiting and praying to see what would show up as I spent my days enjoying the beach with my children, reading books, gazing at the power of the waves and the ripples in the sand.
Gratitude and an open heart change everything

As the final day of my vacation drew closer, I had a different conversation with God. I began to express my gratitude for the time with my family and the creation. I humbled myself and apologized for testing or questioning God. I said that it didn’t matter, whether he gave me a sand dollar or not. I would find a way to work for his church – that was a promise.

Faith and discernment have to do with taking risks, and with listening and trusting in God. The gospels have many examples in which God doesn’t provide a direct answer to a question, and it may be that we are asking the wrong questions. Once I eliminated the need to get that coveted sand dollar and made my true intentions known, God responded.

As the afternoon was drawing to a close, my youngest son and I were riding our bikes along the beach. I saw a sand dollar washed up on the shore and had to stop and see if it was real. I quickly jumped off the bike and, to my utter surprise, it was a sand dollar – totally intact. I picked it up and thanked God. It was perfect, no chips, no fragments, just absolute beauty. My son and I rejoiced. We went back to our bikes and headed home. As we neared the house, there was another sand dollar waiting for me. This one was somewhat different – splintered along the edge.

That summer, God gave me not only one sand dollar, but two – one totally intact and one splintered, as a reminder that we are not perfect but we all have splinters and broken fragments. I keep those sand dollars close at hand, because they are a reminder of my conversation with God and my promise to serve his church no matter what, and because I give thanks to God, the One who knows everything and is everywhere – as Psalm 139 says, “If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me!” The footprints in the sand from that encounter are imprinted forever in my very being, because God was and continues to be completely present with me, in spite of my impatient and doubtful self – it is God’s Spirit that lives within me.

Mildred J. Briones Reyes, TSSF, is the Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministries and Diocesan Initiatives in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. She has a passion for and commitment to strengthening Hispanic and multicultural congregations. In addition, she oversees the various diocesan grants and supports key diocesan programs and initiatives to advance the diocesan strategic plan. She finds her calling among the spirituality of joy, love, presence, forgiveness, humility and justice, as a professed member of the Third Order Society of St. Francis (TSSF). As a lay person, Mildred has served in various leadership capacities at the parish, diocesan, and wider-church levels. Born in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Mildred came to the United States in November 1984 and grew up in the Washington, DC area. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a focus in Marketing from Marymount University in Arlington, VA and a Master’s degree in Nonprofit Management and Organizational Development from the University of Maryland University College. Mildred makes her home in Maryland, where she is a proud momma to her sons Christian and Nicholas, and her four-legged boys, Rocco and Kota. She enjoys hiking, spending time in nature, reading poetry, dancing and singing freely, and learning about different cultures and foods.
Presiding Bishop Calls for Church Reformation ‘in the way of Jesus’ at House of Bishops Meeting

By David Paulsen

Posted Sep 21, 2021

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preaches Sept. 21 during the opening worship service of the House of Bishops online meeting.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, in his Sept. 21 sermon during the opening day of the fall House of Bishops meeting, recalled a recent conversation with a fellow bishop about planning for The Episcopal Church’s future. Such conversations typically look to the coming years, Curry said, “but in pandemic time, we can barely think a month ahead of time.”

This House of Bishops meeting is a prime example. The bishops’ twice-a-year meetings have been held online since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, but with vaccines against COVID-19 now widely available, the bishops had planned to gather Sept. 21-23 in St. Louis, Missouri, for their first in-person meeting in two years. Instead, the delta variant and the national surge in COVID-19 cases since July forced the bishops to cancel their face-to-face meeting and return to Zoom.

“So now we are here, not in St. Louis,” Curry told the bishops. “The miracle of vaccination has arrived, even with some boosters, and yet some refuse and the pandemic goes on.”
Curry wondered if diocesan conventions would be held in person this fall, and whether the delta variant could force further changes next year to the church’s General Convention and the Anglican Communion’s Lambeth Conference. “I don’t have any answers yet,” Curry said.

Curry spent much of his 25-minute sermon invoking the term “narthex,” the area of a church that people pass through to enter and exit, using it as a metaphor for this period of uncertainty and transition. “We are living in a narthex moment, between the world we knew and whatever is being born,” he said.

TEXT: Presiding Bishop’s Sermon

That moment was to be the focus of the bishops’ discussions with each other in the “table time” portion of the meeting’s first day. The opening worship service was livestreamed on YouTube, but the rest of the meeting was closed to the public.

Before the bishops broke into smaller groups, Utah Bishop Scott Hayashi posed three questions for them to discuss: What five words describe your experience with the pandemic? Where has God been present in this time? Have your goals as a bishop changed because of this time of pandemic, racial unrest and political division?

“I’ve had to take it into my heart to consider what has been lost and what has been gained,” said Hayashi, as he lamented that the bishops still could not have such conversations in person.

During his sermon, Curry described watching the 1953 movie “The Robe,” set in biblical times, and hearing echoes of today’s call for the church to reject the trappings of empire. He presented a vision of reformation in the church, away from the establishment and closer to Christianity’s origins in small gatherings.

This, he said, is a “church before collusion with the empire, the church that looks something like Jesus, the church that lived into ‘narthex,’ to let go of the way things were, to behold the way things could be.”

Curry continued that such a church would be “not formed in the way of the world but formed in the way of Jesus and his love.”

“A community of small gatherings and congregations of all stripes and types, a human tapestry, God’s wondrous variety, the Kingdom, the reign of God, the beloved community, no longer centered on empire or establishment, no longer fixated on the preservation of institution, no longer propping up white supremacy or in collusion with anything that hurts or harms any child of God or God’s creation – by God’s grace, a church that looks and acts and lives like Jesus.

“Welcome to narthex, and welcome to behold a new heaven, a new Earth, a new you, a new me, a new we.”

- David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org.
Hospital Chaplain Develops System That Helps Loved Ones Speak For Patients Who Can’t

By Egan Millard

Posted Sep 9, 2021

Medical staff at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, use TIMS to log audio interviews with patients’ loved ones. Photo: Johns Hopkins Medicine

[Episcopal News Service] Amid all the bodily suffering that hospital workers have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, Elizabeth Tracey was bothered by another kind of suffering: the dehumanization of care for patients who were intubated and could not speak. Wanting to restore a personal connection between patients and medical staff, she developed an audio system that helps doctors and nurses get to know their patients through the voices of their loved ones.

Even before the pandemic, Tracey – an Episcopalian and lay chaplain at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland – had been witnessing burnout and frustration among doctors and nurses. Burdened with growing workloads and dealing increasingly with computerized processes, many medical workers were feeling demoralized and disconnected from their patients.

COVID-19 dramatically escalated that phenomenon. Hospital staff have been stretched to their limits, treating unprecedented numbers of patients who are on ventilators and unable to speak. On top of that, the relatives and friends who normally would communicate on behalf of nonverbal patients and give doctors personal insights have been unable to visit for much of the pandemic.
A conversation with a critical care physician in Johns Hopkins’ medical intensive care unit in April 2020 impressed upon Tracey the gravity of this particular aspect of the pandemic.

“All of my patients are intubated, sedated and often prone, and there’s no family telling me their story. I have no idea who they are,” Tracey recalled him saying.

Other doctors and nurses told her the same thing. The lack of personal connection not only contributed to their sense of dehumanization in medicine, but also made it harder to make the right decisions. Getting some sense of the patient’s personality and lifestyle can help doctors determine appropriate care and avoid putting the person through unnecessary procedures.

“I told him I could reach out to the designated contact person listed in patients’ medical charts and find out a bit about them,” she recalled.

Click this link to watch the video, “Right Here Right Now-Solutions: Telling Stories About Patients as People”.

That conversation was the genesis of the program now known as This Is My Story, or TIMS. Tracey and other hospital staff members begin by identifying patients who can’t speak – because of intubation or another reason – and who are expected to stay in the hospital longer than three days. She calls their listed contacts and has 10-to 20-minute recorded conversations, asking questions from open-ended to specific.

To get the conversation going on a light note, she often asks the relative or friend whether the patient has any pets.

“Most people really love their dogs or other pets and are happy to describe their wonderful qualities, so it helps begin the conversation, usually on a very positive note,” Tracey told Episcopal News Service.

She asks about personality traits, relationships, hobbies, even favorite foods. Then she’ll ask the friends or family members what they would like to say to the patient and what they’d like the medical team to know. She edits the interview down to about 2 minutes and embeds the audio file in the patient’s electronic record so any member of the care team can listen to it.

Tracey, a member of St. James Episcopal Church in Monkton, Maryland, has worked as a broadcast journalist for decades and is the director of Health Newsfeed, a brief daily podcast from Johns Hopkins Medicine that’s syndicated on national radio stations.
“Clearly this helped me a lot in creating TIMS, as I was already very familiar with the format of brief, informative audio,” she told ENS. “Audio files work really well because the clinician can multitask while listening. They can chart, for example, while they hear the patient’s story. Clinicians are already deluged with text-based material.”

Despite some initial skepticism, doctors and nurses have responded positively to TIMS. One doctor, who at first wasn’t convinced it would have any impact, agreed to try it with his patients, and within a few days, he was requesting it for all his eligible patients, Tracey said. Nurses have told her they feel more connected to the patients after listening to the clips, sometimes discovering things they have in common, and giving them something to talk about with their conscious patients, even if they can’t reply with anything more than a smile.

“Sometimes listening to a file brings a tear to someone’s eyes, because they’re so raw and human,” one nurse told Tracey.

The TIMS program has taken on a life of its own, with the help of a $50,000 grant from Johns Hopkins. The chaplaincy department has expanded the program to other units and hospitals in the Johns Hopkins system, and it is now available in languages other than English. Chaplains – including those doing clinical pastoral education training – do the phone interviews, and medical students help edit them down.

Although more family and friends are able to visit in person now, TIMS still serves a valuable function, Tracey said.

“Visitor restrictions are relaxed a bit, relative to how they were when we had a lot of acute COVID in the hospital, but TIMS is still very useful since even when loved ones are present. They don’t want to be telling the patient’s story again and again,” she told ENS, “and the hospital operates 24/7, so other shifts also get a chance to learn about the patient.”

Initially developed with intubated critical COVID-19 patients in mind, TIMS is now used for a variety of patients, from an elderly woman on a ventilator dying of COVID-19 to a middle-aged man recovering from a risky liver transplant to a 33-year-old with cerebral palsy experiencing respiratory trouble. Those who recover are often comforted to learn that their medical team knows more about them than just a name and a diagnosis, Tracey said.

For Tracey, TIMS was an example of one concrete way to improve medical care during a time of so much suffering and uncertainty: by making sure the human connection between caregiver and patient was not lost.

“Watching the everyday heroism of the medical staff, I hope and pray that TIMS files will help support them,” she said.

-Egan Millard is an assistant editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at emillard@episcopalchurch.org.
September 21, 2021

Our garden is past the point of no return.

It’s been days since I walked the beds searching for ripe cherry tomatoes and green bell peppers. Tucked to the side of our house behind a small white shed, it’s easy to ignore what needs to be done. Yet, with the cool fall mornings and the gentle hum of insects, I make my way to our four rows of plants.

Draped from a trellis yellow; shriveled cucumbers hang by a thin thread. The okra reaches to the sky, yellow and purple flowers still blooming, along with a host of oversized, forgotten okra. The jalapenos have grown so big that I can’t tell which leaves belong where, and the sweet potato leaves have traveled into the grass.

I stand at the edge of the garden, unsure of where to start. There’s not a patch of soil free of weeds. The walking beds are unseeable between the dead squash vines, crab grass, and overgrown leaves that have taken over. I walk around the perimeter hoping for a way in, a place that doesn’t feel so overwhelming.

Underneath the tomato plants I find ripe cherry tomatoes covering the ground. I pick one up and brush the dirt away before popping this one small fruit of my labor into my mouth. It’s warmth and juice gushes across my lips, a taste of lingering summer.

For a few moments I lift my face to the sky and feel its warmth, saying a prayer of thanks for this small bounty.

Later when the kids are in bed, the sun dipping behind clouds, and a cool breeze making goose bumps on my legs, I head once again to the garden. I don’t look at the whole plot of land, but rather the row in front of me. Melons are hanging from a green trellis and a few yellow flowers still cling to the vine. There’s hope for more melons to grow. Squatting down on my knees, I set my eyes right below me. I can’t do everything, the garden will still be out of control, there will always be weeds to pull, but right now, I can start.

I pull one weed and see a tiny glimmer of soil.

Kimberly Knowle-Zeller is an ordained ELCA pastor, mother of two, and spouse of an ELCA pastor. She lives with her family in Cole Camp, MO. You can read more at her website, follow her work on Facebook, or sign up for her monthly newsletter
Vestry News

Meeting minutes summary for September meeting and finances for August, 2021

Date to Remember: Rev. Debra announced she’d be back from Sabbatical on December 19.

There is a new Episcopal Church Committee headed up by Terry Berkery and Rev. Christine Leigh-Taylor. This committee is focused on getting food packages to individuals displaced by the fire. (Let’s all be as supportive as we can.)

Mark your Calendars: Paul Hauck, actor, will perform a Theatrical play portraying Clarence Darrow at the Church, Sunday, November 14, 2021. The net proceeds will help fund repairs to the Church. Tickets are $15.00 and will include dessert. Contact Ruthie Sinclair for tickets at ruthiesinclair@yahoo.com after October 10.

The date of the next meeting will be October 24, at noon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 FINANCES FOR AUGUST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual August Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted August Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual August Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted August Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue (Jan - August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses (Jan - August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-To-Date Net (Jan - August)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October 1, 2021

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

If it’s good to be together, it must be bad to be apart.

And yet the truth is that life has always been a rhythm of separation and togetherness, exile and return. We may prefer the “return” bit, the “bring you back to this place” bit, but that doesn’t mean separation isn’t part of the story.

Experiences of separation are at least as old as the ancient stories of the Garden of Eden, the Israelites’ exile in Babylon, and the parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus and his followers were separated by betrayal and death, and then reunited by forgiveness and newness of life. Even on our most “normal” days, our lives are a rhythm of gathering and dispersing, coming together and going apart, calls to worship and benedictions.

We at Our Saviour are certainly acquainted with necessary separations at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as we all struggled with how to be faithful and yet protect one another in unknown territory. You might even think we were a little like ancient forebears searching for a promised land of safety and plenty - or, just for life as we used to know it. We used Facebook, we wore masks, we have been exceedingly adaptable in finding new ways to be a community of Christ together. We don't know - no one knows - how this disease plays out globally, but we have been careful to protect each other locally.

As challenging as this past year and a half have been, we can take solace in the knowledge that our ancestors, too, experienced seasons of exile. And here’s the point: thanks to this history, over time our faith — and our church — has been built to help us live through such seasons with grace and hope.

At our core, Church of Our Saviour is a community of homecoming. Now more than ever, in a world full of exile, our congregation stands as a beacon of hope, welcome, and radical hospitality.

With all of this in mind, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for all the resources — spiritual, theological, physical, and financial — that support this indispensable ministry. And as we look ahead, enclosed you’ll find a special prayer. We invite you to pray this prayer daily over the coming weeks, and to bring your pledge card (filled out with your instructions) to in-person or online worship on Giving
Sunday, November 14, 2021. Together, we’ll turn in our cards; and together, we’ll celebrate God’s beautiful gift of “a future with hope.”

Blessings,

Debra+ Christine+ Becky

The Rev. Debra Sabino, Rector
The Rev. Christine Leigh-Taylor, Associate
Becky Leighton, Senior Warden

A Giving Prayer

You are invited to pray this “Giving Prayer” daily. Find a quiet moment, center your heart, notice the steam rising from your cup of tea or coffee or the breeze moving through the trees, and pray this prayer written by Becky Leighton.

Heavenly Father, over and over, we become scattered and separated. Over and over, like a good shepherd, you find us and bring us home. For the togetherness You have granted us at Church of Our Saviour, thank you. For the gift of faith that gets us through difficult times, thank you. For being able to meet in person again for services, as well as on-line service each Sunday, thank you. For the church newsletter, updates sent by Rev Deb, In Your Prayers, special Prayer Vigils, Stations of the Cross, Bible study, meditation, thank you. For the help our congregation could give to the Caldor Fire victims, thank you. In your generosity and grace, Heavenly Father, grant me wisdom to see what I can give to keep contributing to our togetherness at Our Saviour, both in my presence and in my financial giving. Amen

October Calendar

Our website is currently down and the Calendar is unavailable so these dates are added here.

- Rite I Holy Eucharist every Sunday morning at 8:00 am
- Rite II Holy Eucharist every Sunday morning at 10:30 am
- Blessing of the Animals: October 10 during the Rite II service
- Women’s Bible Study every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am
- Daughters of the King: First Thursday of the month, 10:00 am
- Altar Guild: Third Thursday of the month, 10:00 am
- Vestry Meeting: October 24, noon

Continued on next page...
• Fixes and Flourishes meeting: November 8, 10:00 am
• “Trials of Clarence Darrow” play, November 12, 2:00 pm
• Giving Sunday service, November 14

---

**Ministry and Hospitality Schedules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Readers</th>
<th>Ushers</th>
<th>EMS</th>
<th>Prayers of the People</th>
<th>Hospitality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>L. Weikert</td>
<td>S. Bert</td>
<td>T. Weikert</td>
<td>B. Leighton</td>
<td>B. Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Leighton</td>
<td>T. Weikert</td>
<td>D. Zelinsky</td>
<td>K. Aguilar</td>
<td>L. Weikert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td></td>
<td>J. Griffin</td>
<td>C. Griffin</td>
<td>T. Weikert</td>
<td>D. Adams</td>
<td>M. Goodrich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td>L. Perpall</td>
<td>C. Griffin</td>
<td>S. Bert</td>
<td>B. Leighton</td>
<td>D. Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Roberts</td>
<td>M. Berkery,</td>
<td>Y. Giordano</td>
<td>T. Naylor</td>
<td>L. Bettencourt,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>T. Berkery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S. Mathews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>T. Fritschi</td>
<td>Blessing of</td>
<td>Blessing of the</td>
<td>Y. Giordano</td>
<td>K. Fritschi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>the Animals</td>
<td>the Animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y. Giordano</td>
<td>M. Berkery,</td>
<td>T. Berkery</td>
<td>D. Adams</td>
<td>T. Naylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D. Lightfoot,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td>L. Weikert</td>
<td>M. Berkery,</td>
<td>T. Weikert</td>
<td>K. Fritschi</td>
<td>C. Raffety,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Roberts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M. Raffety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Roberts</td>
<td>D. Adams,</td>
<td>T. Berkery</td>
<td>Y. Giordano</td>
<td>M. Berkery,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M. Berkery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>T. Berkery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Birthdays:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karin Aquilar</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorna Perpall</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trisha Wilson</td>
<td>12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Weikert</td>
<td>21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Medlong</td>
<td>28th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Episcopal Church of Our Saviour
P.O. Box 447
2979 Coloma Street
Placerville, CA 95667-0447

TIME DATE MATERIAL. PLEASE EXPEDITE