

Vicar

The Rev. Sharon Sheffield

Bishop's Committee

Allen Stout, *Bishop's Warden*

Shelley Arnold, *People's Warden*

Andrea Utzman, *Clerk*

Lynne Richmond, *Minutes*

Secretary

Lance Brooks, *Treasurer*

John Mitchell, *Bookkeeper*

Jane Gordon-Topper

Camelia Jolly

Jeremy Richmond

Sue Williams

Minister of Music & Organist

Editor of Canterbury Tales

William Henderson

St. Thomas of Canterbury

Episcopal Church

5306 East Arbor Road

Long Beach, CA 90808

(562) 425-4457

Vicar's church email:

stlb47@verizon.net

Vicar's home email:

revsharonsheffield@gmail.com

Vicar's Cell: 562-833-3393

Web homepage:

stthomascanterbury.org

CANTERBURY TALES

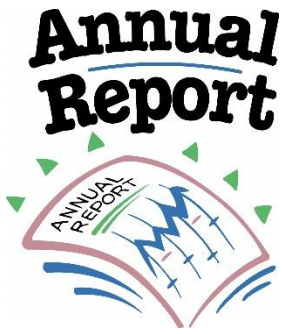
JANUARY 2024



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 6

Call for Annual Meeting Reports



Our annual meeting is Sunday, February 4. We will have a combined service at 9:00am and then move into Larkin Hall for our meeting and a potluck brunch. If you are the head of a St. Thomas ministry, please remember that you need to submit a report for our Annual Meeting Booklet. Reports are **due by January 21** so that we can format the booklet and have it ready for distribution. Please email your report as a word document if at all possible, as that makes it easy to drop in reports as they arrive. Thanks for your ministries and your help.

Shrove Tuesday Talent Show



It's only January, but it's not too early to begin planning our Shrove Tuesday festivities. As is our custom, we'll have our usual Pancake Supper with our St. Gregory's siblings... and then we'll have a Talent Show as a fun way to end our Epiphany season! We will have room for about fifteen short acts, and they can be almost anything you can think of: music, juggling, poetry, you name it.

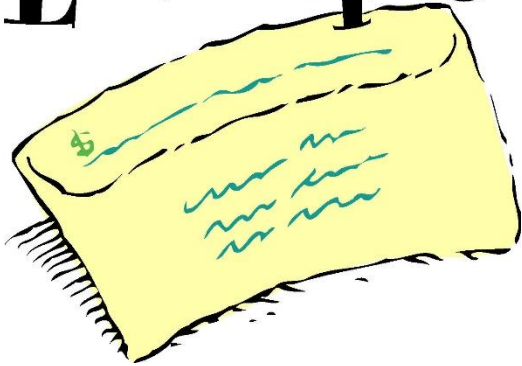
The only restrictions are these: they must be family-friendly acts, appropriate for people to watch in the church; if you need musical accompaniment, you must provide it yourself; and you **MUST** audition before your clergy! We don't want to be surprised in a bad way, and we do want to be sure that everyone's act is short enough to fit in as many acts as possible. Please sign up in the narthex if you're interested in performing, so there's time to set up auditions before the big day.

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MOVING TO THE FOURTH SUNDAY

As you know, the Bishop's Committee has tried several different meeting times this past year. With that information, we've decided to try having the meeting on the fourth Sunday of the month, beginning at 11:45am. We hope this makes for fewer schedule shifts during the year, and fewer conflicts with our renters' schedules. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend the Bishop's Committee meetings as a visitor and see how your elected officials work to make St. Thomas thrive.

OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE EN ROUTE

Offering Envelopes



Usually, we have the year's offering envelopes ready at the start of January. Unfortunately, there were shipping delays in December, and they will not be available until mid-January. If you have leftover 2023 envelopes, you are welcome to use them and just put the correct date on the envelope; otherwise, please use a regular envelope and write your pledge number on the envelope so the counters' job is easier. We're sorry for the hassle,

and we appreciate all your pledges and donations.

Epiphany Lessons & Carols and Dinner

Remember that we are joining St. Gregory's for their Epiphany Lessons & Carols on Saturday, January 6 at 4:00pm. Dinner will follow for those who sent in their RSVPs. The service, of course, is free and open to all! Please come enjoy the Feast of the Epiphany with our sister congregation.

People's Warden Report

Shelley Arnold

ROOF REPAIR

Well, we've had a good bit of rain to test out the patch repairs on the roof. It appears that the leak into the hall and office have been fixed. However, we still have water "gushing" (*don't be so dramatic, Shelley. It is slowly dripping*) into the sanctuary down the brick wall.

WINDOW REPAIR

On January 3rd, Mike Oades of JMichaelDesigns will be coming to "see about" our triangular stained glass windows as well as removing our round window for repair. Hopefully the leak into the sanctuary will be fixed once he reseals around them.



HEDGE TRIMMING

The hedges in front of St. Thomas Church have been trimmed. Thank you to Larry, John, and Lance for getting that done. Plus, there's a plan in place so that they will be trimmed quarterly. Well done, Team!

WATER FOUNTAIN

Today our new water fountain is in a box. But, by the time you read this, it will be installed by Justen Lowrey of Lowrey Family Plumbing. Our new fountain has all the "bells and whistles" as they say... but it also will allow us to save on single-use plastic bottles, and will make us more attractive to our current and future renters. Best of all:

No more leaks onto the hallway floor, and we can change the water filter ourselves!
See for yourselves:

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Touchless, sensor activation (bottle filler) designed for easy use; easy-to-operate push-bar activation (bubbler)</p> <p>Hermetically sealed refrigeration system provides chilled water to satisfy thirst</p> <p>Fill rate is 1.1 GPM. Laminar flow provides clean fill with minimal splash. Real drain system eliminates standing water.</p> <p>Visual filter monitor with LED filter status indicator. Fillsafe recognition automatically recognizes new filter and updates LED light back to green.</p> <p>The 3,000-gallon filter is certified to NSF 42 and 53 for lead, Class 1 particulates, chlorine taste and odor reduction.</p> <p>Green Ticker informs the user of the number of 20 oz. plastic water bottles saved from waste.</p> <p>Key plastic components are manufactured with silver ion antimicrobial agent helping to provide clean, stain- and odor-free surfaces</p> <p>Silver ion antimicrobial protection on key plastic components to inhibit the growth of mold and mildew.</p> <p>Low-energy LED light encourages use, assists with filling dark bottles and illuminates in dark hallways.</p> |
|  | |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PLANNING MEETING

Please join us for a meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 7:00pm-8:00pm. We will meet in either the office or the sanctuary, depending on how many people show up. There will be snacks! Come let us know what you want to study this year. We need your ideas to help us make a plan for the year. All are welcome! Hope to see you there.

RESTARTING OUR MONTHLY TAIZÉ SERVICES

There's been interest recently in restarting our Taizé services. The idea will be to have Taizé some time between 5 and 6pm on Wednesday, before Bible or Book Study begins. Tentatively we are looking at the second Wednesday of the month, although there's a conflict in February with Ash Wednesday. If you are interested in attending Taizé, please let Mother Sharon know as soon as possible if you have a preference for which Wednesday of the month works best for you, and we'll see what schedule works for the most people.

ADVENT DINNER AND QUILT RAFFLE

We had a lovely time on December 17 with our Lessons & Carols Service and our Advent Dinner, at which the winning raffle ticket for the quilt was drawn. We had 47 people attend the service in person, with another 23 online, and had about 50 people at dinner. Between dinner and the raffle, we raised almost \$1000! Thanks to everyone who made our events a success.

If you missed the fun, here are pictures of the dinner and our raffle winner.





ADVENT FOOD DRIVE INGATHERING

If you have collected food during December, please bring it to church by January 7. We will take all the food to the Broken Loaf for their January and February food distributions. Again, please make sure to check the expiration dates on what you donate, as food banks are not allowed to distribute food that is past its expiration date, even if it's still safe to eat.

CHRISTMAS THANK-YOUs

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make St. Thomas beautiful and make our Christmas services work, even without any instrumental music. We hope you enjoy these pictures of our sanctuary in its holiday finery. If you made floral donations and would like to take home a poinsettia, they are available for adoption in the narthex.





Birthdays

*Linda McNeeley 1/2, Patrick Riley 1/4,
Maria Gordon 1/5, Wilma Oppenheim 1/6,
Andrew Gordon 1/10, Carlene Owen 1/13,
Auggy Sanchez 1/14, Mike Sheffield 1/17,
Salim Khoury 1/22, Shelley Arnold 1/23,
Lynne Richmond 1/25, Sabrina Hicks 1/27*

ANNIVERSARIES

KENT & LYNNE RICHMOND 1/25



The world, especially the people of the United States, and for peace all over the world and wherever there is oppression or trouble.

Serving in the Armed Force at home and around the world: members of the U. S. Army: **Adam** and Boston; the U. S. Marine Corps: Sean, Adelangel and Jesse; the U. S. Air Force: Jordan, Joshua, and Carlos; the U. S. Navy: **Jonathan** and the U. S. Coast Guard: **Jennifer** and Corey.

The protection and guidance of Parishioners and Friends: Bertha, Ariana, Alyssa, Ana, Deb, Joey and his mothers Beth and Jan, Penny and her family, Chris and his family, Daniel, Becky, Sandra, Alex, Josef, Brandon, Rosie, Nathan, Paul, Gayle's doctor, Patricia's children, Sarah S., Ginny, Charlene, Chris, baby Jordan's family, Melissa, Doreen, Vicky, Pam, Liz and Precious.

The healing of Parishioners and friends: **Karen, Liz, Carlene, Samantha, Patrick, Allyson, Allen, Joanne, Rosie, Jim, Bill, Lillian,** Linda M., Diana, Susanne, Ana, Rae Ann, Kathy, Linda O., Gingi, Becky, Michael, Kathryn, Asgeir and Rosa, Eric, Mary Ellen, Beverly, Paige, Diane, Toni, Pat, Harper, Lessa, Becky, Jane, Laura, Tori, Lance, Karen, Terry, Jared, Scott, Jeff, Jim L., Lu, Richard, Cindy, Jason, Gayle, Lori, Nancy W., Janice, Patricia B., Carolyn, Carmen, Ruben, David F., Melanie, David, Jessica, Patrick, Patricia, Alan C., Russ, Amanda, Father Michael, Vivian, Kenobi, Eduardo, Bishop Curry, Eve, Stacey D., Wilver, Belinda, Will, Alex, Bill, Jace, Rick F., Larry F., Suzanne M., Antoinette and support for all families and friends caring for loved ones, the people of Ukraine, India, Vietnam, Peru, Nigeria, Haiti, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Myanmar and all parishioners and friends with health problems.

Homebound and Special Needs: **Karen, Samantha** and the homeless, the poor and the unemployed, affordable housing for families, the end of COVID-19, Ebola, AIDS, and Cancer in the world, and for those suffering from mental illness.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
5306 East Arbor Road
Long Beach, CA 90808-1109
Phone: (562) 425-4457
E-mail: stlb47@verizon.net
Web page: stthomascanterbury.org