



The Episcopal Church
of St. John the Baptist
1055 S. Lower Sacramento Rd.
Lodi, CA 95242

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St. John's Newsletter

August 2009

The Right Rev. Bishop Jerry A. Lamb
The Rev. Harold Clinehens, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Raymond C. Knapp, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Eric B. Yeoman, III, Assisting Priest
Randy Knutson, Lay Associate
Robin Knutson, Organist
Ramon and Camerina Ibarra, Sextons
Tel: (209) 369-3381 Fax: (209) 369-2381
Office hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
email: stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net
www.stjohnsoflodi.org



Message From The Rector

Thank God, it finally warmed up! I suppose it has to do with what one considers "normal." After living almost three years in the desert, when it's not unusual for the thermometer to break 100 in April, we are used to hot. Actually, we love the Delta breezes and the reprieve from the brutal summer in the Sonoran desert.

As rector of St. John's, I am still trying to understand what is normal for you, what you are "used to." I must confess, I have a lot to learn, but I get glimpses as we prepare for the Celebration of a New Ministry on August 9 at 5:00 p.m. (See invitation and details in this issue, page 8& 10)

As I listen in on preparations and hear how people are talking about it, it seems that people are trying to make this event about me. It's not about me... it's about us. The new ministry we are celebrating is the ministry of St. John's Church, not the ministry of Harold Clinehens.

Perhaps St. John's is used to a lot of attention being focused on the rector. This is not unusual in the Episcopal Church. The problem with this way of looking at our life together though, is that pretty soon, everything revolves around the rector or it doesn't happen.

There was a time (twenty years ago) when I operated that way, but I no longer can, because (1) operating that way steals ministry from the congregation; (2) it puts unrealistic expectations on the clergy; (3) it narrows the life of the congregation down to the activities the rector is best at or most comfortable with, or has time for; (4) it lacks imagination; (5) it tends to be slow to respond to the changes in the culture around us; (6) the rector ends up with his/her tongue hanging out; (7) many church ministries grind to a halt; all of which add up to (8) it doesn't work.

In the 4th chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians, the author (probably a student of Paul) lays out a list of gifts of the Spirit God has given mankind: prophecy, evangelism, teaching, pastoring... In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul gives a slightly different list. In both places it is stated clearly that the gifts are given the people of God for the work of Christian service, for the building up of the Body of Christ.

The point is clear: Everyone's gift is needed. Everyone can contribute. It takes all of us.

One area in which we really need more hands is pastoral care. We are grossly understaffed and there are lots of people who can't get to church but who need to be touched. I am wanting to raise up a group of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV's) who can be the presence of St. John's and share with me in this pastoral ministry. Trained and commissioned LEV's (I understand we already have a few) would be empowered to take the sacrament of Holy Communion to our folks who cannot worship with us on Sunday mornings.

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If you feel you have gifts for this ministry, please call Patsy Gorczyca, who has agreed to work with me in developing this ministry.

But I digress.... Back to the Celebration of a New Ministry on August 9th: I have invited several representatives of other traditions, some Christian, some non-Christian to join us. I see this as an occasion for us to open our doors to as many who will come and say by our welcome and hospitality that we Episcopalians are justifiably proud of our tradition, but we also honor people of all faiths and are thankful to live in a community where many paths to God are walked.

A final word about the Celebration of a New Ministry on August 9th: The preacher that day will be Dr. Norvene Vest, my longtime spiritual director. She is a spiritual director, author of six books on Benedictine spirituality, and a LAY PERSON. A primary focus of her work is the deepening of our relationship with God. I think you will enjoy meeting her and hearing what she has to say. For more information on Norvene, go to www.composury.com.

And do please plan to worship with St. John's the evening of August 9th as we celebrate your new ministry.

Blessings,

Fr. Harold+



What is Benedictine Spirituality?

Benedictine Spirituality is a way of life that helps a person to seek God and God's will daily. It encourages a balance in one's life of corporate worship, spiritual reading and work in the context of community. People are seen as an integrated whole: Body, Mind, and Spirit. Core values in Benedictine Spirituality are stability, obedience (to God), personal transformation, humility, and hospitality, care of the ill, living a life style of love centered in Christ and listening for God in all of life.

The Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector

August 9 will be a busy day in the life of St. John's. After our normal Sunday services we will begin preparation for the celebration of the new ministry by setting up tables and chairs for the 5:00 pm liturgy. Around 4:30 pm all our visiting clergy should have arrived and will begin vesting.

Dr. Norvene Vest will be preaching. In her work as a spiritual director and author, she draws on ancient Christian practices (especially Benedictine spirituality) and adapts them in light of contemporary demands. Dr. Vest is particularly interested in a progressive Christian third way between conservative orthodoxy and secular disbelief. She is an Episcopal laywoman and a founding member of the Center for Christian Spirituality-West.

After the liturgical celebration, we'll relax and enjoy food and refreshments. We're hoping for a nice delta breeze to assist our guests as they visit under the outside canopy.

If you haven't already volunteered to assist us with preparations or events the day of, please call the office.

So we know how many to plan for, we're asking to RSVP by calling the office, email, or sign-ups are on the ministry table in the church.

Senior Warden's Message

When you read this newsletter, summer is coming to a conclusion. School for our children will have started and we at St. John's are in a season of New Beginnings. The neighborhood meetings, with Father Harold and Beverley, will conclude by mid month. Sunday August 9, 2009 at 5 p.m. the installation celebration for Father Harold as St. John's Rector will be held. St. John's will host invited guests from a cross section of Lodi community as well as guests from the Diocese of San Joaquin with Bishop Jerry as the celebrant.

Over the summer months, Father Harold is meeting with much of the leadership of St. John's many ministries. As with the neighborhood meeting, he is learning more about our dreams, aspirations, and visions, and we are able to learn more about his visions and background. Just as our search process was necessary, this process of getting to know each other better is also necessary, so we as a group can and will move forward in New Beginnings.

When fall approaches and after we are all better acquainted, you will see changes taking place at St. John's. Some changes may be subtle; some may be bold and exciting. As New Beginnings brings changes, we will keep the parish informed as best as we can through the newsletter, weekly bulletins, and Sunday announcements. Be attentive, stay informed, ask questions, and by all means be a participant in the New Beginnings at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist.

As we enter this new and exciting period of New Beginnings, let us continue "to extend the love of Christ from within the Episcopal tradition." Pray for strength, guidance, faith, love, understanding, and reconciliation. Pray for the leadership of St. John's, Father Harold and staff, as well as all our volunteers. Pray for Bishop Jerry, Cannon Mark, and Presiding Bishop Katherine, along with all the National Church leadership. Let us be thankful for the gift of New Beginnings and the challenges it may bring.

Thanks be to God.

John Ledbetter
Senior Warden



Getting to Know You

There is still time to sign up and visit with Father Harold and Beverley in the home of the one of your fellow parishioners. This is an opportunity for you to meet with them in a small group setting on Wednesday evenings in August. Food or refreshments will be provided by your host or hostess. You need only bring your hopes and dreams. Please take advantage of this opportunity as they are the beginning of what promises to be a larger conversation about St. John's and the direction God wants us to go now and in the future. Call the office to make a reservation.

Available Dates

Wednesday, August 5, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, August 12, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 19, 7:00 pm

Late Breaking (controversial) News on General Convention

The General Convention has voted on hundreds of resolutions so far (I write on July 15) but the one that will receive the most media attention will be DO 25.

Passed by both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, it essentially reaffirms that the ordination process (including that of bishop) is open to all people. This is a movement away from the "restraint" of last convention's famous BO 33. Although BO 33 was not exactly overturned (it will take an election of an openly gay person to make that happen, which frankly is not likely to happen anytime soon), this resolution was a defacto repudiation of that stance.

All those interviewed agreed that the declaration makes a dramatic statement about the Episcopal Church's stance on the ordination of gay and lesbian persons — including their consecration as bishops — that cannot be ignored. "We've made ourselves pretty clear," said Keith Whitmore, assistant bishop of Atlanta, who voted for the resolution. "The consequences of doing that are rather obvious."

Though he voted against the resolution, Texas Bishop Andrew Doyle agreed that the document clearly and diplomatically states the church's position on ordination being open to all.

"It was very clear in acknowledging the reality that it is happening and that's a very different thing," Doyle said. "I don't think it's a shift in our thinking because people are thinking the same thing they were thinking three, six years ago on that from their various opinions...I think the resolution is a healthy and honest description of where we are." Doyle said he voted against the resolution out of concern for repercussions if the action was seen as a repeal of B033.

Bishop Kirk Smith, of the Diocese of Arizona, said, "It is time for us to be clear about who we are as a church in spite of the fact that it may make things harder for us in the Anglican Communion. The good news is the language of this resolution was thoughtful, considerate, and moderate in tone."

For a complete discussion of this resolution, as well as other General Convention News, go to www.episcopalchurch.org.

Blessings,

Father Harold



The Arts at St. John's

The Arts at St. John's concert series begins with CLERESTORY Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 pm.



Clerestory is the Bay Area's acclaimed eight-man classical a cappella ensemble. Veterans of San Francisco's finest vocal groups, Clerestory's singers, from counter-tenor to bass, remain members of the Bay Area choral community and pride themselves on providing unparalleled performances to local audiences at progressive prices. Clerestory is named for cathedral windows that let in daylight; we tell the 'clear story' of the music we sing through sophisticated performances grounded in decades of experience singing together.

Notes From The Church Mouse

Recently Rich Shook was honored by the Lodi Lions Club with the Melvin Jones Fellowship award. This is the highest form of recognition in Lionism and is given for exemplary service to the community. Rich has been a Lion for thirty years. In the seventy-year history of the Lodi club, only twenty-one such individuals have received this honor. A surprise group of family members joined in congratulating him. Well done, Rich!!



Congratulations to great-great aunt and uncle Norman and Patsy Litcho on the birth of Annabella.

Congratulations to Ejae Brown and family, she is the proud grandmother to Eva Lynn Baer. Chrissy and Eva are doing well.

We greive with Tina and Mike Newsome on the death of her mother, Sonja Dalton, on July 9,2009.

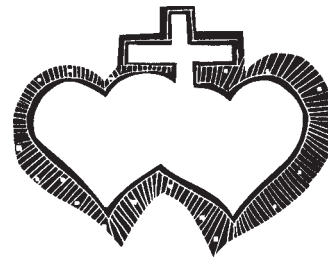
We'd like to thank: Steve Augusto for changing all our high lights. Dan Kafton for repairing our font. Rich Shook for building our name tag holder.

August Birthdays

- 2: Charlyn Lauchland
- 3: Adrian Garcia
Dan Kafton
Robin Knutson
Alex Freund
Kevin Walton
- 4: Steve Manildi
- 5: Dave Johnson
- 6: Steve Culbertson
Sheila Filomeo
Calvin Kugelman
- 8: Kiernan Odgers
Gene Olson
- 9: Randy Roxson
- 11: Eleanor Rayner
- 12: Doug Brown
- 13: Doug Wied
- 16: Marilyn Thompson
- 17: Kathy Girard
John Nieman
- 20: Fred Hirning
- 21: Donna Hoffman
Jan Landreth
- 22: Ann Rogers
- 23: Lilian Adams
Donald Filomeo
The Rev Ray Knapp
- 24: Rose George
Donna Lind
Richard Peckham
Gavin Wagner
- 25: Sheryl McLord
- 26: Logan Avery Wuelfing
- 27: Patsy Lithco
- 28: McKenzie Calvird
Pat Fehling
Will Meyer
Norma Seavey
- 29: Jack Stone
- 30: Marlys Williams
- 31: David Friston

August Anniversaries

- 1: Carol and Larry Foote
Diana and David Martin
Caroline and Tom Ramonda
Elena and Lewis Woodbridge
- 6: Shawna and Robert Thompson
- 7: Suzanne and Larry Seiler
- 11: Betty and David Friston
Nancy and Greg Hennefer
- 19: Nancy and Tim Thompson
- 23: Sharon and Al Morgan
- 28: Linda and Jack Harkins
Mary and Bob Mustain



A Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as his/her days increase; bless and guide him/her wherever he/she may be. Strengthen him/her when he/she stands; comfort him/her when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him/her up if he/she falls; and in his/her heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Father Ray turns 90

We'll celebrate Father Ray's 90th birthday and his 60th anniversary of priesthood on Sunday, August 23 after the 10:30 a.m. service. All are welcome.

St. John's Small Groups

Many groups that recessed during July will reconvene in August. New participants are always welcome. Please call the group leaders for details.

Agape Group - please contact the church office, Edyth Ledbetter, or Mary Knutsen for information about this newest St. John's group. Agape wants to welcome new members, create the feeling of a loving family, and become committed to God, St. John's, and each other. The next meeting will be August 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the church kitchen.

Cursillo Reunion Groups meet on Mondays year-round. The men's group meets at noon; the contact is Frank Pegg, 369-9610. The women's group now meets at 1:00 p.m. in the church kitchen; the contact is Marilyn Cook, 334-3197. All interested persons are welcome.

Green Piece urges you to come on out and spend some time in the garden. Pick a task that suits your ability, skills, and time commitment, or send your gardener. You may also make a special donation to the garden fund. Give Rich Shook a call, 327-8406 for additional information or directions.

Men's Barbeque Group will not meet in August. John Ledbetter is the contact.

Women of St. John's will meet on Thursday, August 27, 5:30 p.m. at the church. The regular schedule of meetings is the 4th Thursday of alternate months. Please also save October 29 for the fall meeting. Contacts are Mary Knutsen, 366-2449 or Kathy Girard, 333-1570.

Singles Supper Club has made plans for 2 meetings a year. Please contact Frank Pegg, 369-9610 for information about the August 28 meeting, a 5:00 p.m. back yard barbecue party at his home.

St. John's Bridge Tournament will resume in September. Please contact Ruth Diekman, 369-2938, to confirm your interest in playing with the group.

St. Margaret's Group will not meet in August. The contact person is Claire Lima.

Study Group II will reconvene on August 25, the regular 4th Tuesday meeting, in the church kitchen beginning at 9:15 a.m. Contact, Ruth Diekman, 369-2938 for other details. The new study will be *Forgive and Get Your Life Back*, by Dennis R. Maynard.

Woman of Faith Study Group contacts are Barbara Jones, 368-6361 or Gretchen Nelson, 369-3952. The group will resume its regular meeting schedule in September.

Yoga for Christians is scheduled to again meet each Monday morning, beginning August 17 from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. New participants, please contact Patsy Gorczyca, 367-1812.

Ruth Diekman,
Small Groups Coordinator

Summer Music Camp

Summer Music Camp at St. John's drew nineteen students this year. About half were returnees from prior years. We had a great mix of ages including six - 1st graders, seven - 3rd graders and then students in 4th through 8th grade. Camp concluded with a concert on Friday night, July 24th, with everyone playing bells or chimes, singing, and playing Orff or recorder instruments. This was the ninth year we have done Summer Music Camp at St. John's.

Coffee Hour

Thank you to those of you that hosted coffee hour in July. They include Claire Lima, Randy and Robin Knutson, Paula Saubolle, Vinita Shinn, Cecil and David Brewer, The Cress Family, Anne Reeve, Beverley Clinehens, and Ann Marie Addler.

The sign up sheet is located on the table next to the receptionist desk at the rear of the church. Please sign up to share your sweet treats during this brief time of warm fellowship.



Women of St. John's

The women of St. John's will be meeting August 27 at 5:30 pm. If you are new to the church or haven't attended before this is a perfect time to meet other women. All of St. John's women are invited; we have lots to discuss. Dinner will be served and child care is available. Please sign the list in the back of the church, so we have an idea on how much to prepare. Come, relax, enjoy!

Unique Boutique

It is time to start planning for our favorite boutique. If you're interested in helping with this great event; contact Mary Knutsen.

Helping Hands

We thank Lila Smith for assisting Helping Hands in the month of July.

Helping Hands for the month of August will be Fern Davis.

If you know of a family or individual who is in need of a meal, please call Fern.

LEV Meeting

There will be an organizational meeting for those who have been trained as Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and/or who wish to be, after the 10:30 liturgy (around noon) on Sunday, August 2 in the Chapel. If you are interested in taking the sacrament to sick and shut in members, or have an interest in pastoral visiting, we'd love to have you attend.

Adornments of the Liturgy

- August 2 Mrs. Jack Brooks in memory of Jack's parents, Jack D. and Margaret Brooks, for their August 4 wedding anniversary.
- August 16 Landreth -Cariati family in loving memory of Joe Cariati.

Joan Krack in loving memory of her husband, Syl Krack, for his birthday August 15
- August 23 Diane Burkett in memory of her parents, Carolyn and Arthur Marquardt, for their wedding anniversary August 18.
- August 30 Bob and Mary Mustain in honor of their wedding anniversary August 28.

Dorothy Snyder in loving memory of her brother, Louis Chappuis, for his birthday August 31.



Events In August

- Sunday, August 9: The Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector, 5:00 pm
- Saturday, August 15: Newsletter Deadline
- Thursday, August 27: Women of St. John's Dinner, 5:30 pm
- Sunday, September 6: Men's BBQ, 5:00 pm

(Please call the church office, 369-3381, for specifics on any of the above.)

Ongoing Events

- Sundays:** Holy Eucharist: 8:30 am
Nursery Care: 8:30 am to noon
Holy Eucharist: 10:30 am
Preschool Class: 10:30 am,
Sunday School Program:
Pre-school, Nursery (ages 3 and 4)
Grades K- 3, Hospitality Room
Grades 4 - 6, Breezeway
Men's BBQ: 5:00 pm, church (first, alternate months)
Youth Bells: 6:00 to 6:45 pm, church
Youth Group: 6:45 to 8:00 pm, church
- Mondays:** Morning Prayer: 8:30 am, chapel (Monday - Friday)
Cursillo Men's group: Noon, Frank Pegg
Cursillo Women's group: Noon, Marilyn Cook
Evening Prayer: 5:30 pm, chapel (Monday-Friday)
St. Margaret's Group 7:00 pm, Claire Lima (first and third)
Yoga for Christians 10:00 am, church, Patsy Gorczyca
- Tuesdays:** Study Group II: 9:15 am, church
(second and fourth)
Agape 10:00 am, church (third week)
- Wednesdays:** Choristers Group: 4:30 pm, church
Choir Rehearsal: 7:00 to 8:30 pm, church
- Thursdays:** Women of Faith Study Group 9:00 am, Barbara Jones (first and third)
Holy Eucharist: 12:10 pm, chapel
Fellowship Ministries: 7:00 pm, Mary Knutsen and Kathy Girard
(third)
Compassion Ministries: 6:30 pm, Hospitality Room (first)
- Fridays:** Singles' Supper Club: 6:00 pm, Sara Heberle
(fourth, alternate months)
- Any day or time:** Green Piece, church garden upkeep



