

# The Witness

Volume 27, Issue 7

Welcoming Worshipping Working

July 2023

**Special points of interest:**

**Sunday**

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

**Wednesday**

12:15 PM Service

*Hello July!*



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**Musings from your visiting Priest**  
by The Rev. Bruce Bramlett

This is my first time writing for the Witness since I arrived in SLO almost six weeks ago. Let me say right up front that your welcome to me has been nothing less than overwhelming. I have been working part time for a number of years since my official “retirement.” (Old priests don’t really retire. We just go silent one day!) For almost six years I worked at St. Jude’s Church in Cupertino as their priest assistant, and filling in after their Rector left until COVID broke out. It was difficult to leave that wonderful community where I had become very attached and at home. Throughout the pandemic we all suffered from our loss of community and human engagement and I believe that I’m still “recovering” from that experience (Thankfully, I never caught COVID). Coming to St. Stephens for this sabbatical replacement has been my first opportunity to be a part of a real ongoing and sustained community and I have realized just how much I’ve missed it. I can only express to you all how grateful I am for the warm and rich welcome you all have offered me. I am really enjoying getting to know at least some of you and I hope I will be able to meet more of you as the summer moves on. Please know that I would love to have time to sit with some tea or coffee in your homes and learn about your lives and work. Give me a call or call the parish office to make that happen.

Having said all that, it’s very exciting to find you all to be a congregation of very inquisitive and open people. As some of you may have seen from my biography, I am a priest with two very important vocations. Education and parish ministry have always been two totally intertwined passions for me. I was having a conversation this morning at church where I was invited to think about my own vocation and became aware that I have always been an inquiring spirit, unwilling to accept the conventional wisdom of the tradition. The class that I’m teaching on Tuesday evenings is grounded in an historically critical mode of study that invites us to think about the world in which Jesus and his contemporaries lived and thought. This, for some might be a revolutionary or even a dangerous adventure. My experience with this project has shown me that there is an entirely different invitation being offered us in our contemporary world to reconsider and perhaps reconfigure much of what our traditions have taught us. This, of course can and should be frightening and perhaps threatening. I acknowledge and appreciate that.

Nevertheless, I am convinced that our tradition has great power and possibility for human and creational transformation. Our world is at a very crucial tipping point in which the choices we make and the decisions we pursue will determine the survival and the flourishing of our created world. Our role as Christian

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from front page)*

people is to devote our lives to the ultimate sustainability and flourishing of our world. Our traditional ways of thinking about “salvation” (which means “wholeness”) is something “out of this world.” I believe that is wrong thinking and that we must find ways to contribute to the healing (mending) of this world as the place that the Divine loves and is committed to, including us, God’s creatures and stewards.

I believe that we are at a critical juncture of human existence and that we must make critical and existential decisions about our own future and the future of our children and their children after them. This is a time for the Jesus movement to reassert itself in our world and reclaim the role of prophetic compassion and transformative action on behalf of all creation. Our divine source has given us all that we need to turn our destructive and death-dealing world around. We are called, I believe to take up the challenge and set out with courage and strength to begin to challenge our world so dedicated to its own demise. The movement of Jesus is not simply a movement of love but a movement of human transformation. Our churches are not used to hearing this call to transformation and renewal. I believe that we need to awaken and follow in the path that we have been called to follow.

The class that I have offered is an invitation to begin to rethink and regain our attention to the core of what Jesus called “the good news.” The essential core of that good news is that the Divine wills for this creation to both thrive and blossom and that we are an essential element in that project’s success. That is what the Jesus movement is all about. That is what I am committed to proclaiming and teaching. If we have found ourselves in this place at this time, perhaps it was meant to be. I invite you to engage with me in this conversation this summer while I am with you. I invite you to reconsider what this thing called “Christianity” might mean for you and your children as we face a world filled with despair, doubt, and violence. Let’s have some “no holds barred” conversations about what this might mean for us here in this place. That’s my challenge for us this lazy summer while I’m here. I’ll look forward to sharing with you.

Yours in Christ’s love and care.  
Bruce

## Celebrations for July

### *Birthdays*

Dennis	Deovlet	July 01
Bob	Misson	July 09
Marshall	Granger	July 11
Brenda	Enney	July 14
Alison	Preston	July 20
Ann	Roen	July 23

### *Anniversaries*

Raymond & Linda	Zeuschner	July 08
George & Pat	Brown	July 14



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](mailto:office@ststephensslo.org)

## Hunger Awareness Day June 2, 2023

Thank You to the parishioners of St. Stephen's for a very successful Hunger Awareness Day in support of the SLO Food Bank. The goal was to raise \$2,500 at St. Stephen's for this event. We met our goal and more. You donated a total of \$2,645 which will all be sent to the SLO Food Bank.



In addition, thank you to the following St. Stephen's members for their willingness to wave signs on Hunger Awareness Day. They were: **Gail Taylor, Frances Robertson, Shannon Larrabee, Craig and Cheryl McCollum, Bruno Giberti, Virginia Enney, Linda Zeuschner, Elizabeth Potter, Rick Brady, Amy Lewis and Clark Lewis.** These people stood on the street in front of 1<sup>st</sup> Capital Bank at the corner of Higuera and Nipomo waving signs to encourage everyone walking or driving past to contribute to the SLO Food Bank. We don't yet know the total of what was collected on the street, but I do know it was more than \$1,000. It was a fun and rewarding day!

-Kay Lewis

*Editor's Note: According to the SLO Food Banks's Hunger Awareness donation website. Their goal was \$112,000 and they raised \$141,175. St. Stephen's donation total is \$3,220.00. Thank you to all who donated and participated.*

## Sexton and Junior Warden Update

Sexton Lee Hollister and Junior Warden Shannon Larrabee have been working behind the scenes to get several projects completed around the parish. They are happy to announce that St. Stephen's will begin working with Dan's Landscape of San Luis Obispo to take over the maintenance of the grounds around the property starting June 16. Shannon and Lee reviewed several proposals for a new landscape maintenance company and were impressed with Dan's Landscapes good communication, professionalism, and vision of the property. The goal is to continue to provide a beautiful landscape that is drought tolerant, low water usage, cohesive and works towards lower maintenance. The Memorial Garden will be maintained and elevated along with an extensive cleanup and replanting project taking place over the next few weeks.

With the help of Vestry member Jamie Hess, Lee and Shannon are working towards developing a comprehensive short and long-term maintenance plan for the parish and grounds. An inventory was completed, and a binder and spreadsheet will be developed to allow for planning and budgeting for routine maintenance and larger projects such as painting, roof maintenance and other items.

Thank you to everyone who has worked with us to address the parking lot replacement project. We have received three bids, asked for revisions, and will have more details to present to everyone soon. After several revisions, we believe that we will have a contractor selected that will be able to install a functional parking lot with a budget that will require a combination of contributions from the Endowment Fund and fundraising at an achievable level from Parish membership. The scope of the project we are now considering should provide minimal disruption (7-10 days) and provide us with a solid parking lot that will serve us well for years to come.

Our goal is to have the following projects completed by this Fall: parking lot replaced, landscape spruced up, replanted and looking good, new carpet for the Church, entrance doors with new stain, wood parquet floors repaired and a comprehensive plan with binder for regular maintenance items along short and long term maintenance projects.

## Hands on Stewardship

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

**Thank you** to Shannon Larrabee, Craig & Cheryl McCollum and Kathleen Pennington for Coffee Hours in June.

**Thank you to** Gail Taylor, Frances Robertson, Shannon Larrabee, Craig and Cheryl McCollum, Bruno Giberti, Virginia Enney, Linda Zeuschner, Elizabeth Potter, Rick Brady, Amy Lewis and Clark Lewis for helping raise awareness and collect donations for SLO Food Bank.

**Thank you** to Gail Taylor, Elizabeth Potter, and Cheryl McCollum who folded, taped and labeled The Witness.

**Thank you** to Elizabeth Potter for helping with the celebration cards

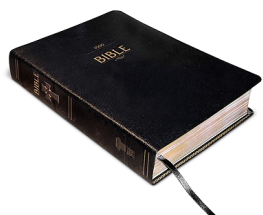
**Thank you** to Clark Lewis for picking up the no cook bags to distribute to those in need.

**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.



## Bible Selections for July



**1st Reading**  
**Psalm**  
**2nd Reading**  
**Gospel**

**2-Jul-23**  
**5Pent A**

**9-Jul-23**  
**6 Pent A**

Jeremiah 28:5-9	Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 89:1-4,15-18	Psalm 145:8-15
Romans 6:12-23	Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 10:40-42	Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

**16-Jul-23**  
**7 Pent A**

**23-Jul-23**  
**8 Pent A**

**30-Jul-23**  
**9 Pent A**

**1st Reading**  
**Psalm**  
**2nd Reading**  
**Gospel**

Isaiah 55:10-13	Isaiah 44:6-8	1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 65:9-14	Psalm 86:11-17	Psalm 119:129-136
Roman 8:1-11	Romans 8:12-25	Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23	Matthew 13:24-30,36-43	Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

### 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](mailto:office@ststephensslo.org)

Contribution of articles is encouraged. Please e-mail submissions to [witness@ststephensslo.org](mailto:witness@ststephensslo.org)  
The deadline for emailed submission of articles is the third Friday of the month. Email any questions to [witness@ststephensslo.org](mailto: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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You can scan this QR Code with your phone and be taken directly to our PayPal site or go to [paypal.me/ststephensslo](https://paypal.me/ststephensslo)



Scan. Pay. Go.

## Treasurer’s Report

As you may know, churches typically begin each year with a negative budget. Experience had shown that collection results typically exceed the budget. We at St. Stephen’s have done this for many years.

For calendar year 2023, our budget envisioned an operating loss of -\$36,255.00 compared to last year’s budget of -\$26,241.02. In the event of a shortfall in a calendar year, we can draw upon the cash in the Operating account at Mechanics Bank which, on May 31, 2023, had a balance of \$47,051.29. We also have an investment account with State Street for our endowment which amounted to \$654,439.05 on May 31, 2023. Endowment funds are restricted for specific uses and are not available to use for operating expenses. Thus our only cushion in the event of an operating loss for a year is the account at Mechanics Bank.

### How are we doing as of May 31 - almost the halfway point for the year?

YTD Results Jan – May 2023

Account	Actual	Budget	Over Budget
Plate Offering	\$3,7811.05	\$2,916.65	\$864.40
Givers of Record	\$4,915.00	\$11,250.00	-\$6,335.00
Pledges	\$88,609.44	\$75,000.00	\$13,609.44
Grandmothers House	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Other Facility Use	\$5,483.00	\$5,116.65	-\$366.35
Special Offerings	\$0.00	\$416.65	-\$416.65
Memorial Garden	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$850.00
Operating Income	\$115,638.49	\$106,899.95	\$8,938.54
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$138,872.84</b>	<b>\$113,283.35</b>	<b>\$17,569.49</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$129,643.86</b>	<b>\$127,931.25</b>	<b>\$1,712.63</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$7,122.22</b>	<b>-\$14,647.90</b>	<b>\$21,770.12</b>

Although the Year-to-date results are favorable, we did have an operating loss of -\$13,412.22 for the month of May. Hopefully, we will be able to maintain a favorable budget variance for the rest of the year. We are particularly hopeful the Givers of Record donations will increase to the level budgeted.

*-Bill Crewe, Treasurer*

**Notice Board:**

You are invited to attend the vestry meetings on July 16 & August 20 at 11:45am

Centering Prayer is on hiatus for the summer.

**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.



# Bible Scavenger hunt

Find the biblical passage and insert the missing words.

- ◇ Jeremiah 28:9 As for the prophet who \_\_\_\_\_ peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.'
- ◇ Zechariah 9:12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will \_\_\_\_\_ to you double.
- ◇ Psalm 145:9 The LORD is good to all, and his \_\_\_\_\_ is over all that he has made.
- ◇ Psalm 65:12 The pastures of the \_\_\_\_\_ overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,
- ◇ Matthew 13:23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.
- ◇ Romans 8:14 - "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are \_\_\_\_\_ of God."
- ◇ 1 Kings 3:6 And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in \_\_\_\_\_, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and \_\_\_\_\_ love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.
- ◇ Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts \_\_\_\_\_ to the simple.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**Choral Scholar Recital**  
*Songs of Hope & Inspiration*

**Saturday, September 9, 2023**  
**7:00pm**

Featuring:  
 Roseann Parks, Talia Ortega, Lia Fagan,  
 Joseph Lilly, George Gorrindo,  
 Cassandra Tarantino,  
 Ryan Hartzell, and Dr. Marti Lindholm

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Sanctuary  
 Reception following in Ramsden Hall

**This is a FREE recital open to the public**  
**as a part of the**  
**St. Stephen's Feast Day**  
**Celebration Weekend 2023**



**CELEBRATING!**

SEP 9 - RECITAL AT 7PM  
 SEP 10 - ST STEPHEN'S DAY  
 JOIN US AT 8AM OR 10AM  
 FOR OUR PATRONAL FEAST  
 FOLLOWED BY FOOD & FUN

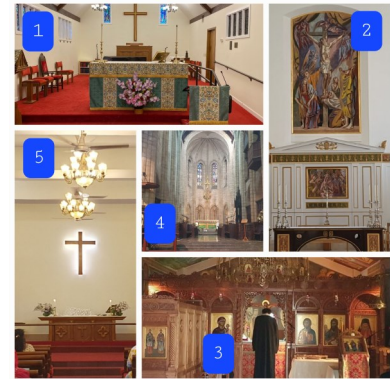
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
 WORSHIP & PARTIES: JUST LIKE JESUS!  
 1344 NIPOMO ST, SLO

## Worshipping Around the World

By The Rev. Ian M. Delinger, Rector

It has been quite an experience to worship in a different country on each of the past five Sundays!

1. St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Santa Maria, CA (Diocese of Los Angeles). A small and welcoming community just down the road from SLO. I know the priest, The Rev. Peter Kang, but he was on vacation. All very familiar.
2. St. John's Waterloo in London (Diocese of Southwark, Church of England). My flight arrived at 6.30am and check-in was not until 2pm. The other churches in the area of my hotel were either at 11am (later than I preferred) or did not accept the ministry of women. So, even though St. John's Waterloo was a little bit further afield, and was observing Morning Prayer for the early service, it suited my needs well. I stayed for coffee hour and had a lovely chat with an intergenerational group at my table. It was Pentecost Sunday, and the Curate preached on the Coming of the Holy Spirit as an act of full inclusion in the Church. I had never heard that perspective before, and she wasn't wrong!
3. Holy Convent of St. George in Marathon, Greece (Greek Orthodox). Fr. Nektarios Mamalougos was my contact for my project. On Saturday, June 3, we showed up early at the Convent for Mattins and the Divine Service. It lasted THREE HOURS! Lots of chanting by the nuns and Fr. Nektarios. The interior of the building was covered with murals of Jesus and the Saints. They were commemorating the Saturday of Souls, very much like our All Souls' Day, commemorating the dead, from Adam & Eve to the present day. Congregants submit names right up to the last minute, and the priest chants each name. There were probably 15 in attendance, and hundreds of names were chanted in quick succession. Very powerful and prayerful!
4. St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa (Diocese of Cape Town, Anglican Church of Southern Africa). Wonderful high-church liturgy, complete with full procession, incense, censing the altar during the procession and at the Offertory, censing the people and the clergy, and chanting of the Sursum Corda or Dialogue. The sermon was steeped in prayer for faith and hope for a future of social and racial equity and equality. The work of Archbishop Tutu, FW DeKlerk and Nelson Mandela is both, still alive, and nowhere near finished ... in South Africa and around the globe!
5. Green Park Free Church, New Delhi, India (Diocese of Delhi, Church of North India, part of the Anglican Communion). A very familiar service, in English. The service in Hindi was earlier in the morning. It was interesting to see a number of congregants who appeared between the ages of 25-50yo. Like Cape Town Cathedral, the congregation was not an ex-pat congregation, yet both sang traditional Western Victorian hymns! And both Delhi and Cape Town offered different forms of intinction when receiving the sacramental wine...neither of which will be employed at St. Stephen's! The best part of the service was the removal of shoes as we approached the altar to receive the Sacrament. I have preached on this before, and the relevant text is coming up shortly after my return to St. Stephen's!



Hopefully I will be able to attend a Sunday Service in each of the three remaining cities, Bangkok, Sydney and Auckland (I am not in Manila on a Sunday). Sydney will be tough, as, like London, I arrive early in the morning. It will depend on my hosts. The Anglican Communion is common in its worship and diverse in its expressions! And we all come together as expressed by Ephesians 4:1-6!

# St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshiping Working

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*I have made a  
covenant with my  
chosen: I have sworn to  
David my servant*

*Psalm 89:3*

*1599 Geneva Bible  
(GNV)*

**SUPERHEROES  
IN SLO!**  
July 31 - August  
4  
Ages 5 - 12  
Register at my805tix

modern heroes

bible heroes

**Volunteer Superheroes Needed**

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.

Adult and Teen volunteers (age 14 and older) are needed to help with Vacation Bible Camp for the full week, just a day or two, or a few hours.

Just \$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 have scholarships available.

-  Botanical Gardens
-  Art
-  Fire Fighters
-  Roaming Reptiles
-  Music
-  Jr. Rangers
-  Cooking
-  Games
-  Drama

Questions? email  
kapennington@netscape.net