

Benediction Weekly

January 21, 2018

St. Benedict's Church is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry and commitment to social justice.



Annual Parish Meeting next Sunday, following the 10:30 service. We'll be electing new members of the Vestry and Parish Council as well as delegates to the Deanery and Diocesan Convention, passing the 2018 budget, and hearing reports on our past year together and plans for the future. Lunch will be provided. Please plan to attend!

Coming up at St. Benedict's (at the church unless otherwise specified)

TODAY

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
9:20 am – Bible Study
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/music
12:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, Jan 23

5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by potluck

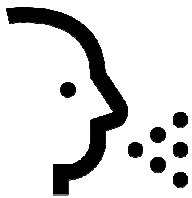
Wednesday, Jan 24

7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Jan 28

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
9:20 am – Bible Study
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/music
12:30 pm – Annual Parish Meeting

Exchanging the peace in a Time of Flu



Please remember, as the service bulletin says, that you may exchange the peace by bowing/nodding to one another rather than with a handshake or hug. This may be appropriate for those with compromised immune systems, those who may be getting or getting over a bug, and those who are simply cautious.

Hand sanitizer is available on the ushers table.

People of Faith for Justice announces Upcoming Events from local organizations FREE and Open to the Public

1/28 - "*Welcome the Dream:
Leaders Talk Immigration and Refugees*"

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church
1701 Fredericks St., SLO

10 AM and again at 12:30 PM

Info: Contact Solina 805 234-7440

1/23 - Bend the Arc and SLO NAACP
"*The Money Bail System: Time for Reform*"

Panel plus film: The Bail Trap

Congregation Beth David

10180 Los Osos Valley Rd., SLO 7:00 PM

1/29 - RACE Matters SLO County

"*Science Behaving Badly:*

Intersections of Racism and Medicine"

Cuesta College Cultural Center Rm 5101 –

6:00 PM Parking \$2

Dr. Leola Dublin Macmillan, Cal Poly Ethnic Studies

1/30 - 5 Cities Diversity Coalition

"*Understanding the Origins of Religious Prejudice*"

Ramona Gardens Park

No. 10th at Ramona Ave., Grover Beach - 6:00 PM

Dr. Stephen Lloyd Moffatt, Cal Poly Religious Studies

Serving God and the People of St. Benedict's this Week:

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Preacher: The Rev. Donna Ross; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple;

Eucharistic Ministers: Sarah Chesebro & Stef Shuman; Lectors: Tom Pickering & Rob Ross;

Ushers: Connie Weldon & Rob Ross; Greeter: Diana Hammerlund;

Coffee Hour Hosts: Laura Thompson & Barbara Schippers; Flowers: Pamela Bleisch; Altar Guild: Diana Hammerlund;

Tellers: Alice Welchert & Diana Hammerlund; Prayer Team Member: Celeste Pennington; Music Director: John Cribb

Thank you for your service!



**On-Going
Activities
at St. Ben's**

BIBLE STUDY – Sundays at 9:20 am

DREAMS & SPIRITUALITY GROUP
First and third Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm.

EARTHCARE – A discussion/action group to formulate local solutions to environmental concerns.
Second Wednesdays at 2:30 pm.

HEALING SERVICE – a time for prayers for healing at the 10:30 service on 5th Sundays.

HOLLISTER INSTITUTE – Opportunities for stimulating discussion and thoughtful exploration for everyone, whether or not they are members of a church. See website.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE– Prayers for the community and the world. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10am.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – morning social gathering, 2nd Saturdays 9am at Celia's Garden Café.

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN – Providing and serving food at Prado Day Center, 1st Saturday of even-numbered months.

POTLUCK AND PRADO on the 1st Sunday of each month donations to Prado Day Center are collected, and potluck lunch follows 10:30 service.

VESPERS AND CONVERSATION
5:30 pm Tuesdays. Vespers service using varying liturgies, followed by potluck supper.

VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL
3rd Sundays at 12:30pm
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, *Rector*
Anne Kanter, *Sr. Warden*,
Pamela Bleisch, Lisa Gonzalez,
Esta Kandarian, Barbara Schippers,
Francis Rivinus, Kathie West

St. Stephen's to host "The Vagina Monologues" February 14

Every year women's empowerment activists in colleges, communities, high schools, or youth groups around the world present benefit events during and leading up to V-Season (February). The purpose is to raise awareness about violence against women and girls as well as raise money for local beneficiaries that are working to end violence. One of those ways is through a production of "The Vagina Monologues," a series of short, true stories of those involved in sexual violence, harassment and gender bias, told by a variety of people. Our Bishop, **The Right Reverend Mary Gray-Reeves**, has been invited to participate, and she has accepted. The production is traditionally performed on **Valentine's Day**, which this year will be Ash Wednesday. Bishop Mary will preside at an early evening Ash Wednesday Service followed by taking part in the production of "The Vagina Monologues." A related production, "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer," will be performed on February 3. A production of "The Vagina Monologues" by an all-transgender cast will be performed on February 18. All of these performances will be held at 7pm in the sanctuary at St Stephen's in partnership with a local non-profit, Access Support Network, who does AIDS and Hepatitis C awareness and education. Tickets for each of the three events are \$10 general \$5 students at www.brownpapertickets.com or contact director Kelli Howard at (805) 703-0911 or kellimpoward@gmail.com. Proceeds to benefit RISE-SLO.

Here is what the Bishop says regarding her decision to participate:

- Ash Wednesday is, in fact, quite an appropriate time, and the holy ground of a church a good and right place, to name and hear the realities of the deep cultural sin of the abuse of power of one gender over another. The church has not been immune to this reality. Holding this event in a church on Ash Wednesday is an opportunity to own not just personal sins, but allows us to corporately confess a specific cultural, historic, institutional and tolerated practice that is clearly opposed to our belief that the human body is sacred and that God's intention for us is that we "respect the dignity of all human beings."
- As a bishop, it is an opportunity to be present as an institutional figure, honoring the fact that for victims the presence of such a leader can be very healing indeed. I have apologized on behalf of the church for abuses never fully recognized or processed any number of times. Often it is the one and only time this occurs for a victim who has been abused but who has had to bear the truth silently. Acknowledgment matters.
- As a woman, I hear stories, have personally and throughout my life experienced harassment, dismissal, in-appropriate behavior and speech because I am a woman. A bishop who happens to be a woman has a unique voice in a moment such as this. I am quite amazed, impressed and honored that St. Stephen's would invite me into this conversation. I would like to respect and participate in their courage, taking seriously what it means to really go deeply in these neighborhood partnerships we keep talking about. It is not just the easy community problems that require our partnering energy, but the entrenched, wrenching ones too. I might add that the community agency (ASN) is quite impressed with our ability to even begin to consider the possibility!
- The national news is filled with stories on this topic these days, but more locally, six sexual assaults were reported in the first six weeks of classes this fall on the campus of Cal Poly. As we seek to develop relationships outside of our usual demographic (e.g., with the SLO colleges), we must hear their truths and struggles and be a listening partner amidst our common reality.

Donations for Prado in January

In January our emphasis is cold weather nutrition and gear. Soup, hot instant cereal and paper bowls, hot chocolate and cups are very welcome. New socks, gently used sleeping bags and back packs, parkas and rain ponchos are also especially needed at this time. Thank you!



Keeping in Touch during the Week. For counsel & spiritual care, please contact any of the clergy:
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, 704-5826; The Rev. Donna Ross, 235-5117; The Rev. Barry Turner, 784-0670;
or The Rev. Faye Hogan, 541-4595. Call Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974.

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