

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
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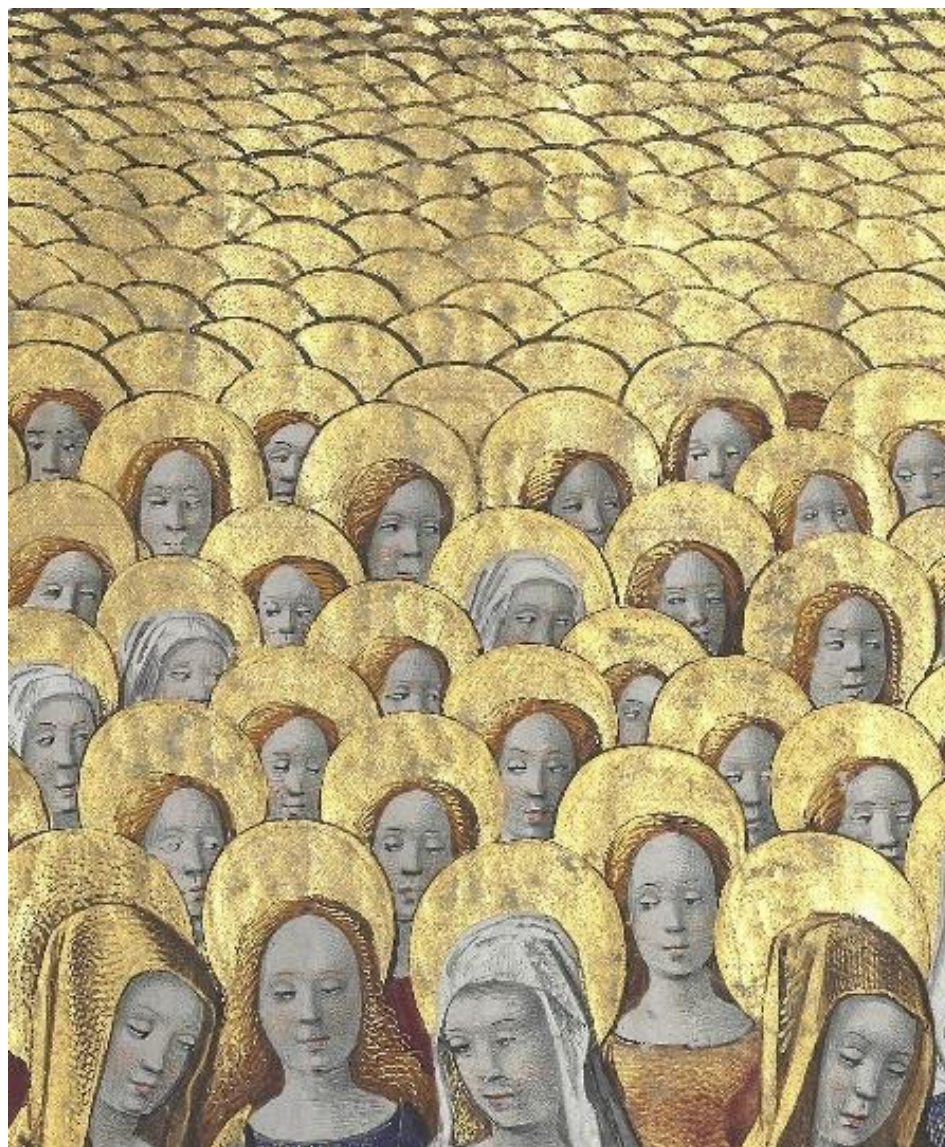
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CANTERBURY TALES

NOVEMBER 2023



FEAST OF ALL SAINTS
NOVEMBER 1

People's Warden Report - Shelley Arnold

Roof Repair

Every roofer (all 5 of the different companies) that has come out has told me that the peaked roof over our church has not been installed correctly. At this time, we cannot afford a full re-roofing. So, we're going in a different direction. Coby at Coby Roof Repair has patched our roof and has agreed to be our "Roof Repair Guy" until such time as we can re-roof the whole thing. (I know, not an ideal solution. But a workable one.) Here's what he's done so far:



Things are happening!

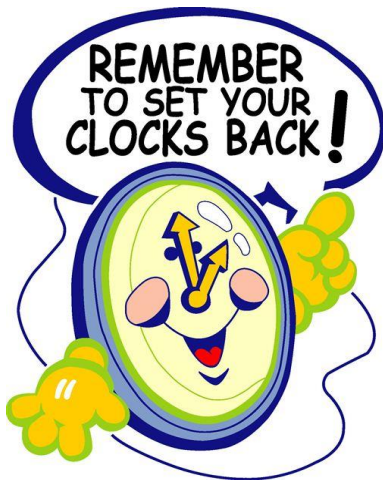
- We are moving forward at this time with the most urgent repairs to our stained-glass windows. Our Narthex will be "ugly-boarded up" for a while starting in January as Mike Oades of JMichaelDesigns removes and fixes our buckling Rose Window. (Thank you Mo. Sharon)
- We have estimates for tree and bush trimming (Thank you Lance, Larry, and John H.).
- We have an estimate for replacing our leaking water fountain with a modern fountain and water filling station. (Thank you Allen)
- We have a new, efficient Wi-Fi system, plus other technical stuff that I don't quite understand, in place. (Thank you Lance and John M.)
- Thank you also to our St. Martha Guild ladies for cleaning and sorting your hallway closet. It is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all of you who have helped with the Raise the Roof Campaign. We're putting the dollars to work here at St. Thomas.

Blessing of the Animals Recap

We had another wonderful Blessing of the Animals on October 7, with church members, friends, and neighbors coming with their furry family members to be blessed. We hope you enjoy these pictures from the service.





Daylight Savings Time Ends November 5

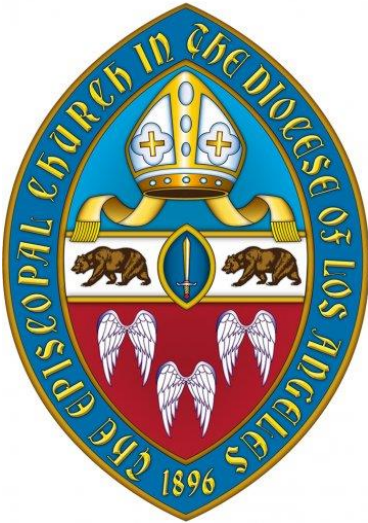
Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on November 4, so you aren't too early for our All Saints services. We look forward to seeing you in church, **but sitting in the parking lot for an hour is no fun!**



All Saints Sunday

This year All Saints Sunday will be observed on November 5. As is our custom, I will take time during both services to read the names of our beloved saints “whom we love but see no longer.” Thank you to everyone who has provided names for our necrology. – Mother Sharon

DIOCESAN CONVENTION



The clergy and laity of the Diocese of Los Angeles will gather in Riverside, and via Zoom, for our Diocesan Convention on November 10 and 11. Please keep all the delegates, alternates, nominees for office, and presenters in your prayers as we seek to discern God's will for our diocese in the coming year.

VETERANS DAY AND BOOK BLESSING

NOVEMBER 12



On Sunday, November 12, we will celebrate the veterans in our community with prayers and thanks for their service. We will also bless the donated books that will go to active military personnel and VA hospitals. We've run this book drive for several years now in partnership with Heinlein for Heroes, and it's been very successful. They are grateful for our contributions and for our continuing care for those who serve our country. There is still time to bring new or gently-used science fiction and fantasy books to church for this outreach ministry. Thanks for your help!

"KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN" EVENSONG AT ST. GREGORY'S



We are invited to join with our St. Gregory's siblings for a special "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" Evensong on Sunday, November 19 at 4:00pm. A "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" is a service that acknowledges both the debt that the Episcopal Church has to the Scottish Church (since it was the Scottish Church that ordained the first American bishop), and the desire of the Scottish people to hang onto their heritage and clan tartans when that was denied them under English rule. Everyone, Scottish or not, is invited to wear or bring a token of their heritage to the service to be blessed. Afterwards we'll enjoy a festive reception and admire everyone's family history. Look for more information in the weekly St. Thomas Tidings.

THANKSGIVING EVE



As is our custom, we will have a joint Thanksgiving Eve service with the "Blessing of the Buns" on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00pm. Our St. Gregory's siblings will join us for the service, and everyone is invited to stay afterwards for pie and fellowship, courtesy of Jane Gordon-Topper and the Hospitality committee. Bring your buns, or any other reasonable token of your Thanksgiving feast, to be blessed during the service, and start the holiday weekend out right by giving thanks for our communities and for all we have received.

Pledge Card Blessing November 19

Our Pledge Drive continues through November 19. The Bishop's Committee and I hope you are inspired by our theme of "Path to Parish: Rooted in Abundance," and that you've been thinking and praying about how we have been blessed by God and how we as a community can use our gifts to help those around us. You should receive your pledge card in early November. If you do not receive a card, please pick one up in the narthex or let the church office know. Our pledge card ingathering and blessing will happen at both services on Sunday, November 19.

Signups for Lighting the Advent Wreath



It seems far too early to be thinking about Advent, but the new church year begins Sunday, November 26 (the Sunday of Thanksgiving Weekend). We will continue our tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath at the beginning of each service with a short reading and prayers. Signup sheets will be in the narthex for families and friends to take part in this beautiful tradition.

STEWARDSHIP

It has been my pleasure to serve this year as the Chair of the Stewardship Committee for our *Path to Parish: Rooted in Abundance* campaign. Over the last few weeks you have been hearing about the theme and its reminder to us that we are inspired to give because so much has been given to us. We do not give in proportion to how we feel we have benefitted or suffered – rather we give because of the love we have experienced in the story of our faith.

As a long-time member of St. Thomas I've experienced many campaigns, some as a parishioner and some as a member of the committee. We've used many methods to share the message of stewardship from plays, in home visits, and parishioners sharing their own stories of faith during Sunday services. I've learned many things about Stewardship over the years and these are some that I remember most:

- Stewardship is not just once a year campaign, it runs continuously.
- Stewardship is about your Time, Talent, and Treasures. Sometimes the latter two may not seem as important but in reality they are what is needed most during the year besides honoring your pledge.
- Do NOT pledge more than you are comfortable with. Remember you can always give more than you pledged.
- Write the check for your pledge first each month, you will find that you will have funds left at the end of each month. (Thanks to Cynthia Riley for sharing this many years ago!)

Your pledge will be used to help create the budget for the year. While the budget is a roadmap for our spending each year it is important that we have a good idea of what funds we will have so we can allocate our resources correctly. We can't do this without your pledge. Please prayerfully consider the St. Thomas community as you make your pledge. Pledge cards will be turned in and blessed on Sunday, November 19.

Sue Williams

Holiday

Craft and Bake Sale!

November 18

Our Craft and Bake Sale is fast approaching. We look forward to seeing you and your friends and neighbors on Saturday, November 18 from 9am to 3pm (or whenever we sell out). This year we are offering lunch for sale and also have two gift card opportunity trees for your enjoyment. We still need help with setup, cleanup, and more contributions of baked goods. Signup sheets are available in the narthex, as are flyers which you can take and hand out to those you think would enjoy coming and supporting our ministries. If you are donating items, you can bring them early Saturday morning, or arrange a time to drop them off on Friday, November 17. Thank you in advance to everyone who is donating items, helping with setup and cleanup, working the sale, and contributing to our mission and ministry. See you there!



OUR SECOND PULPIT SWAP OF THE YEAR IS NOVEMBER

26. Father Michael will preach and preside at St. Thomas while Mother Sharon will preach and preside at St. Gregory's. Our pulpit swaps allow both congregations to get to know both clergy better, and also provide a different preaching voice occasionally.



Birthdays

Emilee Garvin 11/22

Gavin Topper 11/30

ANNIVERSARIES

ALLEN STOUT (NAVY ANNIVERSARY) 11/19

SALIM & CATHY KHOURY 11/27



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: **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, Erin and her family, Joey and his mothers Beth and Jan, Penny and her family, Daniel, Chris and his family, Daniel, Becky, Sandra, Alex, Josef, Brandon, Rosie, Nathan, Paul, Gayle's doctor, Patricia's children, Michele's doctor, Sarah S., Ginny, Pam, Charlene, Meliss, Doreen, and baby Jordan's family.

The healing of Parishioners and Friends: **Karen, Liz, Carlene, Samantha, Patrick, Allyson, Bert, Allen, Joanne, Rosie, Jim, Bill, Amanda, Lillian,** Linda M., Diana, Susanne, Ana, Rae Ann, Kathy, Linda O., Gingi, Becky, Michael, Kathryn, Asgeir and Rosa, Beverly, Paige, Eric, Diane, Toni, Rachel, Jane, Laura, Tori, Lance, Karen, Jared, Scott, Jeff, Jim L., Lu, Richard, Cindy, Pat, Jason, Gayle, Lori, Nancy W., Janice, Patricia B., Carolyn, Carmen, Ruben, David F., Terry, Melanie, Elizabeth, Patricia, David, Jessica, Maria, Patrick, Alan C., Russ, Harper, Lessa, Bishop Curry, Father Michael, Sheryl, Becky, Vivian 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 throughout the Middle East, 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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