

CANTERBURY TALES

SEPTEMBER 2023

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*
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Camelia Jolly
Jeremy Richmond
Sue Williams

Minister of Music & Organist
Editor of Canterbury Tales
William Henderson

Associate Organist
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ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
SEPTEMBER 29

**The Church Office
Will Be Closed
Monday, September 4**
in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

**"WELCOME BACK SUNDAY"
September 10**

We will kick off our fall programming and have opportunities to sign up for upcoming events and ministry areas. We hope you'll make a special effort to come to church and hear about what's planned for the rest of the year.

THE PIANO MAN IS ALMOST HERE!!!

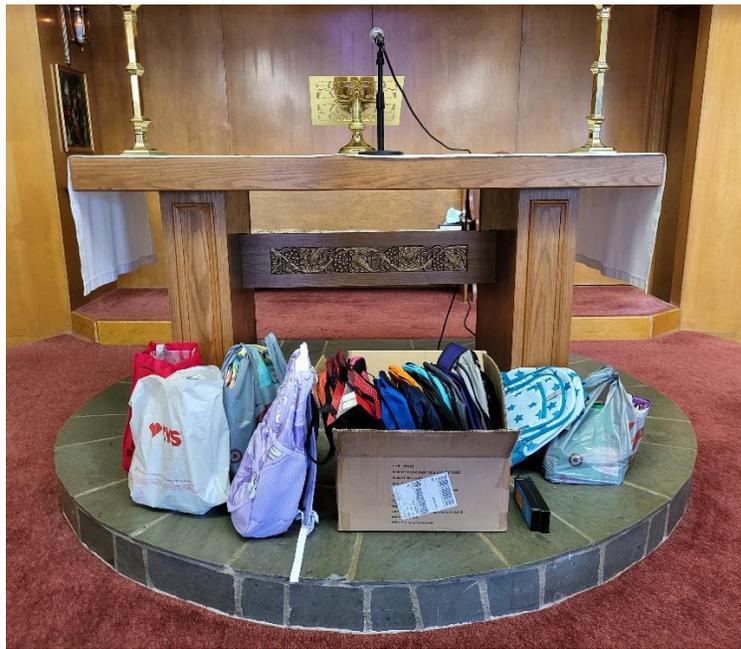


Please join us on **Saturday, September 16 at 4:00pm** for our "Piano Man" fundraiser! Kevin Wood, Long Beach singer-songwriter, will entertain us with old favorites and original compositions. There may also be some surprise guest artists! A reception will follow the concert, and Kevin's CDs will be available for sale. Tickets are \$20 at the door, and all proceeds go to our "Raise the Roof" capital campaign.

PULPIT NEWS

Mother Sharon will be away on September 24 celebrating her father-in-law's 85th birthday. Father Dean Farrar will preach and preside at both services. October 1 is the second of this year's pulpit swaps; Father Michael will preach and preside at St. Thomas while Mother Sharon preaches and presides at St. Gregory's.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS Update



Hearty thanks to everyone who donated backpacks and school supplies for Long Beach youth. Long Beach Family Services is always grateful for our outreach efforts for students whose families can't supply everything their children need for the new school year.

Bishop's Warden Report

"Ordinary time" continues in our liturgical world, though the advent of Advent is beginning to arrive on our worship radar. The Fall is in full swing at school and in our Mission. Many events are on the schedule, and we are looking for ideas for additional events. Upcoming dates are listed in the weekly bulletin, as well as in Sharon's weekly email to everyone (if you aren't receiving it, let us know so you can be added to the distribution list).

Facilities repairs have been made on a number of smaller projects, and we continue to see what we can do to manage the major projects, like the roof, while protecting our financial stability.

We continue to have an online presence, and this presence is becoming ever more important to us. Here are the attendance numbers for the month of July-August to give you some idea of the balance:

<u>Date</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online Attendance</u>
June 28	30	16
July 2	28	16
July 9	32	18
July 16	35	-- (technical problems with the broadcast)
July 23	28	20
July 30	28	35
August 6	27	23
August 13	40	33
Total:	248 (60%)	161 (40%)

While in-person attendance and participation is very important (including for the online experience), and we encourage everyone to attend in person if possible, we should not be overly discouraged by the seemingly small number of people in the pews on any given service. We are offering spiritual and liturgical opportunities to people across the country (and indeed, the world). Our online attendance is on par with either of the in-person Sunday services. And this is not counting Morning Prayers.

For all intents and purposes, we have 3 service congregations: 8:00, 10:15, Online. Granted, there is some overlap (just as Shelly or I am counted twice on a Sunday when we are at both services). Still, that should not distract from the underlying reality of our changing congregation.

One final reminder: **Important:** If you have questions about the schedule, the buildings, upcoming events, etc., please reach out to myself, Shelley, or another member of the Bishop's Committee for answers. Of course, you can also reach out to Mother Sharon if needed, especially for pastoral concerns. Sharon's normal weekly day off is Friday. Please use the Bishop's Committee as your first resource for most non-pastoral questions. My phone number is (714) 381-5910. I can be reached by phone or text, or I can be reached by email at astout1176@gmail.com.

Allen Stout
Bishop's Warden

People's Warden Report - Shelley Arnold

The stage in Crosby Hall needs to be cleared off in preparation for Fall Events. Please join me on Saturday, September 9th at 1:00pm to help. I cannot do it alone. Remember what it says in Nehemiah:



A Meditation: Understanding the Bible 1.1

My meditation this month takes a look at the Bible, in an attempt to get my mind (and heart) around it a little better. In the Anglican tradition, our faith is based on three legs: Scripture, Reason and Tradition. We could add the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), but that is somewhere around 85% made up of Scripture readings, so it is a different organization of material more than it is a different "leg." J.I Packer once described the BCP as "the Bible arranged for worship."

Meanwhile, our reason "leg" is often focused on understanding what Scripture means for our daily lives. And our tradition "leg" is to a great extent the history of how we have applied reason to Scripture. Given all this, the Bible is rather central to our Christian faith and life. But what do we know about it? Christians in general are somewhat infamous for not knowing much about this critical part of our faith lives. And many other Christians can quote chapter and verse while still remaining unaware of many aspects or ways of understanding the Bible.

In order to start the process of thinking about the Bible, I want to list some facts about it that are important for our ability to understand its meaning. In future meditations, I hope to extend this meditation and dig down further into these facts and the controversies surrounding them. So, this month is mostly a somewhat disjointed lists of “things to know” about the Bible. Here goes:

- The Old Testament is roughly the same as the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) used by Jewish people, though it differs in some of the books, and in their order. Especially for Anglicans, the Old Testament includes some books not included in the Tanakh (like the Wisdom of Solomon).
- The Tanakh/Hebrew Bible/Scriptures and the Old Testament include three basic types of books: the Law (Torah, Pentateuch) found in the first 5 books, the Prophets (e.g., Ezekiel), and the Writings (including wisdom books like Ecclesiastes, and histories like 1 Kings).
- The Prophets and the Writings can be divided between those written before the Babylonian exile and those written after it (there are some striking differences).
- Many scholars find that there are four distinct “voices” in the authors of the Pentateuch/Torah/ Law, which also seem to correlate with pre- or post-exile periods. This has been called the “Documentary Hypothesis.” Some more conservative scholars discount this hypothesis.
- The New Testament can be divided between the Gospels, the Epistles/Letters, and an “apocalypse” (description of the end times: The Revelation of St. John the Divine).
- The Gospels are divided between the “synoptic” (similar) Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), and the one non-synoptic Gospel (John).
- The synoptic Gospels of Matthew and Luke seem to have used the Gospel of Mark as their primary source, added a separate source (called Q), and then included material unique to each.
- An original copy of “Q” has never been found.

- The Book of The Acts of the Apostles was probably written by the author of the Gospel of Luke, so could be considered to be in a category of its own, more a history than a letter.
- The Letters are divided between those written by Paul (or under his name), and those written by others (or under their names). They are arranged in the NT by length, not chronologically.
- The authors of the Gospel of John, the Letters of John (1, 2, 3) and The Revelation of St. John the Divine (of Patmos) are not the same person. This is a disputed point.

But what do you think?

Or what would you like me to write about next?

Allen Stout

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS WANTED:



Do you have an unused instrument in reasonable repair? Would you like to brighten the lives of students who can't afford to purchase their own instrument? Or give an instrument to a veteran or other person in need? If so, please consider making a donation, either instrumental or monetary, to the Collage Instrument Donation Program. Collage is dedicated to helping musicians have instruments and a place to play them, and is a non-profit organization, so your donations are tax-deductible.

You can find out more about the program

at <https://www.collageartculture.org/instrument-donations-student-programs>

To make a donation or find out specific donation details,
email richard@collageartculture.org

Raise the Roof Fundraiser News



Thank you
Dave and Rosemary
for the Fabulous
Backyard BBQ

*We have wonderful events coming up
this Fall. Please sign up.*

September 16

Sing Along with Piano Man Kevin Wood

At St. Thomas with a Reception to Follow

4:00 pm \$20.00

October 22

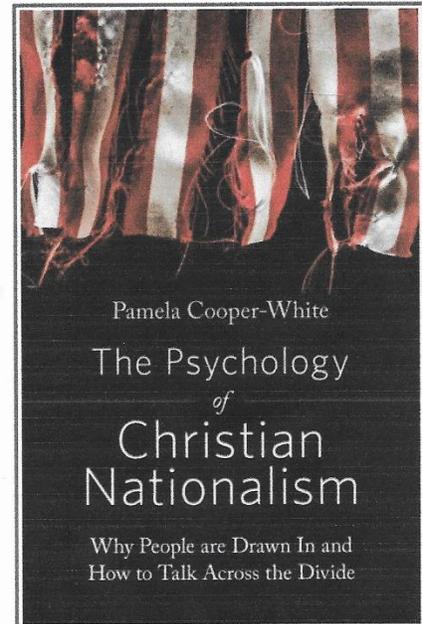
Halloween Afternoon

Treats and Fun for the whole family

Noon-ish (after Church) \$10.00

Christian Education - Fall 2023

Our Los Angeles Diocese has put together a program for its parishes. It is meant to give people the words and ideas to help bridge the divide that is present between many of our Christian denominations today. Join us for an exploration of Christian Nationalism - "a distortion of the Good News of God in Christ Jesus permeating our national discourse and threatening to dismantle our constitutional democracy. Using Pamela Cooper-White's The Psychology of Christian Nationalism as our primary text, we will engage with the challenging issue of the rise of Christian Nationalism".



Available from Fortress Press
and Amazon \$21

We will meet every two weeks on Wednesday evenings on Zoom* from 6:30-8:30pm. This will be a four session class.

Session 1 (9/13/23): We will have a meeting to get acquainted and go over the session format.

Session 2 (9/27/23): **What** is Christian Nationalism?

Session 3 (10/11/23): **Who** is drawn into the Christian Nationalist movement?

Session 4 (10/25/23): **How** can we engage across the divide created by Christian Nationalism?

** We are "Zooming" this class to make it easier for working people, our online members, and those who don't like to drive at night to attend. Please contact Shelley Arnold shelleyarnold1@aol.com for more details.*

If you prefer to meet in-person St. Gregory's is offering the same class on Sunday afternoons. Please contact info@stgregoryschurch.com for more details.



Birthdays

*Graham Gordon 9/1, Ava Sierra Bergman 9/2,
Dottie Cook 9/13, Sue Williams 9/15,
Jim Lisanti 9/24, Tom Krumwied 9/28,
Michael Winford 9/30*

ANNIVERSARIES

**PATRICK & CYNTHIA RILEY 9/9
ANDY & HAZEL BELLAK 9/10**



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, Becky, Sandra, Alex, Josef, Brandon, Rosie, Nathan, Gayle's doctor, Patricia's children, Michele's doctor, Sarah S., Ginny, Wendy, Pam, Deb, and baby Jordan's family.

The healing of Parishioners and friends: **Karen, Liz, Carlene, Samantha, Patrick, Allyson, Bert, Allen, Joanne, Rosie, Jim, Bill,** Linda M., Diana, Susanne, Ana, Joe, 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, Sean, Geri, Jim L., Lu, Richard, Cindy, Kim, Jason, Jennie, Pam, Gayle, Lori, Nancy W., Bruce, Mary, Janice, Michele, Patricia B., Carolyn, Carmen, Ruben, David F., Ginny, Terry and Karen, Melanie, Elizabeth, Patricia, Julia, David, Sister Susan Alice, Sister Ann Francis, Jessica, Maria, Patrick, Robin, Brother Dennis, Father Richard 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.

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