



"The Ark"

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Fallbrook, California
August 2009**



The Ecumenical Vacation Bible School held at St. Peter's was very good. We had three participants from St. John's, Sidney Nocon, Devon Nocon and Sara Pearson. And I thank them for displaying a few of the songs they sung at VBS for us on Sunday July 26th. Next year Carol Pearson has accepted the position of being our representative from St. John's at the VBS planning sessions. That's sort of the way Ecumenism goes, it takes time to be included in the planning of things and we are well on our way with St. Peter's.

We are meeting with the Church of Latter Day Saint's group this Thurs at 2:00 to plan the details of our dialog with them. Thank you very much for those who have offered to serve in this effort.

Margaret O'Leary and I attended the Diocesan Budget meeting at St. Timothy's this Saturday, July 25. And the Bishop said himself that just meeting on this subject in the middle of Summer shows that something important is happening and we will give a full report to the Vestry and implore everyone to come to our Stewardship Program to be announced as soon as the Bishop can get a time for us in his busy calendar.

Finally the General Convention in Anaheim is over and the Mission and the work begin again. I see our life as a Prophetic Church to be one that we will need all the Wisdom of Paul when he urges the Ephesians in Chapter 4:30-5:2 to have a plan of Strategic Kindness.

When you read the record and see the circumstances you see that Jesus was also not a wimp but really both were men of great courage. They knew how to stare both danger and death in the face. Yet they also knew that little is to be gained by escalating anger and malice into a more serious confrontation. They knew that if you live by and "eye for an eye" credo, it can only produce a downward spiral of revenge and resentment. The best way to defeat an enemy is to make them an ally. So Jesus would teach in the Sermon on the Mount, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you,, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." (Matthew 5:39-41)

This is Strategic Kindness. It is not a justification for being a wimp. It is not a call to be soft. It is simply recognition that violence breeds violence, whether it is physical or verbal. Hatred

breeds hatred. We can turn a minor disagreement into a major conflict by the way we handle our anger.

So let's be the Church Paul urges us to be, "Get rid of all bitterness. rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you...."

Let us pray for the Mission of the Church as found in the BCP page 816.

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ:

Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen,

with Love and Prayers,

You Friend in Christ,

Fr. Wayne+

Tentative Scheduling For the Fall

The 1st Wed of the month at 5 PM there will be the Vestry meeting,

The 2nd Wed will be a Bible Study on the mid-week Eucharist or

next Sunday's Lessons

The 3rd Wed Holy Eucharist and Healing Service,

The 4th Wed a group Contemplative Meditation..

no previous experience necessary,

The 5th Wed could always be another Eucharist with Healing prayers

or special continued lessons from Holy Scriptures.

WHAT HAS THE VESTRY BEEN UP TO THIS MONTH?

“Transparency” is a watchword for your vestry, because we have all learned the importance of keeping everybody informed as we do our best to serve God as we care for our property here at St. John’s . So, to put this intent into action, we now are posting the complete vestry minutes in Duddington Hall every month. Take a minute to look through them at the next coffee hour, and if you have questions or concerns, share them with a vestry member (listed in the Bulletin) so we can follow up on your ideas. And as a teaser, here is the short version:

Vestry Action, July 8

Discussed ongoing care of the Stagecoach Lane property

Each vestry member took on responsibility for locking up on certain Sundays.

Helped Margaret O’Leary with the preparation of the form for request of funds from the Diocese again this year.

Regretfully accepted the resignation of vestry member Jim Massman, with thanks for his service.

Fr. Sanders announced that the Bishop has offered to lead a workshop on stewardship for us in the fall.

Began a discussion of the possibilities of our future and ongoing relationship with Fr. Will.

Agreed with Patty’s request to send the prayer list every other week rather than every week.

Patty Campbell, Clerk of the Vestry

ABOUT ST. JOHN'S FAMILY



Moving back into our church has meant work for many and it is our hope that soon all will be operating smoothly.

Many new faces have graced our pews and we want to be able to know everyone and introduce you through our newsletter. First, when **Ellen Mykkanen** said that last name which is unique I had to question her and she was indeed the daughter of **Juanita** and **Don** whom we have known as involved in the Fallbrook community from the Music Society to the Food Pantry and their church and more. Ellen has been a delight and one of her interests is to study stained glass windows. We gave her the information on ours and now we know that the technique is called Dall de Verre. She has given us a marvelous history which will be posted on our board when it is organized. Ellen has been commuting to U.C. Berkeley where she is studying for an advanced degree, and she is hoping to secure a position which would no doubt take her away from our area.

We have been like ships passing with summer vacations and family events which frequently happen on weekends.

We did see **Bea Cyran** in the market and pleased to know she was recovering from her surgery, and hope when will bet enough rest by the time her teaching duties resume. The teaching profession is well represented in our parish.

Leann and **Dave McStay** (also former parish members of Fr. Sanders) are both teachers. Leann was filling for **Steve Wood's** class, while Steve and Kathy have been on vacation in Canada. **Steve** and **Kathy** another teaching duo, though Kathy retired at the end of the term and since she is our Senior Warden when will still have many duties to fill her hours.

Nancy Wilshire has returned from her Montana retreat, an annual summer visit she and her husband make.

The last report from **Pricilla Mowry** about her grandson **Brad**, who was burned after falling in a bonfire, was more hopeful fortunately.

Arthur and **Rebecca Brown** do get rave reviews when they were hosts for the Fellowship hour after the services on Father's Day. Apparently they had a spectacular menu which we missed because we had to go home to feed the hungry fathers in our family. The Brown's will be gone the whole month of September to the east coast.

So if you are new members do not forget to come back and join us, we have some talented cooks in our midst.

The Thrift Shop board had a wonderful luncheon for Volunteers in Duddington Hall and the first Thrift Shop luncheons had that special Broccoli Salad Virginia Corison made and perhaps we should publish that next month, as Virginia's legacy.

Jane and **Penrhyn** Millsap finally returned after their 8,769mile motor trip, covering 17 states. They attended Jane's granddaughter's wedding in Wichita, then Penrhyn's eldest grandson's wedding in Pennsylvania, then headed out for their original destination of Orlando, FL. to Disney World. Fun, Fun!

Until September—Be Careful, Blessings, Jane Watson

Pre Stewardship: things to think about

Margaret Singleton O'leary

What the heck does that headline mean? (Now I have your attention.) This fall we will all be asked to consider a pledge to the church. Money is most needed but times are tough and a pledge of time or of tangible assets such as weekly flowers or coy and printing services can be part of all our efforts. The Vestry has worked up a 2010 budget and everyone is free to see it. We are also applying for support from the Diocese since we have been hobbled with the loss of pledges from the Anglican break off and now we are burdened with additional expenses such as the maintenance of the church building and taxes and water bills on the vacant land we own . Father Wayne and I went to a Saturday budget meeting with the bishop and other churches. Money for the "mission churches" (those that need temporary extra support) is pretty much not there anymore. We have little room to cut. The Anglicans who left us and still have some of our treasury, have 10 people on the church payroll. We have one part time retired priest who gets a modest housing allowance and mileage only. The only other payroll is a modest stipend for our organist who adds so much to the service.

Some thoughts for the congregation to consider: The land at Fallbrook St and Stagecoach represents a dream, now distantly deferred, for a new larger church. Do we dump it in this really bad real estate market or do we hold on and try and make holding it "revenue neutral"? Our church building is property tax exempt but the land is not. Should we consider a community garden ? with modest fees to cover water? Could we move an old mobile home on and use as a church office and gain tax exemption? (I don't know, this would need research). Most of the lemon trees were cut down by the Anglicans so we cannot sell a crop.

Are their evening or weekday uses we could put the church building to while still limiting liability and excess damage and wear and tear? The last is important—say—if a day care center was operated.

How much of some of the other items in the budget can be donated in-kind vs paid for? Examples are janitorial and landscaping for the church. We have a copier contract for next two years which may be expensive to break but in two years or now, could we share with another business or another church and get the essential copying work done?

If you have ideas that can generate revenue beyond pledges or ideas to cut our already very lean expenses, email a member of the Vestry.

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BECOMING MY MOTHER

My mother, in many ways, was a mystery to me. She was a continual puzzlement. One volunteer task she happily did each week – cleaning the Catholic church we attended as well as the nearby priest's house – always baffled me.

I wondered why. Why would she spend every Saturday – scarce free time amid her many work and home obligations – cleaning a church? Sometimes I would hear her grumble – just to herself, of course – about how the priest would start messing up the place even before she could finish cleaning it.

My mother never said whether she cleaned alone or as part of a team. It was simply her way, her life, her Saturday ritual.

For decades, I attributed her church-cleaning tendencies to her German upbringing. Germans seem to constantly push themselves, drive themselves, in work and in play and in life. Perhaps that explained my mother. Maybe it was merely a compulsion to be busy.

It wasn't until after we returned to Iowa Street as a church congregation that I was able to solve that riddle about my mother.

We seemed few in number at St. John's upon our return. All of us instantly became immersed in tasks we weren't trained for or prepared for. There so was much to be done on so many fronts. The schism cut deep, and our budget was bleak. Calls went out, and one came to Margaret and me. Then, all of a sudden it seemed, we were on a list for one-day-a-week volunteer office duty.

I work Thursdays. It was Tuesdays for a long time. But Thursdays recently became a better fit for me, and **Kathy Witkoff** was kind enough to trade days.

According to the semiofficial volunteer "job description," I'm should busy myself answering the phone, returning telephone or e-mail messages, bringing in the snail mail, folding bulletins, answering correspondence and doing other office-related duties. And, by the way, the hanging plants outside might need watering, too.

On a "busy" day, though, there might be just one lonely message on the answering machine when I arrive. If a day is really busy, there might be one more phone call, a sparse visitor or perhaps another message left during my four-hour or so stint. The hanging plants are often sopping wet when I arrive. The office computer was gone – and thus no e-mail -- the last time I was there.

As a result, in part likely due to my German upbringing and my constant quest for busyness, on church days I usually find myself emptying trash cans, sweeping, mopping and vacuuming.

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

Often I leave the courtyard door to the church open about a foot. That way I can hear organist **Kris Waldner** practice the pieces she'll be playing on Sunday.

If I have enough leftover time – before my regular duties tug me toward the north or to the south – I paint and stain the courtyard benches and other worn, fading surfaces.

It was while I vacuumed the church – and painted and stained some benches – that I came to understand my mother. She probably cleaned the church and the rectory to feel closer to God. I've started to feel that way now.

That's why a recent sermon by Father Wayne really hit home to me. In it, Father Wayne talked about seeing Jesus working in the yard at St. John's. Father Wayne then talked about seeing Jesus elsewhere, too. Jesus was at the market, and the car repair shop and the veterinarian's

I felt like telling Father Wayne that I, too, saw Jesus at St. John's. But, in all honesty, I would have to say that I feel Jesus more than I see him.

There is something about that church – a quiet, cozy refuge with light streaming through skylights and stained glass – that makes me feel as though I am truly in the service of the Lord. It makes me feel as though I have indeed found a place in His mind and His heart.

It makes me believe that St. Peter has already set aside a humble slice of heaven for me. There, waiting for me in the place where I can serve for all eternity, are a broom, a paint brush, a vacuum cleaner and a drum.

It is there, in our little church, that I feel Jesus and I understand my mother.

.Prayerfully, Tim O'Leary



THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!**THE SPIRIT OF GIVING IS ALIVE AND WELL AT ST. JOHN'S**

By Gail Jones

It takes many hands to keep the church doors open and ready to greet worshipers each week. As usual, the members of St. John's have joined in to do their part and have graciously and joyfully participated in the many tasks at hand. We appreciate those members who have donated a part of each week to "manning the office" for a few hours each day: **Victor Baker, Anita Province, Charlotte McCutchen, Tim O'Leary and Margaret Singleton, Jan Massman, Kathy Witkoff, Sue Ortler, Leann McStay**, and the **Watsons**. The landscaping and yard maintenance has been dutifully attended to by **Stan Nagle, Jim Massman, Dave McStay, Dale New, Keith Goard, John Stephens, Steve Wood and Steve Jones**. Anyone who owns a home knows that groundskeeping is a chore that's never done. **Patty Campbell** and **Mary Mazy** are busily attending to the Library and **Peggy Johnson, Ruth Mowat** and **Norma Pearson** cleaned out the kitchen and organized the supplies. Thank you one and all.

There are many more who are working on committees keeping St. John's an inviting and beautiful house of worship and fellowship. We are very blessed to have the love and support of so many wonderful congregants. Every member is sharing their time, money, and/or talent contributing to the overall health of St. John's and we are thankful for each other.

THE BISHOP IS COMING!!! THE BISHOPS BLEND, that is.....

"What is the Bishops Blend?" you ask. It is a wonderful way for us to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while helping Episcopal Relief & Development address human suffering in the world. Using the sale of a premium blend of special grade coffees and teas, the organic, shade-grown and certified Fair Trade Bishops Blend protects the earth while ensuring that farmers are paid a living wage in Central America, Indonesia, and Africa and have access to affordable credit.

Kathy Witkoff will be organizing this wonderful outreach program at St. John's and will be providing us with more details as they become available. In the meantime, plan on using these great tasting products in your home or office. You can buy extra bags and give them to friends and family as gifts. It's a great way to help make a change for the better **ONE CUP AT A TIME**.

Episcopal Relief & Development is the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

RETHINKING OUR MISSION AND GOALS

By Patty Campbell

Last month Canon Jenny Vervynck led your vestry and several other St. John's members in a group exercise to shorten and tighten our mission statement and to develop a list of four goals for the coming year. After some very intense discussion and soul-searching by everyone, we hammered out the following:

The mission of St. John's Episcopal Church is to be the Good News of Christ Jesus in the world by welcoming and nurturing all as we celebrate God's love.

Our goals for the year, again developed with everyone's participation, are these:

1. Maintain our building and grounds.
1. Strengthen our sense of community so that we can reach out to others.
2. Grow our congregation to the point that we are self-sufficient and can call fulltime clergy.

Provide Christian education for all ages.

In September 2010, we will have a "mutual ministry review" to see how we are doing in accomplishing these goals and to evaluate whether they still represent God's purpose for us. During this year we can all take part in the work. Here are some jobs that need doing matched with the goals. Which one fits your abilities? How can you be a part of the Body of Christ?

Chair a committee to clear out room 2. (Kathy Wood – 728-0477)

Help out by gardening, painting, or carpentering. Call for times and jobs (Steve Jones - 723-3292).

Make the prayer list a daily part of your devotions. Train to be a healing prayer

leader (Patty – 723-6184) Seek out and greet new people at

church and/or become a regular greeter (Janet Watson – 723-1446). Help sew a

prayer quilt (Mary Mazy – 731-3971) Visit the sick with the Ministry of

Remembrance (Peggy Johnson – 723-4467)

Invite your neighbors and family to come to worship services and fellowship events. Renew your pledge when the time comes.

Help our great Sunday school teacher Steven Wood (728-0477) Bring not only your kids, but your kids' friends to church. Grow your faith by reading books, viewing videos, and listening to tapes from the church library. Come to Wednesday Bible study.

GOD AT PLAY IN CREATION

Sane & healthful humor is deeply Christian

(Rev. Dr. F. Christopher Anderson, pastor of Heidelberg United Church of Christ, York, PA, is the author of a book titled *God Is Still Laughing: The Revised Heidelberg Catechism*, excerpts from which have been published in *JN*. Now the irrepressible Rev. Anderson has authored an essay titled "A Brief Systematic Theology of Humor: How to Run an Ad Campaign with No Budget" for *Prism*, the theological journal for the United Church of Christ. Here are some excerpts from that essay, adapted with permission.)

By Rev. Dr. F. Christopher Anderson

The merry-hearted humorist G.K. Chesterton once replied to one of his solemn religious critics:

"Mr. McCabe thinks that I am not serious but only funny, because Mr. McCabe thinks that funny is the opposite of serious. Funny is the opposite of not funny and nothing else."

Reinhold Niebuhr observed: "What is so funny about us is precisely that we take ourselves too seriously. Laughter is a sane and healthful response to the innocent foibles of men; and even to some which are not innocent."

"Ultimate seriousness," said Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "is not without a dose of humor."

Krister Stendahl remarked: "Humor, together with irony, forms a safeguard against idolatry."

"A sour religion is the devil's religion," said John Wesley.

"Humor," said Charles Schulz, "is proof that everything is going to be all right with God nevertheless."



Rev. Anderson

QUESTION: What is a theologian?

ANSWER: A person who knows a lot concerning how little we know about God.

QUESTION: What is theology?

ANSWER: The course in seminary where you unlearn all you learned in Bible College.



St. John's celebrates with you on your birth.

Look with favor we pray, on your servants

Pam Stephens	2nd	Ian Stephens	2nd
Julie Peck	6th	Leighton Goard	9th
Dr. Bob Watson	11th	Rebecca Brown	17th
Norma Pearson	17th	Kathy Witkoff	21st
Franya Sidoroff	24th	Dr. Steve Jones	27th
Jan Massman	29th		

as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

A man was sleeping soundly when his wife shook him and said, "Wake up, someone is breaking in!" The man had gone through this same scenar⁸⁹ almost every knight of his marriage, and he knew that the only way he would get any rest was to get up and go check it out.

This time, however, he found that there really was burglar who entered to rob the house.

As the thief was about to flee, the man said, "Stop! You have to come with me and meet my wife."

Surprised, the thief turned around abruptly and said, "Why would you want *me* to meet your wife?"

The man replied, "She's been expecting you for 20 years."

Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft Glasboro (NJ) United Methodist Church

Eve: "Adam, do you love me?"

Adam: "Who else?"

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

St. John's Episcopal Church
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Phone (760) 760-728-2908
Web Site—stjohnsepiscopalfallbrook.com
The Rev. Canon Wayne F. Sanders
Priest in Charge
Altar Guild—Pam Stephens—Kathy Witkoff
Choir—Kathy Wood, & Kathy Sanders
Christian Education—Steve Wood
Clerk—Patty Campbell
Cursillo—Kathy Wood
Daughters of the King—Kathy Wood
Directory—Anita Province/Jane Millsap
Healing—Patty Campbell, Jane Millsap,
Frankie Schwenderman—Kathy Sanders
Hospitality—Susan Ortler
Internal Communications—Gail Jones
Liturgy & Music—Keith Goard,
Kathy Wood & Kathy Sanders
Newsletter—Jane Millsap, Janet Watson,
Patty Campbell & Tim O'Leary
Organist—Kris Walder
Outreach—Bob Watson—Peggy Johnson
Parish Life—Peggy Johnson, Bob Watson
Pastoral Care—Bob & Janet Watson
Phone Tree—Gail Jones
Planning—Arthur Brown & Dale New
Prayer List—Patty Campbell
Prayers & Squares—Mary Mazy
Sunday School—Steve Wood
Thrift Shop—Frankie Schwenderman
Treasurer—Carol Pearson
Website—Rick Barclay
Youth—Keith Goard

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VISION STATEMENT

We are committed to welcoming, teaching, and inspiring others with the Good News of Christ. We strive to restore people to unity with God and each other in Jesus Christ, by equipping God's people for ministry and caring for God's world.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's mission is to serve Christ in others by gathering all with open arms into the Kingdom of God and celebrating Christ's transforming power in our midst. We seek to reach out in justice and compassion, both to the world and to each other.