

# The Witness

Volume 28, Issue 10

Welcoming Worshipping Working

October 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



## Inside this issue:

All Soul's Day	3
Baked Beans	8
Bible Selections	6
Chanté Griffin	7
Sr Warden	8
Time Treasure	9

## Who Are You in the Bible?

The Rev Ian M Delinger, Rector

*Hero, Daughter, Lover, Queen: Finding Yourself in the Bible* is a brand new book by Lavinia Byrne and Jane McBride. I just received a copy of the book and haven't had a chance to read it, but I look forward to it. Though it was published in the UK, it's available here in the US via the "evil empire". We might do a book study of it in a couple months. Full disclosure: Lavinia was a part-time lecturer at my seminary and asked me to review and comment on one of the chapters during the book's development.

The premise of the book is something we should always be thinking about, and a couple of times a year a sermon encourages you to reflect on who you most connect with in the day's Gospel story. The Bible is one of the ways in which God speaks to us. We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit. And the Church is described in the Bible as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. So says the Catechism. We reflect on scripture as one way to discern how to live in the world as a Christian. If that's the case, we should be able to find ourselves in scripture.

When you read scripture, do you insert yourself into the story or discover yourself in the story? Or are you always the observer, hovering above the scene? Do you find yourself as one character struggling with the other characters? Or are you sitting in judgment as an outsider? Character connection not only helps you better understand the story, it can help you understand what's going on for you in your life. While the context and characters may be different, whatever you connect with can lead to deeper self-reflection.

Before the massive wave of book bans in schools, the Common Ground Advisory Task Force, convened by the Superintendent of San Luis Coastal Unified School District, had presentations by the school librarians which opened my eyes to character connection. I was introduced to children's books, at various grade levels, that reflected much broader demographics of characters than the books that were in my childhood school libraries – the characters reflected the demographics of America today.

Before seeing those books, I had never thought of representation in school learning before. It was schooled in a way that placed absolutely no value on anything outside



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the *Ozzie & Harriet* or *Leave It To Beaver* model family unit. That was around the same time that the film *Black Panther* was released. I heard a news article in which a super-excited kid said that this was the first time he had ever seen a superhero who looked like him! If you don't ever see yourself in what you're learning from, you're probably less likely to absorb the learning that is intended: a constant subconscious of "That doesn't reflect my reality." So, these new books and films that better reflect our society only serve to strengthen our society.

So, when you are reading the Bible, try to make that same character connection. It deepens your understanding of scripture and of who you are and who you can become. Perhaps you already identify with particular biblical characters. Don't get stuck there – find more characters that reflect your intersectionality. Did a different biblical character reflect who you were in the past? Is there a character whose qualities you would like to develop? Is there a character whose relationship with God/Jesus/Spirit you want to strive for?

Pick up the Bible this week and step into a story. What discoveries will you make about that story and your story? Are you hero, daughter, lover, queen? Or warrior, prophet, leper, Pharisee? Of course, the *whole* story is God's love for God's People, and since you are one of God's People, hopefully you'll find God's love for YOU!



## A New Way To Give

There is a new way to give electronically. Scan this QR code or go to <https://tithe.ly.com> and search for St Stephen's San Luis Obispo.

To designate your contribution, use the dropdown box to choose the purpose of your donation. Of course, you can still give by cash or check.

## From the Vestry

The Vestry meets on the 2nd Sunday of the Month to discuss the business affairs of the parish. We had a very brief Zoom meeting on September 3 simply to take care of a few simple but pressing issues. Here are some highlights:

- ◆ Approved the serving of wine at the September 7 post-Recital Reception (*which has been postponed*).
- ◆ Approved the withdrawal from the Van Harreveld Adult Education Fund for a Social Justice Committee event.
- ◆ Approved contracting with ChurchHRNetwork for HR consulting and support.
- ◆ Assigned roles for the Annual Giving Campaign

The next meeting is October 13, 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.



## Who We Are

St Stephen's has its Mission Statement, but also an Inclusivity Statement, Values Statement and Land Acknowledgement. To remind ourselves who we purport to be, one of these statements will be printed in The Witness in July, August, September and October. All four statements can be found in our service booklets used in Sunday Worship, and on our website.

**Mission Statement:** *We strive to recognize and nurture the Christ in ourselves and each person that we encounter along the way. Join us for service on Sunday to experience for yourself the fellowship of Christ. Our mission as a parish is to open our hearts to God and to share Christ's unconditional love with the world. We do this by following three pathways:*

- ◇ *Welcoming: We invite all to join us at every stage in their spiritual journeys.*
- ◇ *Worshipping: We cultivate a living tradition of liturgy and a life made holy by the sacraments.*
- ◇ *Working: We share our abundance, we strive for justice, and we accept our calling to protect God's creation.*

## All Souls: The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

November 3 at 3pm will be the All Souls' Service. The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed will be observed with Healing Services with Eucharist. All are welcome to this service of remembrance and of hope. The service will be livestreamed.

To have loved ones remembered at the service, please a note with names into the collection plate or email names by **October 25** to [office@ststephensslo.org](mailto:office@ststephensslo.org).



**WHO FROM THEIR LABORS  
REST**

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed  
The Feast of All Souls

Sunday, November 3, 2024 @ 3pm  
in-person at 1344 Nipomo St, SLO  
or online at  
[facebook.com/ststephensslo/live](https://facebook.com/ststephensslo/live)

*Remembering your loved ones:  
A service of remembrance and of hope*



**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## Hands on Stewardship

**Thank you to** Adele Butterfield, Bill Crewe, Lynn Hollister, Kay Lewis, Elizabeth Potter and Kathleen Pennington for counting the collection and preparing the deposits during September.

**Thank you to** Cheryl & Craig McCollum, the Social Justice Committee and the Coffee Committee for hosting coffee hour in September.

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

**Thank you to** everyone who helped with the Parish Work Day.

**HUGE Thank you to** Jamie Hess who organized the Parish BBQ that got postponed from St. Stephen's Day, and for all the people who pitched in to help clear up.

**Thank you to** everyone who participated and made it a great time for all!

**Thank you to** Cassie Tarantino (Director of Music), Marti Lindholm (Organist), Ryan Hartzell (Organist) and the Choral Scholars and Choir for putting so much love and joy into their comeback from summer to make St. Stephen's Day such a true feast day!

**Thank you to** Kathleen Pennington, Elizabeth Potter and Gail Taylor for teaching Sunday School in September

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

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

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

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

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

## Fellowship Hour

Thanks to **Rosey & Skip Parks** who hosted the September Fellowship Hour with good old fashioned pot luck at their home high above Atascadero! Fellowship Hour in October needs a host. Fellowship Night is the last Monday of the month at 5:30pm. You can host whatever you want, as long as it brings us together for fellowship.



### 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 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

## Donations

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

You may go to this  
website:  
<https://tinyurl.com/SSECDonate> or scan  
the QR Code and it  
will take you directly  
to the page.



## Welcoming Spaces

There's an opportunity for us to get an update on what it means to be welcoming to our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

### **Creating Welcoming Spaces: A Beginner's Guide to Inclusion**

Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 11am to 3pm

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo College of Engineering Room Bonderson 104

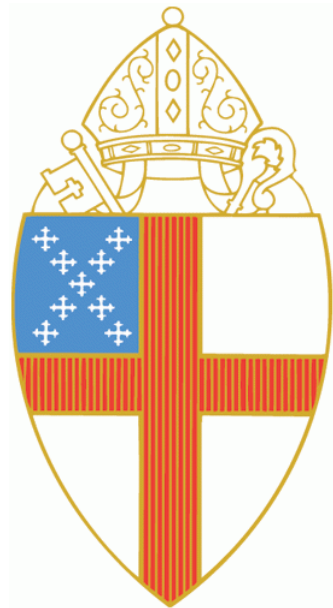
FREE LUNCH courtesy of Cal Poly

We will thoughtfully examine ways in which groups of people and individuals experience exclusion historically and currently. Facilitators and participants will share their own experiences and discuss practical methods for creating a welcoming environment for everyone who enters a shared space. We will explore how diversity and inclusion leads to equity and belonging and improved outcomes for everything from mental and physical health to business success.

If you are a student leader, professor, teacher, nonprofit leader, group facilitator, business owner, manager or anyone who hosts others in a shared space this workshop is for you!

Presented by: The Central Coast Coalition for Inclusive Schools

Register here: <https://forms.gle/MAYqE7zsc4fYohVZ6>



## Join the Churchwide Virtual Celebration of the Investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe

**Saturday, November 2, 2024**

**7.30am in Ramsden Hall at St. Stephen's with Breakfast**

In this historic and joyful season, we invite you to pray for guidance for our church and our new presiding bishop as he leads us in envisioning the reign of God in our midst. May our celebration unite us as a sacramental community, and may we be filled with new energy to bear witness to God's work of redemption.

*Who:* Everyone is invited! Come as you ... so, if you're still in your PJs, we're cool with that.

*What:* The Episcopal Church will officially welcome the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe as its 28th presiding bishop with a smaller, simpler investiture service aimed at reducing carbon footprint and increasing churchwide virtual participation.

*When:* Nov. 2, with a prelude featuring a "roll call" of dioceses starting at 6:30am PT. The service itself starts at 8am PT.

*Where:* In Ramsden Hall at St. Stephen's we will livestream the service.

# Celebrations for October

## *Birthdays*

Name	Birthday
Elizabeth Potter	October 1
Lee Hollister	October 7
Kathryn Bumpass	October 10
Diane Levison	October 10
Virginia Enney	October 11
Carole Merrill	October 19
Clark Lewis	October 25
James Murphy	October 26

## *Anniversaries*

No Anniversaries this month



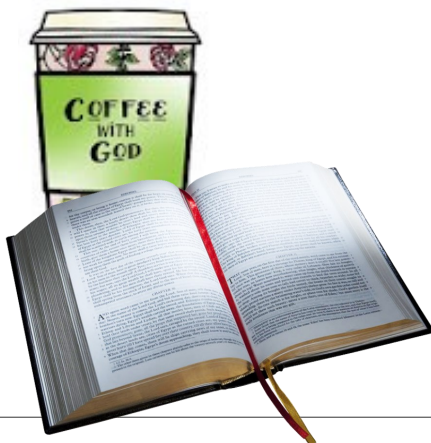
If you would like us to help you celebrate your special day, please reach out to the office to have you and your family members added to the list.

Email: [office@StStephensSLO.org](mailto:office@StStephensSLO.org), Phone: 805-543-7212, or 1344 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

## Bible Selections for October

	6-Oct-24 Pent 20 - Proper 22B	13-Oct-24 Pent 21 - Proper 23B
1st Reading	Job 1.1; 2.1-10	Job 23.1-9,16-17
Psalm	Psalm 26	Psalm 22.1-15
2nd Reading	Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12	Hebrews 4.12-16
Gospel	Mark 10.2-16	Mark 10.17-31

	20-Oct-24 Pent 22 - Proper 24B	27-Oct-24 Pent 23 - Proper 25B
1st Reading	Job 38.1-7	Job 42.1-6,10-17
Psalm	Psalm 104.1-9,25,37b	Psalm 34.1-8
2nd Reading	Hebrews 5.1-10	Hebrews 7.23-28
Gospel	Mark 10.35-45	Mark 10.46-52



## A Conversation with Chanté Griffin

Sunday, October 13

After the 10am Service in Ramsden Hall

Join the St. Stephen's Social Outreach Committee in welcoming Chanté Griffin, author of *Loving your Black Neighbor as Yourself*, on Sunday, October 13, at coffee hour after the 10am service. A witty and engaging speaker, Chanté will offer her insights on how to "close the space" between us and our Black neighbors.

Chanté's life is rooted in the traditions of the Black Pentecostal



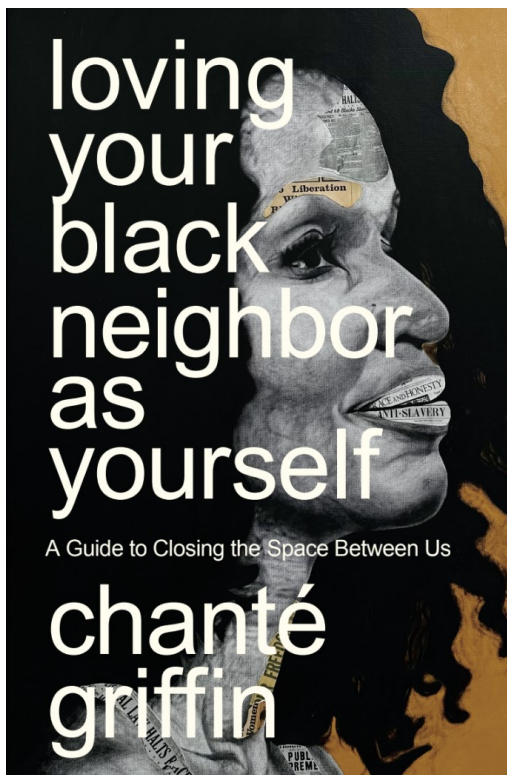
Chanté Griffin, from her website: <https://www.yougochante.com/>

Church. She

writes, "I was birthed in a Black Pentecostal church. My dark-skinned body was birthed into choir rocks and hand claps, my spirit reborn in the cool baptismal pool. My speech refined with new tongues, and my future prophesied into being."

Until age 10 she lived in an "all-Black world", but when her parents moved from South LA to the San Fernando Valley, she encountered racism. That bitter experience has heavily influenced her career choices. She has been a chaplain to Black college students and director of a non-profit serving Black and Latinx students. In her current role as a journalist, she writes "at the intersection of race, culture, faith."

Expect to be both challenged and encouraged at this event, and most of all reminded of how we are called to live and grow together as the family of God. Mark your calendars!



## Note from the Senior Warden

By now you have most likely received the mailed materials and heard the announcement I made during September 22nd services about this year's Annual Giving Campaign. I wanted to share something that hopefully resonates with all of us and that the Vestry has adopted as a statement of essential parish values:

- A sense of community that includes our parish family but extends to the larger community of San Luis Obispo.
- A spirit of inclusion that reaches beyond a passive acceptance of difference to actively embrace what makes us each unique.
- A thirst for spirituality that believes in everyday things made holy by the sacred acts of creation, incarnation, and the continuing transformation of the Sacraments;
- A practice of stewardship as "our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and money."

We are an incredibly blessed St. Stephen's family and our working, worshipping and welcoming spirit help define how we shine Christ's light in the world.

*Walk in love,  
Jamie Hess  
Sr. Warden*

## Rosey's Baked Beans

What a wonderful (albeit delayed) celebration for St. Stephen's Day. There was music, fellowship, joy, and lots of food! All in all, just an amazing afternoon. Speaking of food and amazing...many of you commented on Rosey's beans. She has graciously shared the recipe, and I am passing it along to you for your other potlucks and gatherings. Rosey gets first dibs for all St. Stephen's gatherings! 😊

Thank you, Rosey, and thank you St. Stephen's for sharing your gifts to make our patronal bar-b-que a huge hit!  
*Jamie Hess  
Senior Warden*

### **Best Baked Beans**

— from Rosey Parks (and edited slightly from a neighbor's recipe!)

12 slices bacon	2 T garlic powder (or if you like garlic, like me, use 2 T of minced refrigerated garlic)	1 bag frozen lima beans (I find at Vons)
4 onions, sliced in rings, then once	1 tsp salt	1 1-lb can red kidney beans
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/2 cup apple cider vinegar	1 1-lb can baked beans
1 T mustard	2 - 15 oz cans butter beans (I find at Food for Less or Walmart!) or white beans	

Fry Bacon in skillet until crisp. Remove from pan, drain on paper towels and put aside. Crumble when cool. Cook the onions in the bacon drippings until tender, but not brown. Stir in sugar, mustard, garlic, salt and vinegar. Mix, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Drain butter beans, lima and kidney beans and combine with baked beans. Add crumbled bacon. Add to skillet and mix together until everything is warm. I usually make ahead and put in a crock pot on low for serving whenever you are ready. I double the recipe for Potlucks. You can add any other beans you want, like black beans. But I think the lima beans are what makes it special!



## Time, Treasure, and Talent Ingathering



*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*  
Ephesians 5:1-2, NRSV

*Walk in Love.* These words call us to remember that our greatest gift and witness as Christians is to relate to God and our neighbor in love. When we walk in the same direction, we can accomplish Christ’s purposes for us as a community.

During this season we talk a lot about money, about our budget. Yes, those things are important, they are the way we fund all the activities of St. Stephen’s, but our real focus is on what our gifts can do for the world. Jesus calls us to heal, visit, feed, accompany, protect, advocate – in summary, to love our neighbor – and sharing our time, talent, and treasure is the practical way that we make this happen.

Each of us hears this call differently, just as each of us has been blessed by God differently. Our talents and training are gifts freely given to us so that we may share them with a world in need. How do you feel God’s call to walk in love this year? How will you determine how you will share your gifts with God’s people in the world?

This is your invitation to make your promise to St. Stephen’s for the year to come. Before you decide, pray about it, discuss it with your family or close friends, and discern how God is calling you to share your gifts.

Our campaign ends on Sunday, October 27. Please return your answer to us by then so that we may count your pledge at our same-day Ingathering: special Coffee Hours after each service when your gift will be added to many others to be blessed and shared with the world. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and community. If there is anything the Vestry can do to support you or answer questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.



*Walking with you in Love,*

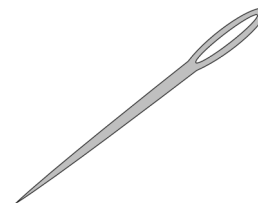
*St. Stephen’s Vestry*



## The Rich Young Man

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Mark 10:25 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- \_\_\_ 1 **Possessing great material wealth**  
A. needle B. easier C. rich D. treasurer
- \_\_\_ 2 **An adult male human**  
A. heaven B. eye C. easier D. man
- \_\_\_ 3 **Less difficult; something accomplished with little effort**  
A. easier B. heaven C. needle D. eye
- \_\_\_ 4 **A long-necked animal with humps**  
A. camel B. treasure C. man D. enter
- \_\_\_ 5 **An opening in a needle**  
A. hard B. camel C. eye D. treasure
- \_\_\_ 6 **A small, slender implement used for sewing**  
A. easier B. needle C. treasure D. man
- \_\_\_ 7 **Difficult, requiring considerable skill or effort**  
A. camel B. man C. eye D. hard
- \_\_\_ 8 **To go into**  
A. treasure B. enter C. hard D. camel
- \_\_\_ 9 **The home of God and the angels**  
A. heaven B. easier C. needle D. rich
- \_\_\_ 10 **Something considered to be especially precious or valuable**  
A. easier B. treasure C. man D. needle



### BE PROACTIVE WITH SOME PRE-HOLIDAY SELF CARE



Join us in our beautiful sanctuary for sacred, gentle yoga

Space is limited to 15 people so sign-up is necessary.

Bring your yoga mat &/or a blanket or beach towel as

we will be on the floor in the aisles of the church. If you would like to come and sit in the pew for chair type yoga or to simply sit quietly during our practice and meditate this is a wonderful option. Dress casually & comfortably. If you are able, we will be asking for shoes to be removed upon arrival. If you need to wear your shoes, that is perfectly acceptable.

Please arrive at 5:00 to get settled in to your space.

When: **Sunday, November 3 from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.**

To sign up, call Cheryl McCollum at (805)441-5177

### St. Stephen’s cleanup day note...

The 2 very large, very crowded utensil drawers were cleaned up and edited at our recent church cleanup day.

However, the items removed are being kept for 30 days in the event we removed your favorite item and you would like it put back.

If this is the case, please contact Cheryl McCollum at (805)441-5177. Once the 30 days has run, we will offer up the edited utensils on Oct. 20 at coffee hour to any takers and after that anything left will be given to charity.



Happy cooking everyone

## Supporting our community



Each year, Hospice SLO County offers opportunities to remember loved ones and pets who have died with four special services

throughout the County called *Light Up A Life (Nov 12, 13, 19 & 20)* and one called *Paws to Remember (Nov 14)*.

Launching today, St. Stephen’s will once again be a sponsor of these events, which serves as one of Hospice’s main fundraisers. To contribute to our sponsorship, make sure to put “Hospice” in the memo line.



St. Stephen’s has long been friends with SLO Food Bank. We were one of the first partners in the No-Cook Bag program. We receive – at no cost – bags of shelf-stable food that provide

one to two meals to those who come to our office looking for sustenance.

St. Stephen’s has supported the Food Bank with sponsorship of their two major fundraisers: Hunger Awareness Day in June, and the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. To contribute, put “Food Bank” or “Turkey Trot” in the memo line.

# St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshipping 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

*Nothing in all creation is hidden  
from God's sight. Everything is  
uncovered and laid bare before  
the eyes of him to whom we must  
give account.*

*Hebrews 4:13*



## Blessing of the Animals

October 6, 2023

at 3pm – Emerson Park

You and your beloved pets will receive a blessing at this annual service remembering the ministry of St Francis of Assisi to animals and Creation.

If your pet doesn't like to travel, bring a photo!

Pets should be on a leash or in a carrier.

Please bring a folding chair or picnic blanket for your comfort.

The event is in Emerson Park, across the street from St Stephen's, along Nipomo Street between Pismo and Pacific Streets in SLO. It is easily accessible by walking, biking or SLO Transit Bus #2. If you must drive, please carpool. Parking is available at 650 Pismo, a half-block from the park.

Please join us after this brief service for light refreshments and some pet petting!

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Permit No. 57

**Electronic Service Requested**



BRING YOUR PET FOR  
A BLESSING,  
AND STAY FOR SOME  
REFRESHMENT!

# PET BLESSING

Join Us, Being Us...  
Blessing of the Animals  
October 6 @ 3pm  
Emerson Park in SLO



Bring a chair or  
blanket to sit on.  
Pets on leash, please.