

The Witness

Volume 27, Issue 1

Welcoming Worshipping Working

January 2023

Special points of interest:
Sunday

8:00 AM Service
10:00 AM Service

Tuesday

5:00 PM Centering
Prayer via Zoom

Wednesday

12:15 PM Service



Hello
January and
2023

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting	4	It's now 2023. We have a lot to do as the St. Stephen's Family. At the Annual Meeting (Jan 22), you will see that once again, we will be presented with a deficit budget, a pattern that is well over a decade in the making. One of our goals in 2023 is to work toward greater financial stability. The Bishop will lead the Vestry in an introduction to congregational development, and that will roll out to the whole parish over the course of the year. We want to continue our relationships with key agencies in SLO in order to support the most vulnerable in our community. During my sabbatical, the congregation will reflect on the direction we want to take as the Episcopal presence of the Jesus Movement in San Luis Obispo. This is where we have to go as a business entity. The business end – while sometimes mundane – supports the ministries that is the work of the Church.
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Where do we go from here?

By The Rev. Ian M. Delinger, Rector

The liturgical seasons sometimes feel like a treadmill. We spent most of December expressing that we are awaiting:

*the dayspring from on high [who] shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Then suddenly the date on the calendar changed to December 24/25 and we proclaimed *"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"* The use of "is" rather than "has" emphasizes that Jesus both *has come* and *is here*; Jesus' coming is an ongoing action. OK, that's great. Where do we go from here?



On Christ the King Sunday, just before Thanksgiving, Berkeley Johnson asked us if we are prepared for Christ *NOT* to return. Recalling that at the beginning of January makes me think that all those Christmas trees died for nothing if Christ is not to return! Berkeley went on to suggest that we each have a role in the

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(Continued from front page)

salvation that Jesus promises, steeped in reversing the social, economic and political injustices in our community, our society and the world. Berkeley is not wrong in that.

Sometimes when I think about Jesus' Return, I wonder that the work we are to do in our community, our society and the world will prompt the Second Coming. I wonder if Jesus will come again when things get so bad, when humanity has utterly failed itself and the planet that the term "dystopian" fails to adequately describe the state of the world. On the other hand, I wonder if Jesus will come again when He sees that humanity has finally figured it out and has genuinely worked toward a better world, Miss America's dream of world peace *is* come. And sometimes I believe that Jesus is among us, pointing us in the direction of salvation, and we keep getting distracted. "Squirrel!" (ref: Dug in "Up!")

As we take down the decorations, mulch the tree, make resolutions, avoid stepping on the scale, and dig into the business affairs of the parish, let's remember that Jesus is come. That means Jesus is here, and we don't feel His presence or see Him in our daily lives, we need to look and listen more intentionally. Seeing the face of Jesus in others, working harder to love your neighbor as yourself, giving wider consideration to who is your neighbor, working harder to love the image of God in yourself, acting upon your role in the Second coming, all that stuff we get through our study of scripture, prayer and worship is where we go from here. And even in the mundane business-y stuff, Jesus is in there somewhere, guiding our feet into the way of peace.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In the News!

The Tribune wrote a story on our partnership with 40 Prado to donate Welcome Home Boxes to them. You can read the article at the link below. We have a few paper copies of the Tribune article in the office. THANK YOU to everyone who supported the initiative and to Cassie who just wanted to find a way to honor the actual St. Stephen's patronage of the British and Commonwealth holiday of Boxing Day. Let's make this a tradition for our St. Stephen's Day celebrations.

<https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article269549212.html>



Women's March SLO January 21, 2023

As of the date of writing, only the date of the 2023 Women's March is known. It's at Mitchell Park from 2-4pm. Follow www.womensmarchslo.com for details as they emerge.



From the Vestry

The Vestry meets on the 2nd Sunday of the Month (usually) to discuss the business affairs of the parish. Here are some highlights of the meeting on November 13, 2022:

Annual Giving Campaign has wrapped up. The team is following up with those who haven't responded. It's never too late to send in a pledge.

Fr Ian's Sabbatical cover has been determined. The priest will be introduced at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2023.

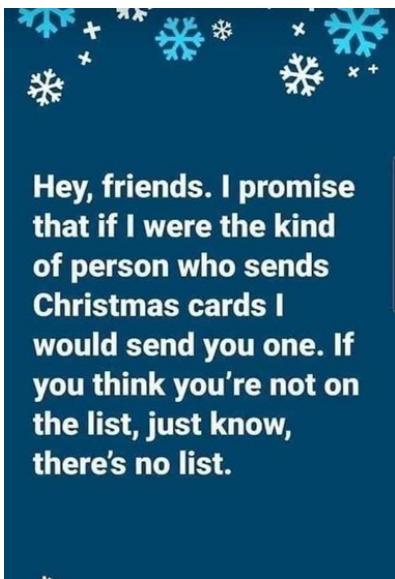
A cost of living adjustment of 4% for the Staff salaries was approved. This is the amount suggested by the Diocese. Each annual convention, the COLA is voted on for Diocesan Staff, and within the resolution, it is suggested that the same COLA be extended to parish staff.

The next meeting is January 15, 2023. If you have an issue that you think should be addressed by the Vestry, please submit your request no less than 2 weeks before the next Vestry Meeting to the Rector or Wardens. All Vestry Meetings are open to members of the parish. Requests to speak can be made, approved on an individual basis. Executive Sessions are closed to Vestry members only, including the Clerk, Treasurer and Rector.



Christmas Cards from the Rector

In December, a meme went around social media:



This has been my practice for about 20 years now. As you know, I don't send Christmas Cards. Thank you all for your cards. They truly brightened up my home as the primary form of Christmas décor. In lieu of Christmas cards for the parish, I made a donation to Episcopal Relief and Development in the name of St. Stephen's. This year, I donated toward the year-end matching gift campaign for COVID-19 Relief Kits which enable ERD partners to have the resources and knowledge to prevent and reduce coronavirus transmission through health messaging campaigns and safely provide essential relief supplies to assist communities still suffering from the pandemic. As we are suffering less, we can help others who are not at the same point in the pandemic as we are. At Episcopal Relief and Development:

We facilitate healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. Our work addresses three life-changing priorities to create authentic, lasting results.

Thank you again for your cards and gifts. May 2023 bring you joy and peace and every blessing that God has in store for you.

The Rev. Ian M. Delinger

Hands On Stewardship

Thank you to Bill Crewe, Lynn Hollister, Kay Lewis, Carolyn Platt and Kathleen Pennington for counting the collection and preparing the deposits during December.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the “For Kids From Kids Toy Drive”

Thank you to the Annual Giving Campaign members, Liz Frost and Rosey & Skip Parks for hosting coffee hour in December.

Thank you to Lynn Hollister, Kathleen Pennington and Gail Taylor for teaching Sunday School in December.

Thank you to the Altar Guild for their service in making sure that everything is in their right place for Sunday morning.

Thank you to the helpers who folded, taped and labeled The Witness.

Thank you to the helpers who folded and stapled the new service booklets and the service booklets for Christmas.

Thank you to Clark Lewis for picking up the no cook bags to distribute to those in need.

Thank you to the A/V Team for their diligence in streaming the services.

Thank you for reading The Witness and watching the services at home.



Annual Meeting: January 22, 2023 at 11:15am



In-Person in Ramsden Hall and Via Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/StStZoom>

The Annual Meeting of St Stephen’s Episcopal Church will take place during Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:15am on January 22, 2022. We need as many eligible voters and other members of the congregation as possible to attend. Voter eligibility requires having attended services and contributed financially in 2022. The paperwork for the meeting will be sent out in advance, hopefully by January 15. You will have time to review all of the reports and the proposed 2023 Budget and prepare any questions or clarifications you can bring up during the meeting. The Candidates for Vestry and Delegates to Convention will also be included in the paperwork.

General Information

The Witness is a monthly newsletter published by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, San Luis Obispo, CA to provide information about the parish to the congregation. Subscriptions are free to anyone. Send request along with your name and mailing address to the church office. Donations to help offset distribution costs are appreciated.

Make checks payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church's e-mail address is: office@ststephensslo.org

Contribution of articles is encouraged. Please e-mail submissions to witness@ststephensslo.org
The deadline for emailed submission of articles is the third Friday of the month. Email any questions to witness@ststephensslo.org © Copyright 2023 by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. All rights reserved.

POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,
1344 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3935

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and be taken directly to
our PayPal site or go to
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Scan. Pay. Go.



Is it Trash?

Maybe not. In SLO county we have three waste bins, and only one of them is for "trash." The other two are for recycling and composting. Using those two other bins can really reduce trash to the landfill. See the Creation Care Committee article on page 7 for information on trash, recycling and composting in SLO County.

F	R	U	I	T	C	S	K	C	I	T	S	A	B	R
C	D	E	F	M	A	G	A	Z	I	N	E	S	G	E
F	H	I	J	K	R	S	D	R	A	C	T	S	O	P
L	L	L	M	L	D	N	O	C	T	P	Q	R	S	A
Y	E	O	T	A	B	U	V	C	I	T	S	A	L	P
E	A	W	W	T	O	X	Y	Z	N	E	A	B	C	S
R	V	D	M	E	A	T	E	F	N	G	H	I	D	W
S	E	J	K	M	R	L	B	O	T	T	L	E	S	E
M	S	N	O	P	D	S	B	Q	R	S	E	T	U	N
V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	W	V	W	X	Y

Find these words for "not trash" items in the Wordsearch above.

BONES	BOTTLES	CANS	CARDBOARD	FLOWERS	FLYERS
FRUIT	LEAVES	MAGAZINES	MEAT	METAL	PAPER
PLASTIC	POSTCARDS	STICKS	TIN	VEGETABLES	WEEDS

Celebrating this month



Anniversaries

1-Jan Marshall Granger & MaryLud Baldwin

If you would like to add your name and birthday or anniversary to our celebrations, please contact the office.

Birthdays

3-Jan	Shannon Larrabee
4-Jan	Carol Misson
7-Jan	Elisabeth Abrahams
7-Jan	Linda Zeuschner
12-Jan	Craig McCollum
13-Jan	The Rev Jen Crompton
20-Jan	John Shakley
21-Jan	Fred Astaire Jr
22-Jan	Mary McCorkle
25-Jan	Liz Frost
27-Jan	Pat Brown

St. Stephen's Coffee Café is open for business!!!

Opening hour is after the 10am Sunday Service.
 Please sign up to be a part of this wonderful parish family activity. No experience necessary, there are plenty of previous experienced volunteers that are willing to help you.



Bible Selections for January

	1-Jan-23 Holy Name	15-Jan-23 Epiphany 2A	22-Jan-23 Epiphany 3A	29-Jan-23 Epiphany 4A
1st Reading	Numbers 6:22-27	Isaiah 49:1-7	Isaiah 9:1-14	Micah 6:1-8
Psalm	Psalm 8	Psalm 40:1-12	Psalm 27:1, 5-13	Psalm 15
2nd Reading	Galatians 4:4-7	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Gospel	Luke 2:15-21	John 1:29-42	Matthew 4:12-23	Matthew 5:1-12

Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out



Introduction to the integration of spiritual and anti-racist practice with

Yehuda Webster

Program Director and Faculty at the Inside Out Wisdom and Action Project

January 6, 2023
6:00 pm
at Beth David

January 8, 2023
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
at Beth David

This special Chai-Light event features speaker Yehudah Webster. Learn how Anti-Black racism impacts ourselves, others and our community. Yehuda will share concrete steps one can take to dismantle racism internally, with others and in our systems and organizations. We'll have an informal discussion and nosh where we'll hear Yehudah's story and share our own experiences.

This is the launch of our SLO community of practice for a bi-weekly deep dive into the issues of race, identity and Jewish wisdom. Learn how to use daily concrete Jewish spiritual tools of Mussar to confront, subvert, and heal implicit and internalized racism within ourselves and others. Led by Yehudah Webster, co-creator of the Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out Program.

Email CBDDRIO@gmail.com or call Dona Hare Price at (805) 471-7529 for more information

As a Black Jewish man, Yehuda Webster knows about racism and anti-Semitism from experience. His goal of "dismantling racism" is based on *mussar*, a Jewish spiritual practice that gives concrete instructions on how to live a meaningful and ethical life. [Greg Marcus, from the website myjewishlearning.com] One need not be Jewish or familiar with Jewish spiritual practices to benefit from *Mussar*.

- Kathryn Bumpass



CREATION CARE COMMITTEE GOOD NEWS

Mike di Milo from the County's Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) joined several of us in Ramsden Hall. Mike gave us information that was accurate and specific to each of our daily lives and concerns.

We all know that we have 3 outside bins. We pay for the gray bin and the blue and green bins are free. Gray bin is for the trash and will end up in the landfill * Blue bin is for recycling * Green bin is for composting. This means, we need to have 3 depositories inside.

Here is some of what we learned:

1. Our county has infrastructure capable of disposing our regular trash, handling recycling of plastic, paper and such and has a green waste program that makes compost and that compost is given away twice a year to anyone who wants it.
2. You can recycle any plastic item that is rigid, as opposed to soft like a baggie.
3. Packing "popcorn" and Styrofoam are still not recyclable.
4. Tin and metal cans are recyclable.
5. You no longer have to thoroughly clean your recyclable items. Wipe or rinse them of loose debris and you're good to go.
6. Yogurt and cottage cheese types of containers are recyclable. However, wax coated paper containers, like hot coffee cups, are not.
7. You can recycle all magazines, newspapers and those slick advertising flyers.
8. Green waste is for yard trimmings as well as food scraps including meat, bones, egg shells, coffee grounds and paper coffee filter. Note: No pet or animal waste in the green bin, including dead rodents.
9. For saving food scraps in your kitchen, all you need is a coffee type can with a lid. Empty it daily in your green bin, after putting a bit of yard material in the green bin if it is empty, so you don't end up with a mucky, stinky mess.

I admit, we skeptically implemented Mike's information and we immediately saw a large reduction in our gray trash bin items and our blue recycle bin is full each week. Also, we feel good contributing to the green bin knowing that compost is being churned out - for free - and we are helping to reduce production of methane gas!

For much more reliable information, please visit: www.iwma.com

Craig and Cheryl McCollum

St. Stephen's



Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshiping Working

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So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!



2 Corinthians 5:17
(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)



Over 30 gifts donated to CAPSLO/40 Prado for children in their care, lovingly selected to fulfill their Christmas wishes.



15 gifts donated to Operation Santa, a program of SLO County Department of Social Services to fulfill wishes from local children in need.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Permit No. 57

Address Service Requested

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE FOR KIDS FROM KIDS TOY DRIVE!!!

Thanks to your generosity we were able to provide toys, games, puzzles, shoes, clothes, baby toys that talk, a princess playhouse, Barbies, a laptop, dinosaurs, blocks, Legos, a popper toy vacuum, art supplies, slinkys, trucks, a bluey playset, jewelry making supplies, gift cards and more to children served by CAPSLO/40 Prado, Operation Santa and Family Support Services of Transitions-Mental Health Association.

You brought toys, clothes and other gifts to Sunday morning services to put in or around a basket at the back of the church. The donations were brought to the Children's Chapel where children in Sunday school said a prayer of blessing over them. It's wonderful to be able to work together to spread the joy of Christmas to children in our community!



Some of the gifts donated to Transitions Mental Health for children served by their Family Support Services.