

The Witness

Volume 27, Issue 4

Welcoming Worshipping Working

April 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 April



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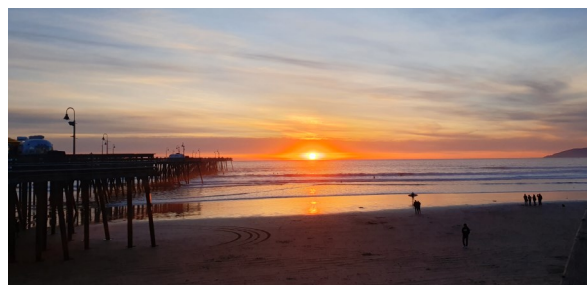
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Renewal!

By The Rev. Ian M. Delinger, Rector

Renewal: *the act or process of renewing – the quality or state of being renewed; to make like new; restore to freshness, vigor, or perfection. (Merriam-Webster)*

Christianity is fundamentally about RENEWAL. The Resurrection is a kind of renewal, and what Jesus offers us by His Resurrection is Eternal Life. If that isn't renewal, I don't know what is!



The term "renewal" is one of those that has been overused in the Church for decades, such that it may have lost its meaning, or we're skeptical about the reasons the word is being used. So, let's take a look at what's going on with "renewal".

Easter is April 9. In a week's time, we will go from the drama of Palm Sunday – Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem to His Crucifixion – to Easter Day, Jesus' Resurrection. The liturgies of Holy Week draw us into the drama of this renewal that our faith is founded on so that on Easter Day, with all its fanfare, we have engaged our senses, our intellect, our bodies, our words, our movements in ways that help us feel the renewal that both *is* and *is to come*.

Throughout the three years of the pandemic declaration, Bishop Lucinda has referred to "what it means to be New Church." I have taken that to mean that we need to think about, acknowledge, embrace and work toward the new realities of who we are as the St. Stephen's Family and what we do that have been forced on us (at worst) or we have discovered (at best) because of the pandemic. In the beginning, these new realities were very clear: joining worship on your computer at home, interactions and meetings via Zoom, weighing survival vs demise as a community. Then it was really: How do we keep this going? That turned into: How do we be the St. Stephen's with one foot in a pandemic and one foot out? And now it's "Who are we now?" or "Who do we want to be now?" That's because only *some* of the way we *used to be* can be resumed and some *cannot*; some *new opportunities* have been easy to adopt; there are others for us to *explore*.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from front page)

That's an awkward introduction to the Diocesan Spring Renewal that will take place on April 28 & 29 in Salinas. What is that? Well, this is what the flyer says.

*Spring Renewal is our new annual gathering for the Diocese of El Camino Real
Spring Renewal is for worship, thanksgiving and celebration
Spring Renewal is for shared learning and growth
Spring Renewal is for everyone in our Diocese!*

So it *sounds* kind of like our St. Stephen's Day Celebration, an opportunity to come together as a family and renew who we are as a family and consider how we want to engage with the wider community. I encourage anyone to be a part of this renewal. There is a poster later in The Witness, and the registration information can be found here: www.realepiscopal.org/spring-renewal-2023

Being a Christian is all about renewal! That renewal can come in many forms before The Big Renewal at the Second Coming. We will renew our Baptismal Vows on Easter Day. Let that be the first step in taking every opportunity for renewal that is presented to us.

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

Opening hour is after the 10 am 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.



From the Vestry

The new Vestry will have its 2023 meetings on the 3rd Sunday of the Month to discuss the business affairs of the parish. The first meeting of this Vestry took place at the end of the Vestry Retreat on March 19, 2023. Here are some highlights of that meeting:

Shannon Larrabee was re-elected as Junior Warden
The Vestry took steps to resume working on the Strategic Plan
Sponsorship of the Hospice SLO County Walk For Healing was approved

The next meeting is April 16, 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.



The Rev. Caroline Hall to Retire

The Rector of St. Benedict's in Los Osos, Caro Hall, will be retiring on May 31, 2023. Caro+ and her wife Jill will be leaving St. Benedict's when Caro+ retires at the end of May. There will be several opportunities to gather for celebration and leave-taking. We are all invited to the various events. Mark your calendar:

- ◇ Friday, May 19, 6:30 pm retirement celebration at St. Benedict's
- ◇ Sunday, May 21, 2:00 pm John Rutter Requiem at St. Barnabas'
- ◇ Sunday, May 28, The Rev Caro Hall's last Sunday at St. Benedict's
- ◇ Wednesday, May 31, Time?? Liturgy for the ending pastoral relationship at St. Benedict's



Children's Day in the Plaza

An annual celebration of April as the Month of the Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event aims to connect children and families with resources throughout SLO County while embracing creativity, diversity, and individuality. This year it will be held on April 8 from 10am to 3pm. St. Stephen's has sponsored and hosted a booth for several years. This year, with the event on Holy Saturday, we decided to only financially sponsor the event to show our support for the efforts being done to support the children of SLO County, particularly the most vulnerable. To further support this effort, please consider wandering through Children's Day in the Plaza on the day. It's a lovely opportunity to see the happy families of SLO and the organizations working to make SLO a happy and safe place for children.

Children's Day in the Plaza is hosted by the San Luis Obispo County Child Care Planning Council which serves as an advisory body to the County Superintendent of Schools and Board of Supervisors, and in partnership with families and the community, plans for and promotes that highest quality and accessible services for the care of all children and youth. It is a consortium of several organizations, including 20% each of: childcare providers, community representatives, consumers of childcare, public agency representatives, discretionary appointments.

Ask Me Anything

Do you have burning questions about the Bible? The Church? Christianity? Stop by for refreshment and ask Fr. Ian and Rev. Jen anything church-related. We'll give you the most honest and transparent answers we can!

We'll be in Finney's on Monterey Street in SLO. We'll be the two dressed like clergy!
(Note: This is not a Bible study or a debate session. It's a social setting for curious minds!)
Can't make it in-person? Join via Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/StStZoom>

Suggested topics on the following dates at 5:30pm to 7:00pm:
4/17 - Jesus & Politics (3rd Monday)
5/8 - Jesus & Social Justice

Only suggested topics...really...ask us anything!
If you want, send questions in advance to: FatherIMD@aol.com



Hands On Stewardship



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

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

Thank you to Sophia Agbo, Carole Astaire, MaryLud Baldwin, Torrie F, Liz Frost, Shane G, Diane Levison, Cheryl McCollum, Elizabeth Potter, Kathleen Pennington, Julianna Winninghoff and Bud Zeuschner for “working” in St. Stephen’s Chocolate Factory making beautiful chocolate Easter eggs.

Thank you to Sophia Agbo, Cheryl & Craig McCollum, Skip & Rosey Parks, and Kathleen Pennington for hosting Coffee Hour in March.

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 Gail Taylor, Nancy Deovlet, Elizabeth Potter, and Cheryl McCollum who folded, taped and labeled The Witness.

Thank you to Elizabeth Potter for helping with the celebration cards

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.

All are welcome to join the Centering Prayer Group

Where: on your computer or telephone

When: Tuesdays at 5-5:30PM

How: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/CenteringPrayer2022>



Meeting ID: 327 152 8720

Password: 0908

Or dial in by calling :

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose),

When prompted enter the Meeting ID and Password



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

If you would like to make a donation to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church

You can scan this QR Code with your phone and be taken directly to our PayPal site or go to paypal.me/ststephensslo



Scan. Pay. Go.

Chocolate Factory Update



Julianna, Elizabeth, MaryLud, & Kathleen kneading fudge into egg shapes.

At the time this article is being written the Chocolate Factory is in operation and orders are still coming in. There aren't any final totals yet, but we can report that it's likely we'll exceed last year's numbers and have all the donated eggs sponsored. Thank you to everyone who worked in the Chocolate Factory, ordered our chocolate Easter eggs, or made a donation toward the eggs to be given to children served by Family Care Network, CAPSLO/40Prado, Lumina Housing Services, and Transitions-Mental Health Family Services.



20 trays of no nut fudge centers ready to be coated in semi sweet chocolate.

Celebrations for March

Are we are missing your special celebration? Please let us know so that we can celebrate with you.

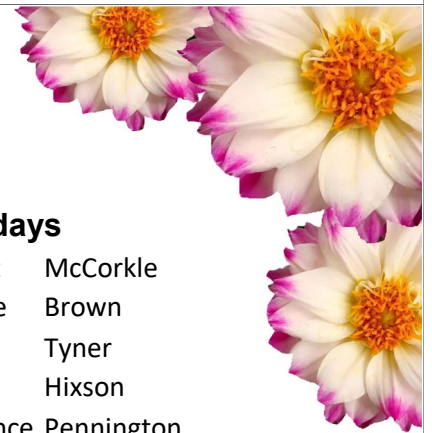
Call, email, snail mail the information to Stephanie in the office at 805-543-7212 or office@ststephensslo.org

Birthdays

April 03 Robert McCorkle
 April 12 George Brown
 April 17 Judy Tyner
 April 23 Dottie Hixson
 April 29 Lawrence Pennington

Anniversaries

April 30 Mark & Stephanie Olsen



Camp St. Andrews the official summer camp of The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real. A Saint Andrew's tradition since 1977.

Join other kids from around the Diocese at Camp Saint Andrew's July 23-29, 2023 for a week of fun outdoor activities, friendship, and personal growth!

This traditional overnight camp in the Sierra Nevada Mountains is for youth ages 8-15. Activities throughout the week include archery, swimming, fishing, arts & crafts, hikes to the lake, sports & games, campfire songs, skits, and much more!

Woven in with all the summer camp fun, we pride ourselves on providing meaningful opportunities for youth to develop as leaders while emphasizing personal and spiritual growth that is centered in a strong and supportive community.

Learn more about the program at www.campsaintandrews.com. Space is limited, so register today! One week at camp, equals a lifetime of memories.

Holy Week and Easter 2023

Journey with Jesus from His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), to the Last Supper and Institution of the Holy Eucharist (Maundy Thursday), to His Death (Good Friday) and His Glorious Resurrection (Easter Day)!



Services for Holy Week and Easter

- April 2 – Palm Sunday: 8am on the Patio; 10am in the Parking Lot Procession of the Palms into the Church followed by the reading of The Passion and Holy Eucharist
- April 6 – Maundy Thursday: 5:30pm Footwashing and Holy Eucharist
- April 7 – Good Friday: 12:15pm Stations of the Cross

Sunday 10am Services and Maundy Thursday will be livestreamed on facebook.com/StStephensSLO/live

*Whoever you are,
and wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
St. Stephen's welcomes you!*

Climate Change: Insights and Opportunities

Free Community Workshop
10AM—Noon, Saturday, April 15
St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
Los Osos Valley Road & Clark Valley Road, Los Osos, CA

“Out of This World Climate Insights”
Susan Callery, Managing Editor, NASA Global Climate Change website showing impacts of climate change

“What's Needed for a Just Transition”
screening of Nation in Transition from American Resilience Project with Arizona State University

“Enjoy Acting Now and Save \$”
CalPoly Climate Fellows providing free information and support to use the county www.ResilientSLO.org app
with Q&A and discussion

For more information: <https://www.stbenslosos.org/creation-care>

Sponsors: Citizens' Climate Education, Resilient San Luis Obispo, Rotary Los Osos, Earthcare Team—St. Benedict's

CREATION CARE REFLECTIONS

April 22 is Earth Day, giving us an occasion to celebrate our planet, to praise God for it, assess our stewardship of it, and pray for the wisdom and will to preserve it.

We are invited! Our friends at St. Benedict's, Los Osos, in conjunction with Citizens Climate Education, have planned a rich program for Earth Day season, to be offered on Saturday, April 15.

They will present Susan Callery, Managing Editor of NASA's Global Climate Change website. She will show eye-popping photos and graphics from NASA's Eyes on the Earth program, that bring the impacts of climate change into focus from space. Q&A and discussion follow.

There will also be a film, "Nation in Transition" that explores the coal-to-renewables transition on the Navajo nation and northern Arizona. Through stories of workers, business and tribal leaders, utility executives and environmental activists a picture emerges of a just transition for all parties. More Q&A afterward. Expect a lively discussion.

Saturday, April 15, 10am-noon, at St. Benedict's, 2220 Snowy Egret Lane, Los Osos

PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Lord God, we praise you for those riches of our creation that we will never see:

For stars whose light will never reach the earth;

For species of living things that were born, that flourished and perished before humankind appeared in the world;

For patterns and colors in the flowers, which only insect eyes are able to see;

For strange, high music that humans can never hear.

Lord God, you see everything that you have made and behold that it is very good.

(Anonymous)

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence, night or morning.

Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers:

May all these break into song as we sing to Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit.

May all the angels in heaven reply:

Amen! Amen! Amen!

Power, praise, honor and eternal glory to God, the only giver of grace.

Amen! Amen! Amen!

(Anonymous, 3rd century)

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains and rivers; for the songs of birds and loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and we pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 840)

Kathryn Bumpass



Courage in the Wilderness

The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real
invites you to our

Spring Renewal

April 28 & 29, 2023
Sherwood Hall, Salinas

- Spring Renewal is our new annual gathering for the Diocese of El Camino Real •
- Spring Renewal is for worship, thanksgiving and celebration •
- Spring Renewal is for shared learning and growth •
- Spring Renewal is for everyone in our Diocese! •

Register online at by scanning the QR Code or go
to www.realepiscopal.org/spring-renewal-2023

Register by mail with the form on
the back on this flyer.





Two Opportunities to Support the SLO Community!



Walk For Healing 2023

May 1, 2023 to June 11, 2023

It's the start of another new year; a time when we focus our attention on our health and well being and on that of the people around us.

We hope you'll focus your new healthy 2023 energy into registering for Hospice of SLO's Walk For Healing! Challenge yourself by creating a walking, biking, or running program and help support your neighbors facing the challenges of illness and grieving at the same time.

Hospice of SLO County is calling on members of our community to fund raise in support of their mission. **You can do this by registering with Hospice of SLO either individually or as a team to walk, run, bike, or other (roller skate!, paddle board!, hike a mountain!) and invite your friends to donate in your name.**

You will set a fitness goal and track your progress over a six week period. Set healthy habits! Make new friends! And help support Hospice of SLO County to reach their community goal of 25,000 miles logged and \$50,000 raised!

Registration begins on April 17 and is open until June 11. To sign up for Hospice of SLO County's Walk for Healing, go to HospiceSLO.org/events or call 805-544-2266. You can also register on Instagram at #WalkForHealing2023. Look for posters in Ramsden Hall for further information.

St. Stephen's is honored to also sponsor this event!

Hunger Awareness Day

June 2, 2023

Hunger Awareness Day is a countywide event to inform our community about the devastating effects of hunger in SLO County and to raise funds to support the SLO Food Bank's hunger relief efforts.

St. Stephen's has been a sponsor of this event for a number of years. In more recent years, the Food Bank has invited us to be on the planning team and to staff a fundraising booth.

It's time to build up our sponsorship funds. We're going for the \$2,500 sponsorship level which will get our logo on the website, posters and the t-shirt.

To contribute to our sponsorship, send a check made out to **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** with "Hunger Awareness Day" in the memo. (If you send the check to the Food Bank, it won't get credited toward our sponsorship.) You can also contribute by other means. Just check with the office. Donations of all sizes are welcome! If we raise more than the \$2,500 for this sponsorship, we will save that for sponsorship of the Turkey Trot in November.

Become a Hunger Hero today and join us in the important mission to alleviate hunger for our neighbors in need. Transforming into a Hunger Hero is simple and has a tremendous impact!

Next month is when we will ask for volunteers to help staff the fundraising booth. We'd love your help, too!

St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshiping Working

1344 Nipomo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3935

805-543-7212
office@ststephensslo.org
www.ststephensslo.org
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9am-1pm

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

Address Service Requested

*Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and put a new
and right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10
(NRSVA)*



Flowers & Candles for Celebrations

St. Stephen's Altar Guild is grateful to everyone who has donated flowers and candles. The church wouldn't have looked as lovely without you!

A reminder also that flower and candle donations are available needed every Sunday of the year (except in Lent when there are no flowers).

The donation : \$50 for flowers, \$20 for candles.

It is a wonderful way to honor loved ones and share important events with congregations of both services. A chart to sign up is in Ramsden Hall or call /email Stephanie in the office.

Appropriately labeled checks may be put in the offering plate at your convenience.



Bible Selections for March

2-Apr-22 **9-Apr-23**
Palm Sunday **Easter Day**

1st Reading	Isaiah 50.4-9a	Acts 10.34-43
Psalm	Psalm 31.9-16	Psalm 118.1-2,14-24
2nd Reading	Philippians 2.5-11	Colossians 3.1-4
Gospel	Matthew 26:14-27:66	John 20.1-18

16-Apr-23 **23-Apr-23**
Easter 2A **Easter 3A**

1st Reading	Acts 2.14a,22-32	Acts 2.14a,36-41
Psalm	Psalm 16	Psalm 116.1-3,10-17
2nd Reading	1 Peter 1.3-9	1 Peter 1.17-23
Gospel	John 20.19-31	Luke 24.13-35

30-Apr-23
Easter 4A

1st Reading	Acts 2.42-47
Psalm	Psalm 23
2nd Reading	1 Peter 2.19-25
Gospel	John 10.1-10

