

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

**Associate Organist
& Webmaster**

Marc Skuster

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Episcopal Church**

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CANTERBURY TALES

MAY 2023



DAY OF PENTECOST
WHITSUNDAY
MAY 28

Bishop's Warden Report
Canterbury Tales, May 2023

I am very pleased to report that a lot of exciting things are happening at St Thomas. First and foremost, we are pursuing our goal of returning to parish status. I like to call this our "Path to Parish," or P2P. This will entail balancing our budget without the need for the diocesan grant that we have depended on for a number of years.

The first step in achieving this goal is to work on a successful capital campaign, which we just kicked off at the end of April. Our goal for this year is \$22,000, of which we have already raised \$7,000 (about 1/3 of the goal), and we are hoping to supplement that with at least one (and possibly two) additional grants in 2023. We will continue the capital campaign in upcoming years in order to accomplish additional critical repairs and upgrades. This includes, as our first priority, sealing the majority of the roof to protect the church from the elements. We hope to complete this work in the late summer.

As a mission church on a path to parish (P2P), we want to continue to attract new members to our physical church in Long Beach, but also to attract new participants (who will hopefully also become members) through our electronic presence. One way to do this is to demonstrate that we are a vibrant and active church.

Shelley Arnold has already done so much, with the help of Jane, Andrea, Mother Sharon and others, to develop events that are fun, allow us to have fellowship with each other, and raise some money at the same time.

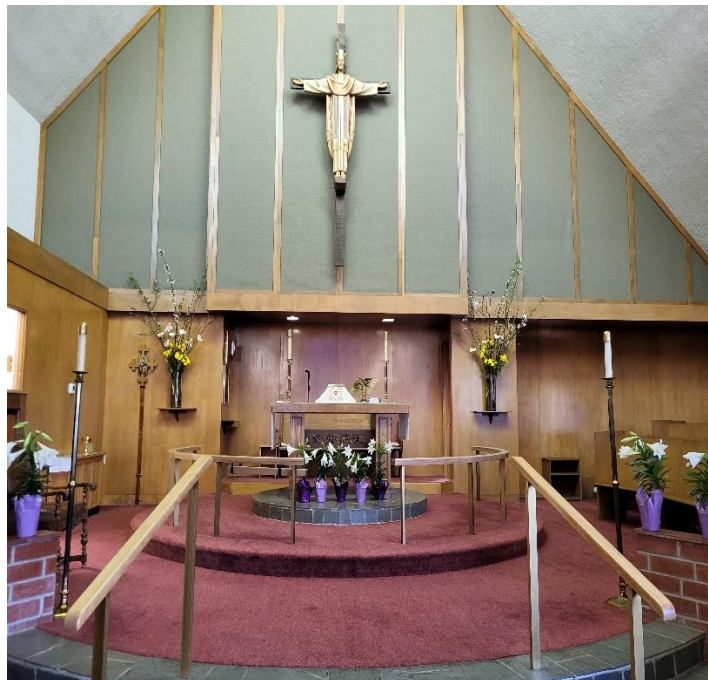
I hope you will participate in these events as much as you are able. It should be fun, and should give us an opportunity to share some time together beyond our worship services.

I'll see you at the Coronation Tea, the Boot Sale, the... (you get the idea)!

Allen Stout
Bishop's Warden

Holy Week and Easter Recap

Our Holy Week and Easter services were lovely, reverent, and well-attended, with some new folks and some old friends showing up to join us. As always, thanks go to the Altar Guild, the organists and choir, and the service ministers, who go above and beyond every Holy Week and Easter. Special thanks to our Hospitality crew, who this year had Easter treat bags for all our young folks! We hope you enjoy the pictures of our sanctuary and our “Stations of the Crosswalk.”







MOTHER'S DAY

May 14.

As is our custom, we will have special prayers for all women, and small treats for women in attendance.

PENTECOST

May 28

Pentecost is one of our seven Principal Feasts in the church year. We don't have any baptisms scheduled, but we will renew our baptismal covenant and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. As it is Memorial Day weekend, we will also have special prayers for those who died in service to our country. You are invited to wear red and get your Holy Spirit on!

Mass in the Grass and Picnic

The annual **Mass in the Grass and Picnic** will be **Sunday, June 4th** at 10:15. We will be in our usual spot at El Dorado Park (El Dorado West Picnic Areas A and B). As always, be sure to bring your own chairs or blankets for seating. This will be a shared event with St. Gregory's, and all the food will be prepared by Diane Kela and the St. Gregory's Hospitality Committee. **To ensure that we have plenty of food, please RSVP to Kevin Wood in the St. Gregory's office (562-420-1311, info@stgregoryschurch.com).** For those who may not be interested in or able to attend the Mass in the Grass, we will have our usual 8:00 service at St. Thomas for both communities.

SERVICE MINISTER TRAINING COMING UP

We will have training sessions for our Ushers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Lectors early in June (the date is still being finalized). It's always good for our seasoned servers to get a refresher course on what needs to be done, and if you've been thinking about test-driving a Sunday ministry, this is the perfect time to find out what happens! Whether you are a minister of long standing, or someone just starting out, please plan to be at the training so we are all on the same page. The date will be announced in the Tidings and during Sunday announcements.

PEOPLE'S WARDEN REPORT - SHELLEY ARNOLD

It's been a busy month. The toilet in the women's restroom has been fixed and should no longer be leaking. Also, one of the vertical blinds in Larkin Hall has been replaced. To top that off, Andrea and Michael Utzman have been installing solar powered lights in our parking lot for the safety of us all.

Three bids have been received to fix our leaky rooftops over the Narthex, hallway, and offices. We're still evaluating the contractors' proposals and are hoping to get on the winner's calendar soon, so the roof can be fixed this summer.

The Bishop's Committee is putting the final touches on a Long Range Renovation Plan for our church. It will soon be posted on our Raise the Roof bulletin board.

And last, but not least: THANK YOU to everyone who picks up, cleans up, and tidies up our church in any way. It is really starting to show.

Bunco



Come join us for Bunco
on Friday, May 5th,
5:30-8:30 pm

There will be a \$20 buy-in.
Prizes for all!

RSVP Sue Williams at kyliesgrammy04@yahoo.com

Help us celebrate the beginning
of a new Royal Era at our
Coronation Tea
on Saturday, May 13 from 11:00-2:00 pm



Elegance and Fun will be the order of the Day.

**\$40.00 per person. Please reserve by
Wednesday, May 3rd.**

RSVP to Jane Gordon-Topper at ingt@verizon.net



Have you had a good Spring
Cleaning yet?

Do you have more "stuff" than
you need?

St. Thomas Boot Sale is the place to sell it.

Saturday, May 20, 2023 8:00am - 1:00pm

\$20 per spot.

Just drive up, open your trunk, and make some money.

Save your spot! Email Andrea at apqueen02@aol.com



12/7,

Birthdays

*Ken Williams 5/9, Abbi Sanchez 5/13,
Ari Sanchez 5/15, Joanne Jovanovic 5/16,
Jessica Topper 5/16, Chase Horton 5/23,
Juliana Almanza 5/27, Michael Bergman 5/28*

ANNIVERSARIES

**ANDREW & MARIA GORDON 5/21
BILL HENDERSON & ALBERTO OSSA 5/28**



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 Forces 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, Joe, Deb, Erin and her family, Joey and his mothers Beth and Jan, Penny and her family, Chris and his family, Daniel, Sandra, Alex, Sue, Josef, Brandon, Michaela, Rosie, Nathan, Jan, Paul, Jason, Analisa, Gayle's doctor, Patricia's children, Shannon, June, and Jim.

The healing of Parishioners and friends: **Karen, Liz, Carlene, Samantha, Patrick, Allyson, Bert, Allen, Joanne, Rosie, Jim, Bill, Camelia, Carolyn, Linda M., Diana, Susanne, Ana, Joe, Rae Ann, Kathy, Lindy, Linda O., Gingi, Becky, Dawna, Michael, Ginger, Deb, Lisa, Kathryn, Nancy, Earl, Pat, Chuck, Ellie, Nick, Asgeir and Rosa, Joshua, Joyce, Donna, Bob F. Linda, Beverly, Paige, Billie, Eric, Doris, Diane, Joan, June, Toni, Rachel, Pat, Lynn, Jane, Fran, Laura, Tori, Claire, Lance, Sabrina, Susan, Karen, Steven, Jared, Marguerite, Scott, Jean, Jeff, Lee, Audra, Fran, Charlie, Sean, Geri, Karin, Jim L., Sue, Lu, Richard, Cindy, Daniel, Kim, Jason, Jennie, Lorretta, Pam, Gayle, Lori, Jordyn, Jan, Nancy W., Bill, Pat, Liz, Bruce, Mary, Ellie, Kim, Phil, Sarah, Barbara, Craig, and support for all families and friends caring for loved ones, especially Tami and Becky, 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.

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