

The Piper

March 2024



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A Message from Father Martin

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Collect for Palm Sunday, BCP p. 270)

Dear Friends,

This season of Lent, which this year includes the rest of March, is our time to remember who God is for us – how God reaches out to us in Jesus – how God’s love and forgiveness are unconditional. Our Sunday services will consider these themes and we are invited as a parish community to be about spiritual refreshment and renewal.

To help us, we have a copy of Forward Day by Day for every household, with a reflection for everyday in Lent and beyond. I encourage you to **read one of the four Gospels** between now and Easter and consider what Jesus cares about and what stirs in your heart. We have **Lenten Soup Suppers** on Wednesday nights from 5 to 6:30 with discussion about Hope for our selves, relationships, church and nation. And I am very **happy to meet** with anyone for a private, encouraging conversation about your spiritual life and what may or may not seem to be going on.

Holy Week and Easter services will be as follows:

Palm Sunday (March 24), 10 am – beginning outdoors with Palm procession, dramatic reading and Communion.

Tuesday in Holy Week, 11 am – **special Bible Study** on the Easter stories in the Bible.

Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm – at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, 5271 Scotts Valley Drive, Scotts Valley. A joint service of our two congregations.

Good Friday – two services!

o **Community Prayer service at Noon**, at St. Andrew’s, all SLV churches invited to participate

o **Prayer Book Good Friday Service at 7 pm.**

Easter Sunday Celebration at 10 am with special music, Easter egg hunt, festive reception.

At our Annual Parish Meeting in January, we discussed the need to plan ahead for parish events and identify who will lead, coordinate and publicize each event. A sign-up list for many possible events has been posted in the Parish Hall. Last week the Vestry recognized that no one signed up to lead our St. Patrick’s Day dinner, and so it will not be held this year. Please check the sign-ups for future events you might like to help with.

Our Vestry has elected John Woolliscroft to be this year's Junior Warden, and Susan Greer to serve as Vestry Clerk. Thank you John and Susan for your faithful service.

Thank you also to Jesse McMilan, our Music Director, and all those forming our renewed St. Andrew's Choir. Thanks be to God!

May God grant us all an insightful and renewing Lenten Season.

Yours in Christ, Martin+

Prayer Team

We have an active prayer team at St. Andrews led by Sue Roe. When a prayer concern is made known to Sue, she sends it out to the group so they can be praying for you. Please contact Sue if you would like some prayers. Also, if you would like to be one of the pray-ers, let Sue know and she will be happy to add you to the group.



Please contact Sue at Phone 562-243-4080, or by email suemhr@aol.com

Outreach Committee

If you know of or support a non-profit organization and would like it to be considered for a grant from St. Andrew's, please provide information on its programs to the Outreach Committee. The members of the committee are Susan Greer, Joan McVay, and Ray Rischpater. We are also looking for additional committee members, so if you are interested, please contact Susan, Joan, or Ray. The committee meets after Bible Study, generally on the 3rd Tuesday.

St. Andrew's Vestry Members

Rochelle Kelly, Senior Warden
Susan Greer
Sheryl Mello
John Woolliscroft

Cindy Garay
Sara Hector
Judyth Suttle

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, please forward them to any of the Vestry members. Vestry meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1 pm in the Parish Hall.

Garden of



Eatin'

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN RUSKIES

This recipe came from my sister-in-law, Ellie Roe. They are a lot of work but delicious!

Dough:

1 pound margarine, soft (I use butter)

1 pound cream cheese, soft

4 ½ cups flour

Combine in order.

Filling:

½ pound walnuts (or other nuts), rolled fine in plastic bag

1 ½ cups apricot/pineapple jam

4 oz. coconut flakes

¼ cup milk

¼ cup sugar

2 Tbls. melted margarine (or butter)

Roll out dough in powdered sugar, one third at a time. Cut into 2 inch squares. Place about ½ teaspoon of filling on each square. Roll up into a crescent. Bake at 350 degrees until lightly browned, about 15 minutes.

While warm, gently shake in a baggie of powdered sugar.

Lenten Supper and Discussion Series

Wednesdays, February 21—March 30, 5—6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Bring a main dish, salad, or bread.

Mountain Community Theater will be using the Parish Hall Monday thru Thursday, January 27 to May 2, 6:30—9:30.

Senior Warden's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

I miss all of you very much. If you didn't already know, I had foot surgery and can't drive yet, or walk very well. So, I'll be out of it for a bit and looking forward to returning as soon as possible.

In line with our Lenten series theme of hope, I want to let you know that St. Andrew's is a huge beacon of hope for me. Not only because of you wonderful folks, but because of the Episcopal church's enduring message of love and acceptance for all people. It took me a long time to find St. Andrew's and I have never looked elsewhere.

Thank you all for keeping words and prayers of hope at the forefront as we forge ahead in this crazy world, one body, together in Christ.

Peace and love,

Rochelle



St. Andrew's Birthdays

March Birthdays



4	Gina Carling	16	Renee Katz
4	Esben Seeger	16	Nia Woolliscroft
4	Hayden Seeger	24	Tom Spring
5	John Brough	24	Gary McCormick
6	Sabrina Vall de Ruten	27	Steve Lafever
7	Clark McPherson		
8	Aiden LeRoux		

April Birthdays

5	Luke Banke	18	Sheryl Mello
5	Henry Vall de Ruten	22	Susan Vall de Ruten
6	Sharon Fishel	26	Hyacinth Bevan
11	Donna Brough	27	Tom Fogarty
13	Tatiana Davidson	27	Joan McVay
14	Barbara Banke		

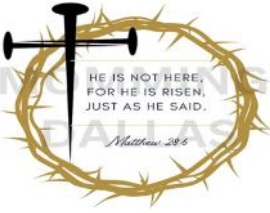
Coffee Hour Organizers

- Susan Greer (207) 624-2569 March 10
 - Jane Pomeroy (408) 472-1586 March 17
 - Eve Yabroff (253) 225-8683 March 24
 - Ellen Terry (415) 516-9123 March 31
 - Susan Greer (207) 624-2569 April 7
 - Janet Parske (831) 246-1839 April 14
 - Eve Yabroff (253)-225-8683 April 21
 - Jane Pomeroy (408) 472-1586 April 28
 - Ellen Terry (415) 516-9123 May 5.....This may be the Chili Cookoff
 - Shirley Greenwood (831) 423-8290 May 12 ...this is Mother's Day
 - Barbara Banke (831)345-2992 May 19
 - Jennifer Kennedy (831) 251-1471 May 26
- If you are unable to serve on any date, please call someone else on the list and also call Sharon Fishel at 831-247-5572.

HeeHeeHee!!!

I recently visited a monastery, and as I passed the kitchen, I saw a monk frying potatoes, and asked him "Are you the friar?" He responded, "No, I'm the chip monk".

Thoughts from a Member of the Parish



The pyramids stand as a symbol of the Pharaoh's quest for immortality. Inside they contain all the items needed for a successful afterlife. Outside they tower above everything else.

The great pyramid of Khufu in Egypt is 4594 years old, it was 481 feet high and its base covers 13 acres. The height is equivalent to a 48 story building. In 2024, one might say that Khufu (or Cheops) had achieved immortality. For centuries debate continues about how it was built, by slaves or Egyptian workers, and what other secrets it holds. We may never have the answers. Khufu only ruled 25-30 years and it took 27 years to build the pyramid. With today's equipment and 1,500 workers we could build it in five years at a cost of five billion dollars.

Of the millions of Egyptians in history, we perhaps will remember only a handful. Cleopatra, Nefertiti, Tutankhamun. While we are aware of the Great Pyramid of Giza, few people know what Pharaoh built it. Shelly wrote a poem titled Ozymandias. The poem is narrated by a ruler who proclaims, "Look at my works ye mighty and despair." In the end nothing remains, only parts buried in the sand, and they will disappear one day. No immortality for Ozymandias. How sad is history that rulers found it necessary to use the resources of their country to build monuments to themselves hoping that future generations will see how mighty they were.

Little is known about Khufu's reign except that he built a pyramid for his tomb. Those recorded in history aren't remembered because they made this a better world, because they helped solve hunger or because they helped others achieve equality. Alexander the Great (albeit a student of Aristotle) is known for how many countries he conquered and how many he killed doing so. Hitler will be remembered for how many Jews he exterminated. Genghis Kahn's Mongol army killed millions of people as he conquered China and most of Asia. I could go on.

In March we celebrate one person who isn't known for conquering or killing or building monuments. This solitary life set the example of love, hope, and faith being qualities by which one can be remembered. His sacrifice was to bring hope to this world, his life was to show us how to love all people, and through faith we might have everlasting life with God. His invisible pyramid is greater than any monument ever built. His gift of hope to a world in turmoil is essential for its existence. On March 31, we will again sing Alleluia. He is risen. It is because of that life, that sacrifice, that promise, that I can find the strength to face tomorrow. Join me in rejoicing the promising future we have been given by a simple person called Jesus.

Steve Lafever

WET PANTS

Come with me to a third grade classroom..... There is a nine-year-old kid sitting at his desk and all of a sudden, there is a puddle between his feet and the front of his pants are wet. He thinks his heart is going to stop because he cannot possibly imagine how this has happened. It's never happened before, and he knows that when the boys find out he will never hear the end of it. When the girls find out, they'll never speak to him again as long as he lives.

The boy believes his heart is going to stop; he puts his head down and prays this prayer, "Dear God, this is an emergency! I need help now! Five minutes from now I'm dead meat."

He looks up from his prayer and here comes the teacher with a look in her eyes that says he has been discovered. As the teacher is walking toward him, a classmate named Susie is carrying a goldfish bowl that is filled with water. Susie trips in front of the teacher and inexplicably dumps the bowl of water in the boy's lap. The boy pretends to be angry, but all the while is saying to himself, "Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord!"

Now all of a sudden, instead of being the object of ridicule, the boy is the object of sympathy. The teacher rushes him downstairs and gives him gym shorts to put on while his pants dry out. All the other children are on their hands and knees cleaning up around his desk. The sympathy is wonderful. But as life would have it, the ridicule that should have been his has been transferred to someone else - Susie.

She tries to help, but they tell her to get out. You've done enough, you klutz!"

Finally, at the end of the day, as they are waiting for the bus, the boy walks over to Susie and whispers, "You did that on purpose, didn't you?" Susie whispers back, "I wet my pants once too."

May God help us see the opportunities that are always around us to do good.

Remember.....Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Each and everyone one of us is going through tough times right now, but God is getting ready to bless you in a way that only He can. Keep the faith.

The prayer: Father, I ask You to bless my friends, relatives and those that I care deeply for, who are reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of Your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through Your grace. Where there is need, I ask you to fulfill their needs. Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings. Amen.

John Woolliscroft, Junior Warden

Reflections on Aging and Holiness

(based on “Aging Gracefully, Living Fruitfully” by Ronald Rolheiser)
Excerpted from Father Martin’s sermon on Lent II, 2024, Genesis 17:1-7,
15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Let us begin with Abram and Sarai, who were well into their mature years. Some would call them old – Abram was 99, Sarai was maybe 90 – although we must disagree with St. Paul in our Epistle calling Abraham’s body “as good as dead”. But though no longer young, their lives were not done. Indeed, they will build and grow and be transformed in the second half of their lives, moving on from life as it used to be, and participating in blessing in new ways, so new that they will receive new names: Abraham and Sarah.

Such maturing and living is not easy. We need to hear what Jesus says in our Gospel today, that those who seek to save their lives will lose them, while those who lose their lives for Jesus’ sake will save them. Such losing and letting go in order to find and receive is a key part of maturity.

With these scriptures as a foundation, I would like to explore, and offer some reflections, about aging. About our life tasks in the second half of life – in maturity. These thoughts are not irrelevant for those who are younger. For some young adults are already engaging maturity beyond their years. And some folks are advanced in years but not yet mature, still obsessed with the concerns of their youth.

Richard Rohr, a wise Franciscan, says that we have three alternatives for our old age – to become a pathetic old fool, an angry old fool, or a holy old fool. How shall we become holy old fools, as Abraham and Sarah would eventually become?

I have three themes for us this morning:

1. Learning to let go in order to move ahead
2. Living in the present, in relation to both the past and the future
3. Serving others, including by letting others serve us

In the first half of our lives, into mid-life, our basic work is gathering and building and creating our lives. We create our lives – we prepare for and begin work, we explore relationships, maybe begin marriage and a family. We build our identities, our ideals and accomplishments.

In the second half of life, in maturity, some of that may continue. But now, having gathered our lives, we begin to realize where we are and where we are not. We acknowledge our failings and weaknesses, the ways we are not in control. We must let go of some of our presumptions about ourselves and about life, which can feel like failing or falling, so that we can receive what God has for us in our lives to come.

Richard Rohr wrote a wonderful book about this called Falling Upward. We must fall – down – in order to move ahead and upwards. It is what Jesus says today about losing your life in order to receive it or find it.

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Another way of describing this shift from first half to maturity is to say, with another Roman Catholic theologian, Ronald Rolheiser, that in the first half of life we are gathering and creating our lives. In the second half our task is to give away our lives.

To live so that others are blessed. In the Prayer of St. Francis, we pray ‘it is in giving that we receive....’

Such letting go and giving of ourselves calls us to humility, recognizing not only our strengths and virtues but also our weaknesses and failings, and our need for God and for other people. It requires us to look beyond ourselves – our own stuff – and to trust and participate in God’s larger ways.

It is to give our lives in the service of others – that is Jesus’ way. And it can feel hard: Peter resisted Jesus’ talk of dying. But Jesus leads us beyond the attachments and expectations of our earlier lives, into richer, deeper living, into God’s wisdom, into a larger sense of life.

A second theme of mature living is to live in the present in relation to both our pasts and our futures. In relation to the past, the task of midlife is to grieve our wounds. To acknowledge the ways we have been wounded in life and acknowledge our grief so that we can age into mellowness. If we do not grieve our wounds and our disappointments, we risk becoming bitter or angry – angry old fools. Or if we cannot acknowledge our wounds and the passing of youth, we risk becoming pathetic old fools. Instead, we grieve, we accept, and we move on into holiness.

And that is not the end. We live in the present with hope towards the future. Because God is not done with any of us. The adventure continues, as it did for Abraham and Sarah. We can live these present days with eagerness even, both to see what we shall receive from God as we let go of so much, and eagerness to see how we can serve and bless and discover a deeper sense of life and of our true selves, as also did Sarah and Abraham.

Our third theme, specifically in our maturity, in the second half of life, is to serve and bless those around us. We who have learned and grown and been taught by others now have the opportunity to mentor and encourage others, especially those younger than ourselves. There is a wonderful illustration of this in the beginning of Luke’s gospel, just after Jesus was born. The three Magi came to Jesus – older, wise, holy fools if you will, journeying to Bethlehem to offer the child their gifts. They blessed him and departed, and we don’t know what happened to them afterwards. In contrast, king Herod did not seek to bless or mentor the child but to destroy him. He was angry, threatened, bitter – no wonder the Magi avoided him as they journeyed on.

Can we bless those we meet? Can we mentor those who follow us in life’s journey, sharing our blessings and experiences as persons, and parents and coworkers and friends? And then let them carry on as they see best, while we go on ourselves.

A particular aspect of serving and blessing that I want to name for you and those you know is to bless others as you allow them to care for you. A significant element in aging, especially in one's later years, is to not be able to do what you used to do for yourself and for others. As you find yourself needing to accept the help of others, even with personal chores and bodily functions, you have the opportunity to graciously accept their ministry and to bless those who serve you. To bless and appreciate their service, just as you once served others, including your children, in such ways. We can choose to accept help and to bless those who help, or we can resist, making everyone miserable. We can choose to be angry or bitter or ashamed – none of which are very helpful or graceful or bestow blessings. Or we can encourage and bless and respect those who care for us, whether they are hired and paid, or caring for you as an expression of love and duty.

Our model for accepting the care of others and offering our blessings is Jesus himself, especially in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), after Jesus was arrested. Things were done to Jesus, but he did not lose his identity or his grace, even in those last awful hours. Our bearing our crosses is our opportunity to bless others, as we, like Jesus, keep our focus on God's grace and love.

These are some reflections on graceful and fruitful maturity, as we approach the ages of Abraham and Sarah.

I would like finally to share part of a poem by Mary Oliver. I find it encouraging, even exciting, though its title might seem a bit gloomy: "When Death Comes".

*When it's over, I want to say all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.*

I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

*When it's over, I don't want to wonder if I have made of my life
something particular, and real.*

I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened, or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

We follow Jesus, who said that he came that we might have life, and live life abundantly. Amen.



Join us for Eucharistic Services on Sundays at 10 a.m. and the social hour after. The sermon may be watched on St. Andrew's Facebook page, if you are not able to attend in person. There will be no Bible Study the week after Easter.