

The Witness

Volume 27, Issue 6

Welcoming Worshipping Working

June 2023

Special points of interest:

Sunday

8:00 AM Service
10:00 AM Service with coffee hour following the service

Tuesday

5:00 PM Centering Prayer via Zoom & In-Person

Wednesday

12:15 PM Service



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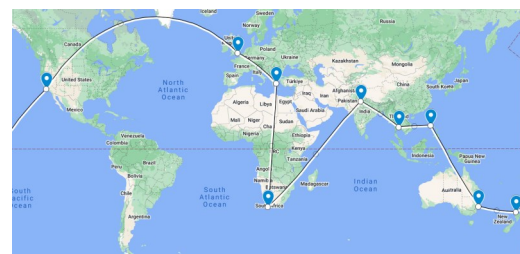
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Up and Away!

By The Rev. Ian M. Delinger, Rector

If The Witness arrives in your mailbox on June 1, I'll be somewhere between London and Athens as you read this. For half of my sabbatical (June 1 – August 31), I will be traveling around the globe to 8 cities, as mentioned in my March article for The Witness: *My full itinerary will be London, Athens, Cape Town, New Delhi, Bangkok, Manila, Sydney, and Auckland.* I will spend time with friends in some of those cities. *And upon my return in mid-July, I will need a period of rest from travel!!*

The round-the-world trip will be 50 days, the longest time I've spent continually traveling (*the longest time I've been "away" was twenty years ago on a 28-day road trip across the USA followed by 9½ weeks in Lima, but in Lima, I was in the same house for all but a couple of days*). Then I'll be in California for 6 weeks before returning to St. Stephen's.



Where in the world is Father Ian?

Sunday, June 4 is Trinity Sunday, and the Gospel is Jesus Commissioning the Disciples after the Resurrection: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19a)*. In 4 cities, I will be speaking to Christians in those places about foodstuffs that are specific to their cultures and their faith practice, I'll get to see the fruits of the Disciples and those who have gone before us over 2 millennia as they made disciples in these many nations.

Christianity covers the globe. Christianity is everywhere because of colonization, which was mostly not a good thing to the natives of those lands. I want to acknowledge that, and also acknowledge that we are where we are. One of the founding principles of Anglicanism is "common prayer" with local expression. Every nation used the Book of Common Prayer (1662) or something very similar, all the way up to the latter part of the 20th Century. But local expressions through music, imagery, trappings, etc. were encouraged. My placements in the Anglican Diocese of Perú, at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin and at a youth prison on the Suffolk coast were the basis of the piece of work of my "double" class in seminary which focused on local expressions of Anglicanism. So, I'm very interested in what other Christians around the world get up to! Two of the 4 explorations of Christianity and food will be in Anglican contexts; the other 2 will be Greek Orthodox and the Church of North India, which is part of the Anglican Communion as a union of several Protestant

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denominations across North India.

Worship is important to me, or I wouldn't be a priest! But I am also intrigued by how the Church expresses itself, how it expresses its love of, worship of, or devotion to Jesus. In the 15th and 16th Centuries, people were put to death for differing expressions of the Christian faith – it was a life-or-death issue, often difficult to untangle the personal vendettas, land grabs, and power plays from what was truly the concern of blasphemy or heresy. We've lightened up a bit since then! THANK GOD! And now I get to see what the Athenians are getting up to without even a hint of criticism or contempt, let alone threat of death! (The readings on May 14 included Paul's address to the Athenians.)

A sabbatical is an enormous privilege, even though it is a part of most clergy contracts. It is an enormous privilege to travel. None of this am I taking for granted or consider entitlement. Thank you, God, for this opportunity. And my last sermon on May 14 was just as much for me as it was for you, and I have to remember to maintain my Stability in God, remain Obedient to God and to listen in order to act, and be open to a Conversion of Life and being transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Joining the St. Stephen's Family will be The Rev. Bruce Bramlett. He will preside over Sunday morning services and be available 8hrs per week for pastoral care and support of the Staff and Wardens. He will look after Smokey when I'm traveling. I'm sure you will demonstrate to him the best of St. Stephen's Welcoming – Worshiping – Working.

And I sign off with the Epistle for Trinity Sunday (June 4):

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Cor 13:11-13)

The Ordination of Jen Crompton

Please join us as we celebrate the Ordination to the Priesthood of The Rev. Jen Crompton.



Wednesday, June 28, at 5:30 p.m.
at St. Benedict's in Los Osos.

All are welcome to join in person, or if you would like to attend online, join via the live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/stbenslososos>.

This will also be accessible through the St. Benedict's webpage at <https://www.stbenslososos.org/> just look for the Facebook link or service link on the main page. Light Refreshments will be served after the service. Looking forward to celebrating with you all!

It's a Life-Changing Ride

Tuesday, June 6th 8:30AM - 3:00PM
Booth will be at the North End of Mission St.,
San Miguel, CA

For more information or to assist please reach out to Deacon Susan Arnold at 805-550-2907 or by email at: dcnsusan.stbarnabas@gmail.com

Aids Life Cycle is a non-profit organization that supports the *San Francisco Aids Foundation* and the *Los Angeles LGBT Center*.

If you would like to make a donation to the ride you can do so here: <https://www.aidslifecycle.org/>

A Word from the Visiting Clergy

Dear Friends and fellow travelers. This is my first communication with you in my short tenure as your priest while Fr. Ian is away for his time of refreshment and rejuvenation. I know that all of you join me in wishing him a delightful and enriching time away, both on his sojourns around the world as well as his time in quiet at home until August 31st. I am more than pleased to join you all for this time. I have been a priest for 45 years and have held positions as Assistant, Associate, Rector and Interim in a number of parishes both here in California and on the east coast where I grew up and was ordained. I have also held a number of teaching positions, primarily in the Bay Area offering courses from Critical Thinking, Theology as Biography, Ethics, Ancient and European History, Biblical Studies, World Religions, as well as my major focus subject which has been the History of the Jewish-Christian relationship, Antisemitism, and Holocaust and genocide studies. You might say that I have been "bi-vocational," though all have been carried forward as aspects of my priestly vocation. I normally live in El Cerrito in the East Bay and have two very grown children.

Having said all that, what is it that I expect from my time here at St. Stephens. First, I am delighted and anxious to meet and get to know as many of you as possible (so show up for services where I can meet you!). I, of course, will expect to carry out Sunday duties, mid-week services and any occasional duties as necessary. If anyone is interested in beginning a 1 hour lectionary study (of the week's lessons) between services or another time, let me know. I also want to offer to share any of those educational opportunities that you all might wish to take advantage of over the summer. I would be very pleased to accept invitations for lunch or dinner to be able to meet and get to know you all better.

I can offer three classes that I have offered recently. The first is entitled, "The Development of Rabbinic Judaism and Classical Christianity from 586 BCE to 325 CE. (six, 2 hour sessions), "The rise of Jesus Movement before through the early 3rd Century CE, (five 2 hour sessions) and lastly, "The History of the Longest Hatred: Antisemitism from 324 BCE to the Present," (six 2 hour sessions). Please let me know what might be the most acceptable times to offer any of these and which you might prefer as your first choice. I have often taught classes on Sunday afternoons, weekday afternoons or evenings. If you are interested in taking one of these, please feel free to email me at brucebramlett@sbcglobal.net to express your interest and preferences. I'll look forward to hearing from you and also to meeting each and every one throughout the summer. (By the way, I'm very happy to be called simply "Bruce).

-Bruce R. Bramlett



Birthdays

2-Jun Berkeley Johnson
4-Jun Roxanna Shaheen
5-Jun Gail Taylor
9-Jun Chris Arndt
9-Jun Ogo Agbo
26-Jun Cassie Tarantino
28-Jun Bill Crewe
30-Jun Amy Lewis

Celebrations for June

Are we 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

Anniversaries

9-Jun Bill & Sandi Crewe
10-Jun Al & Bev Williams
11-Jun Skip & Rosey Parks
12-Jun Lawrence & Kathleen Pennington
17-Jun Kathryn Bumpass & Sari Dworkin



Hands On Stewardship

Thank you to Bill Crewe, Kay Lewis, Carolyn Platt, Elizabeth Potter and Kathleen Pennington for counting the collection and preparing the deposits during May.

Thank you to Lynn Hollister, Kathleen Pennington, Elizabeth Potter and Gail Taylor for being on the Sunday School teaching team in May.

Thank you to Lee & Lynn Hollister, Craig & Cheryl McCollum, Rosie & Skip Parks, Kathleen Pennington and Elizabeth Potter for Coffee Hours in May.

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 Kay & 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.



From the Vestry

The Vestry did not have a regular meeting in May. The next meeting is June 18, 2023. Skip Parks, Senior Warden, will be chairing the meetings while Fr. Ian is on sabbatical.

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.

St. Stephen's Day Celebrations!

This year, St Stephen's Day Celebrations will be on September 9 & 10. There will be a recital on September 9 at 7pm.

The Bishop will visit and welcome Christians into the Body of Christ through Baptism, Confirmation and Reception at both the 8am and 10am Services.

There will be a big celebration in the parking lot after the 10am Service. So, mark your calendars!! For more information, see Jamie Hess and Sophia Agbo.



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.

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



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St. Stephen's Name Tags Continued



It is wonderful to see everyone wearing their name tags during Sunday services. Hopefully, you all agree with me that they look professional and are happy (or proud) to be wearing one. While doing an internet search for positive points related to name tags, I found a few words of wisdom I would like to share with all of you.

One site stated name tags are an inexpensive way to promote outward focus. Their comment was that the church that says, "We don't need name tags since we already know everyone anyway" is probably saying more than they care to admit. This author said it was his guess that they see few guests at their church, and probably aren't expecting any. I don't believe we at St. Stephen's want to send that inward looking message.

Another site shared a Top 10 list from a church that chose name tag ministry. I leave you with their fun reasons:

- #10 – A name tag is cheaper than a tattoo.
- #9 – Wearing a name tag makes for a friendlier church.
- #8 – You will be more approachable if you wear a name tag.
- #7 – Even if you forget a name, you can still read it!
- #6 – A name tag makes it easier to introduce you to someone.
- #5 – A name tag makes visitors feel comfortable.
- #4 – You can make a friend in less than 30 seconds if you wear a name tag.
- #3 – You are immediately identified as an ambassador of our church. Friendly always wins.
- #2 – Name tags are NOT about you. They're about everyone in the world except you.
- #1 – Everyone likes to hear their name!

-Kay Lewis

Opening Doors of Interfaith Understanding

Monday, June 12 at 7PM
 Congregation Beth David
 10180 Los Osos Valley Road, SLO

Book discussion by Rev. Mark Shogen Bloodgood called Evolutionaries: Unlocking the Spiritual & Cultural Potential of Science's Greatest Idea by Carter Phipps and Rich Carsel of Congregation Ohr Tzafon will present an Introduction to the Essence of Judaism.

All are welcome to join the Centering Prayer Group

Where: on your computer, telephone or in-person

When: Tuesdays at 5PM on Zoom (see below) or in the Sanctuary

How: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://tinyurl.com/CenteringPrayer2022>

St. Stephen's Coffee Café 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.

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

Remembering to ask for Strength & Guidance

I know the following words may not seem very “religious” for an article for the *Witness* of this newsletter, but I believe there is a message here that hopefully many can understand and realize the need for personal introspection of our past, present and future lives.

I cried:

Then I got to wondering if that wasn’t really what I did. I cared. And I wondered. And I thought about a number of things and people and animals. Some things, in retrospect probably didn’t impact much, but then they did, in perhaps other ways.

It was so long, long ago; a hundred years ago, or so it seems, growing up. We had animals. Some were pets others for other purposes. The milk cow could hardly be considered a pet, yet Daisy was a very important part of our daily life. Then, with reasons I can blame on others, my chore was to milk Daisy. Often this happened after dark, so there was an extension cord ran out from the house and a light bulb screwed into at the end. The normal practice was to simply unscrew the bulb after the milking so it was dark. It rained that night. The next morning, Daisy had touched the lamp with her nose, made contact, and as a good ground, was electrocuted. I’m not sure I cried, but I was so shocked and the impact is still with me to this day. **“I am not sure I cried”**

Our real pets were dogs. Bud, a beautiful German Shepherd, and Boots (or “Bootsie”), a short haired fox terrier. They were inseparable! Bud herded the hogs. Bud was a part of the family for many years, and then as the family disintegrated in 1950, he was still there. By this time I was alone on the ranch. I slowly realized that Bud was not around as often as before, and I don’t remember Bootsie at all. Then, when I sold the hogs and joined the Marines, the rest of the months were a blur. Whatever happened to Bud? Did he just go to the neighbors and live with them? I didn’t cry, but now I just wonder. I simply never thought about anything there. That was a life I never wanted to go back to. Sad, yes, but never a tear.

Then there was Goldie. Goldie was a big beautiful tom. My bedroom was pretty crude and I couldn’t get enough blankets to stay warm in the cold winter nights. The walls were one board thick. (Well below freezing quite often.) So I would invite Goldie to come to bed with me! We had a deal and both benefited from the mutual warmth! One day my dad decided Goldie had been too sexually active and it was time to take care of his malehood. We stuck him in a rubber boot; I held his legs and Pop did the deed. I wonder about Goldie. Did the coyotes get him? Did he go feral? I’ll never know; I wonder, maybe wish I could shed a tear.

Yes, there are many things, as I recollect, that bring a tear to my eyes. Mostly things that I wish differently but can’t change and maybe wish I could simply forget. But those memories are with me yet today, after so many decades. And I guess until I depart this mortal life.

My heart screamed!

As the years have continued, yes, I think back and I wonder. Sometimes, alone, maybe at night, my eyes water. But we can’t, as some have said, turn back the clock of time. So what is the lesson, what can we now, at a different age, learn to pass on, and frankly, will any of this so-called wisdom really make an impression on others?

There have been other times that I wish I could have cried. My heart screamed! My gut wrenched! I was at sea when the telegram came from my father-in-law: He had the authority to get the message through: Myra had delivered twins, a girl and a boy! I knew this was real because of the way the message was worded. In a few years

(Continued on next page)

it became evident that Mike wasn't developing as he should have for his age and compared to his sister. When Myra was again pregnant, tough decisions had to be made. Mike could no longer continue to live in the house with his twin sister and a soon new sibling. Test after test; we had to confront the ugly truth that Mike was severely mentally retarded. Now Mike has endured colon cancer. The oncologist told me that even after surgery to remove a portion of his colon, the cancer has returned, and cannot be cured. Mike lived in group homes most of his life. When the doctors made it clear that Mike didn't have long to live, I brought him home. If he was going to die, I wanted him to die at home! One morning Mike tried to get to the bathroom but couldn't make it. His sister Molly was here. We sat at Mike's bedside while he took his last breath. Am I now beyond tears?

What do we cry for? And for what do we shed tears? Is it manly not to cry? We are more than men or women. We are humans and caring humans at that. I really believe that as caring people, we need to shed tears; tears for loved ones gone; tears for what could have been. As a person in authority, it is important to control one's emotions. Will Rogers said it best: He had been visiting severely wounded men at a veteran's hospital. He did his best to entertain them and did. Then he was gone. One of the officers found him in a bathroom, crying his heart out at what he had just experienced. I would challenge anyone to visit such places and not shed a tear.

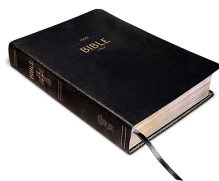
Myra and I were married in September 1956. She was in the Navy and so proud of her service! I had orders to join a ship in San Diego. By this time Myra had delivered twins, and as the ship sailed to the Western Pacific, she stood at the pier with a baby in each arm. I was deployed over six months and during that time she, with another dear friend, tended the babies. Years later as we moved from station to station, Myra "held the fort." Then it was another mounting out, this time to Viet Nam. During those thirteen months, she again managed the home front. When I left the Marine Corps and began my college studies in earnest, in spite of holding a BS from Cal Berkeley, she could only find employment driving a school bus, a job that she really enjoyed and made many friends in the process. The years passed and her health began to fail. Her polio returned and her mobility suffered. Then, around 2012, she could hardly manage even with elevator chairs and special bathing facilities. Finally, she was almost 100% bed ridden the last two years of her life. Daughter Molly would spend day after day with her, talking, chatting, and just being near. In the last few months of her life she could hardly take any nourishment. It was Thanksgiving Day, 2014. She hadn't eaten, and had difficulty taking water. That night I gave her a sponge bath and we held hands in bed. Friday, November 28, she didn't wake up. As I write these words, I ask myself "How did I feel? Did I cry?" She would lie in bed and point to heaven and say, "I'm ready to go!" She had suffered enough. I remember a line from an old song: "How often do I think of her: Once a day, every day, all day long." I miss her so much and remember the 58 years we had together, and inside, I cry every day, as I am right now.

**“Oh, dear Lord,
why me?”**

We often have nowhere to turn, no one to turn to. We do not bewail and cry "Oh, dear Lord, why me?" It is at times like this we have no choice but to turn to our God and ask for strength and guidance.

- Jim Murphy

Bible Selections for June



	4-Jun-23	11-Jun-23	18-Jun-23	25-Jun-23
	Trinity Sunday	2Pent A	3Pent A	4Pent A
1st Reading	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Hosea 5:15-6:6	Exodus 19:2-8a	Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm	Psalm 8	Psalm 50:7-15	Psalm 100	Psalm 69:8-11,18-20
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Romans 4:13-25	Romans 5:1-8	Romans 6:1b-11
Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20	Matthew 9:9-13;18-26	Matthew 9:35-10:23	Matthew 10:24-39

St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshiping Working

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

The wilderness and the solitary
place shall be glad for them; and
the desert shall rejoice, and
blossom as the rose.

Isaiah 35:1 (KJV)



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Register at my805tix.com

Search for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
as the organization.

Questions? Want to volunteer? email
kapennington@netscape.net

Vacation Bible Camp July 31 - August 4, 1-5pm

Calling all kids ages 5 to 12! Enjoy a full week of camp with a Superhero theme! Cooking classes, theater, art, music, sports, and lots of other fun activities await. Camp runs from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Snacks are provided. \$25 for the first child, \$25 for up to two additional children in the same family. Price includes T-shirt and snacks. If you're unable to pay the registration fee, we do have scholarships available. There will also be Camp Leadership Positions (volunteer) available for teens age 14-18.

Vacation Bible Camp is open to children who are not part of our congregation. If you know a child who might enjoy being one of God's Superheros, email their parents about it with a link to mytix805.com or give them a copy of this newsletter.

And, of course, adult volunteers are needed to help with Vacation Bible Camp for the full week or just a day or two. Whatever your super power is, there's sure to be the perfect way to use it in our Vacation Bible Camp to help children have fun discovering the super powers God has given them.