

The Witness

Volume 28, Issue 4

Welcoming Worshipping Working

April 2024

Special points of interest:

Sunday

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

Monday

8:30AM Prayers & Pastries at The Bridge Café—1074 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo

Wednesday

12:15 PM Service



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Our Easter Question

By The Rev Ian M Delinger, Rector

If you were to guess what God is looking for in your community, what would it be?

This question was posed to the priests at the Diocesan Clergy Conference in mid-March. The conference was about how to use our buildings in a more missional way. We were being asked to look *outward* into our communities to find ways to be more missional with our buildings. This was after being asked to consider how our buildings can be used (an *inward*-looking question). Part of the exercise was to encourage us to walk the neighborhood with members of the congregation to identify what needs there might be.



As the conversation got started, one priest shouted, "RECONCILIATION!" She pointed out that we already know what God wants for us: Reconciliation. It's in our catechism (BCP p855):

What is the ministry of the laity?

The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and His Church; to bear witness to Him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, **to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world;** and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

God wants reconciliation – between God and humanity, with Creation and humanity, and within humanity ourselves! Our recent celebration of the Resurrection illustrates that this is what we believe!

To rephrase the question to be consistent with what we already know about what God wants, the question might be better phrased:

Since God is looking for us to be reconcilers in our community, what would the opportunities be?

That's a BIG question! But it's one we are called to discern and continue to discern

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once we have completed each work of reconciliation. You know that I don't believe that our faith is a nostalgic looking back. It's a dynamic moving forward, living out God's purposes. So, the Resurrection – the ultimate reconciliation – calls us to be reconcilers in our community.

What does being a reconciler in this community look like to you? How can that guide our mission?

We were shown examples of some grand projects that small churches accomplished with the creative use of their gifts and resources. I looked for the commonalities between these projects to try and discover the heart and soul. Bravery? Daring to dream? Outstanding leadership? Sure, those were in the mix. But the core of each of these projects was a collective discovery of what God wanted for that community over and above what the congregation wanted for themselves.

The Gospel readings during Eastertide all demonstrate ways in which reconciliation is what God is looking for in every community. We are God's hands and feet in this world, in this community. May we carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in this place.

Spring Renewal 2024: May 17 & 18, 2024

It would be wonderful to have a delegation from St Stephen's SLO at Spring Renewal!

Don't miss the opportunity to join us for our annual in-person Spring Renewal on May 17th and 18th in Salinas. Unlike the Diocesan Convention, this event is open to everyone in the diocese. Our keynote speaker, the Right Reverend Michael Hunn, Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, is a former Canon to the Ordinary for our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. He will share his unique and inspiring perspective on our Stepping Out with Soul theme. Mark your calendar now and join us for a gathering of fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Parumpapumpum A reminder from Fr. Ian

In The Witness in January (read here: <https://tinyurl.com/WitnessJan24>), I asked you to think about the following over the year:

When you think about the gift you would be bring to Jesus, would it be different if it were Jesus, the Christ Child, Jesus who is with us until the end of the age (last line of Matthew), or Jesus who comes at the Second Coming? Or would it be the same? Would it be material and/or something with deep significance, like the Wise Men's gifts? Or something from your own humbleness?

This is a reminder to think about this. At the end of the year, I'll find a way that we can share our thoughts in conversation.

Fellowship Hour

On the last Monday of the month, we'll have an hour-long "event" starting at 5:30pm. Any person from the congregation can volunteer to take a month and host whatever event they want to host. Learn how to knit; game night; look-how-cute-my-grandkids-are night... whatever. The host will decide how hospitality will be offered: They can provide snacks or a meal, or ask people to bring stuff, or have nothing. It will be up to them. If people want to mingle more after the event is finished, they can do so. If you want to host, get in touch with Fr Ian.

Thanks to Gina Hafemeister for Games Night in March. On April 29, The Hollisters will be hosting Fellowship Hour—The History of St Stephen's and our surrounding area. Volunteers needed for May, June and onward.

From the Vestry

The Vestry meets on the 3rd Sunday of the Month (moving to 2nd Sunday starting in April) to discuss the business affairs of the parish. Here are some highlights of the meeting on March 17, 2024:

- ◆ The Vestry will be trying a new meeting format to endeavor to be more relational in our work and to make our meetings for effective. Every other month, the meeting will consist primarily of a Conversation Meeting during which we discuss two or three upcoming matters without taking any decisions. We will be able to share ideas rather than exchange opinions. The alternate meetings will follow a more business-like format, which will likely be more informed and enlightened by our opportunities to share with one another.
- ◆ During the presentation of the finances, the Vestry learned that many pledges are front-loaded, so there is no need draw down from the Endowment at this time. Be on the lookout in coming months for visual presentations (pie charts) of how our income and expenses are allocated.
- ◆ Vestry Members will be the liaison to the following Committees. Some of the Committees are existing; some need to be formed. If you are interested in these areas of ministry, please reach out to the Vestry Member listed.
 - * Finance – Shannon Larrabee
 - * Endowment – Bruno Giberti
 - * Buildings & Grounds – Jim Gates
 - * Social Outreach - Molly Supat
 - * Hospitality – Ellizabeth Potter
 - * Fellowship / Parish Life / Social Activities – Jennifer Sayre
 - * Education (Adult and Children’s) – Gail Taylor
 - * Welcoming & Newcomer – Jamie Hess
 - * Ministries under the Rector: Communications. Personnel. Worship & Liturgy.

The next meeting is April 14, 2024. 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.



Being More Relational

By Fr Ian

For Vestry meetings in 2024, the Vestry will reflect on how we can be more relational in our leadership of the parish. Each month we will reflect on a message from Jesus on how Jesus is calling us to be more relational. At the Vestry Retreat on March 2, I shared a summary of what being more relational in our work means. You can find that summary here: <https://tinyurl.com/TransVRelate> We wove that into the rest of the Retreat.

For the March 17 Vestry Meeting, we reflected on ways in which Jesus demonstrates or calls on us to be more relational as we share our Gifts of the Spirit in leadership and the idea of “professional vs. friendly” in Mark 5:25-34 – The Hemorrhaging Woman.

Hands on Stewardship



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

Thank you to Lee & Lynn Hollister, Cheryl & Craig McCollum, and the Choir for hosting coffee hour in March.

Thank you to Elizabeth Potter & Kathleen Pennington for preparing the Easter Egg Hunt.

Thank you to Lee Hollister for all little and not-so-little things he fixes around the church.

Thank you to Diane Levison & Clark Lewis for making the majority of the palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

Thank you to The Altar Guild for all the love and care they put in to making our Holy Week and Easter beautiful.

Thank you to The Music Team and Choir for such wonderful music on Easter Day and for their melodious tones during Holy Week.

Thank you to Sophia Agbo, Carole Astaire, MaryLud Baldwin, Marge Cordova (and her husband), Liz Frost, Father Ian, Diane Levison, Cheryl McCollum, Stephanie Olsen, Amberlynn Lopardo, Marci Paric, Kathleen Pennington, Elizabeth Potter, Gail Taylor, Charleen VonGortler, Julianna Winninghoff and Bud Zeuschner for “working” in St. Stephen’s Chocolate Factory making beautiful chocolate Easter eggs.

Thank you to Everyone who ordered Chocolate Easter Eggs or made a donation to the project, enabling us to provide over 120 beautiful chocolate Easter eggs to children served by CAPSLO/40Prado, Family Care Network, Lumina Alliance and Transitions-Mental Health, and over \$1500 to Assistance League of SLO, CASA, and Transitions Mental Health, Family Care Services for their work with children in need in our community.

Thank you to Everyone who gave food or funds to Grass Roots II through our Souper Bowl of Caring food drive.

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

Thank you to Ethan Stan and Spud Schroeder for taking the trash cans to the street for pick up each week.

Thank you to Gail Taylor, Nancy Deovlet, Elizabeth Potter, and Cheryl McCollum who fold, tape and label The Witness every month.

Thank you to Diane Levison, Clark & Kay Lewis, Craig & Cheryl McCollum for cooking monthly for 40 Prado.

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

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

Thank you to the Clark Lewis, Craig McCollum, Beau Parks for live streaming the Sunday Services.

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

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 2024 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

Notice Board:

If you locate any service booklets that are not from the current seasonal booklet, please direct them to an usher or the office.

Thank you.

Creation Care Reflections A Litany for Earth Day, April 22, 2024

The following is a series of thanksgivings with responses used by the Earthcare group
at St. Benedict's, Los Osos, California

Grateful, we are, to You—Source of Life

For Earth's intricate, interconnected, interdependent biosphere. For the marvelous riot of flora and fauna filling every niche. For the diversity of life, among millions of species; and for the diversity of humanity, each of us a unique reflection of Your image. For the gift of existence, which we must never take for granted!

BLESSED ARE YOU, ETERNAL OUR GOD, SPRIT OF THE UNIVERSE, MAKER OF THE WORKS OF CREATION.

Grateful, we are, to You—Source of Connection

For our humble, critical place in Your world. For relationships between people; among all peoples; among all creatures; and with You, Holy Blessed One. For the first enduring covenant You made—not with one group or one species but with All Life—Our enduring call to remember that we're all in it together.

BLESSED ARE YOU, ETERNAL OUR GOD, SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE—WHO REMEMBERS THE RAINBOW COVENANT, AND IS FAITHFUL IN THE DIVINE COVENANT, AND SUSTAINS THE DIVINE WORD.

Grateful, we are to You—Source of Purpose

For setting the first human mission, to serve and to guard the ecosystem within which we are one beautiful part. For guiding us to pursue justice, for all Your children. For implanting within us awareness, intelligence, wisdom and goodness, by which we make meaning for our own lives, and contribute to the good of all.

LET US BLESS THE SOURCE OF LIFE—WHO HAS GIVEN US THE SACRED OPPORTUNITY TO REPAIR THE WORLD.

Mostly traditional prayers, woven together by Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation.

Offered by Kathryn Bumpass

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.
Genesis 8:22



Souper Bowl of Caring

After the Super Bowl, our children in Sunday School joined people in churches all across the US in collecting non-perishable foods for those “who were without a bowl of soup while others enjoyed Super Bowl parties.” They collected 36 pounds of food and \$170 for Grass Roots II.

St. Stephen’s Chocolate Egg Factory

Making Our Famous Chocolate Easter Eggs



MaryLud & Sophia cooking fudge

Julianna, Bud, Kathleen & Cheryl with the perfect fudge center.



Bud Zeuschner placing the finishing touches on the leaves... only 20 more to go!

Julianna, Liz, Marge and her husband with a table of our beautiful (and delicious) Chocolate Easter Eggs.





Climate Solutions Community Forum

2 - 4 PM SATURDAY, APRIL 6

ST. BENEDICT'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CORNER OF
LOS OSOS VALLEY ROAD
AND CLARK VALLEY ROAD

ANTARCTICA'S MELTING – AN URGENT
CALL TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING
DON MARUSKA, CLIMATE SOLVER

LIVING SIMPLY SO OTHERS MAY
SIMPLY LIVE - OFF GRID LIVING IN
ATASCADERO
IAN AND ALICIA DENCHASY

HOW LOCAL AGRICULTURE CAN HELP
REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASSES
MATT AND JEAN OF MJ FAMILY FARMS

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO BEND THE
CURVE FOR A HEALTHIER CLIMATE
**CLIMATE FELLOWS FROM
CAL POLY AND CUESTA**



ST. BENEDICT'S
EARTHCARE TEAM



Spring flowers and coffee smells are in the air.
A time to celebrate on Sunday morning!!!!

Gather in the parish hall. Volunteers, ask a friend to help prepare coffee and tea for our gatherings. The sign-up sheet needs to be filled.

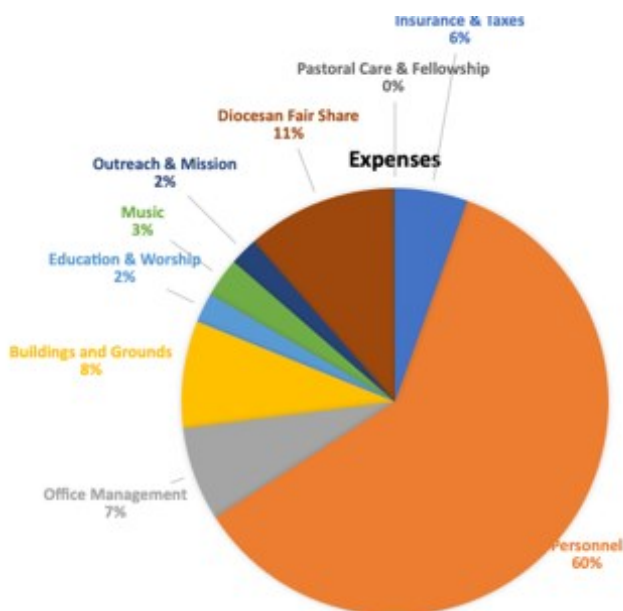
Thank you to all who volunteer!!!!



The Time, Talent, Treasure and Creation Care at St. Stephen's

For the next few months, your Stewardship Committee will be highlighting Time, Treasure, Talent, Creation Care at St. Stephen's; fostering an understanding of where our "treasure" goes, an appreciation of the "time and talent" given by many parishioners, and showing opportunities for all to join in with their many gifts.

General Financial starts us off.



This is a chart of our current 2024 budget with divisions by category of expenses.

For General Financial in Time, Treasure, and Talent:

Treasure: In "Office Management", \$7,600 goes to Paychex Payroll Fees and to Tidwell Bookkeeping

Time and Talent: Volunteers include



Treasurer, Bill Crewe



Bookkeeper Liaison, Kay Lewis

Also Volunteers are: *Money Counters*- Adele Butterfield, Bill Crewe, Lynn Hollister, Kay Lewis, Kathleen Pennington, Elizabeth Potter

- * *Finance Committee*- Lee Hollister, Bill Crewe, Kay Lewis, Fr. Ian Delinger
- * *Endowment Committee*- Lee Hollister, Rosie Parks, Liz Frost, Clark Lewis, *ex officio*: Bill Crewe, Jamie Hess, Fr. Ian Delinger

That’s a dozen people in total who give innumerable hours to St. Stephen’s to insure our finances are properly accounted for and dispersed.

If more people were involved, it would spread the effort out to be more manageable for each individual.

Our treasurer says, if more treasure were given, it would reduce anxiety a great deal!

*Your faithful Stewardship Committee,
Kathryn Bumpass, Nancy Deovlet, Elizabeth Potter, Jennifer Sayre*

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with
 whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

Flowers & Candles

Each Sunday of the year the Altar Guild supplies flowers (or greenery) and candle oil for the Sunday services.

If you would like to dedicate flowers or candles in thanksgiving, in celebration or in memory of your loved ones let us know.

Sign up is in Ramsden Hall, drop a note in the offering plate with your donation or reach out to the office.



The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:12



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER

Healthy Aging Club

An Active Social Club for those living in the early stages of dementia

Get out, get active, and get connected!

Keep your brain and body active with different activities. Meet others who are living in the Early Stages and want to remain cognitively and socially active.

2nd & 4th Thursdays
10 - 11:30am

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Ramsden Room

1344 Nipomo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RSVP to Laura Deloye
ladeloye@alz.org | 805.342.0956



With Open Hands

Monday, April 8 at 7pm

Opening Doors of Interfaith Understanding
will be meeting at
Nativity Church, 221 Daly Avenue, SLO
both in person and on ZOOM.

Fr. Jim Nisbet will be presenting the
book "With Open Hands" by Henri Nouwen
followed by Rich Carsel speaking on
The Jewish Influence in Christian Worship.

To join via Zoom:
Meeting ID: 892 5894 8380 Passcode: 033140

Words of the Risen Lord

We are familiar with “The Seven Last Words of Christ” spoken from the Cross. Below are eight words of the Risen Lord. Can you name the people to whom these words were addressed?

1. He told this person, “Do not hold me.”
2. On the Emmaus Road, he called this person “foolish.”
3. He said to this person, “Put out your hand, and place it in my side.”
4. He asked this person, “Do you love me?”
5. His words, “teach all nations,” were addressed to whom?
6. He told this person, “Feed my sheep.”
7. He asked this one, “Why do you persecute me?”
8. He told this person, at Patmos, to write down his words.

From Bible Quizzes for Church Newsletters by Frank R. Hoffman,
Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan Copyright 1987

- 8) John, Revelation 1:9-11
7) Saul, Acts 9:4
6) Simon Peter, John 21:17
5) The disciples, Matthew 28:16-19
4) Simon Peter, John 21:15
3) Thomas, John 20:27
2) Cleopas, Luke 24:13, 18, 25
1) Mary Magdalene, John 20:1, 17

ANSWERS:



Happy Birthday!

Robert	McCorkle	April 03
Hugh	Platt	April 07
George	Brown	April 12
Judy	Tyner	April 17
Dottie	Hixson	April 23
Andria	Gibson	April 25
Lawrence	Pennington	April 29

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

Happy Anniversary!

Gabe & Alicia	Bisselle	April 22
Mark & Stephanie	Olsen	April 30

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

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

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*Answer me when I call,
O God of my right!
You gave me room
when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me,
and hear my prayer.*

Psalm 4:1

Donations

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.

Bible Selections for April



7-Apr-24

Easter 2B

14-Apr-24

Easter 3B

1st Reading

Psalm

2nd Reading

Gospel

Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 133	Psalm 4
1 John 1:1-2:2	1 John 3:1-7
John 20:19-31	Luke 24:36b-48

21-Apr-24

Easter 4B

28-Apr-24

Easter 5B

1st Reading

Psalm

2nd Reading

Gospel

Acts 4:5-12	Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 23	Psalm 22:24-30
1 John 3:16-24	1 John 4:7-21
John 10:11-18	John 15:1-8