

Ongoing Events

- Sundays:** Holy Eucharist: 8:30 am
Godly Play: 8:30 am, Hospitality room (grades K to 6)
Nursery Care: 8:30 am to noon
Holy Eucharist: 10:30 am
Preschool Class: 10:30 am, Nursery (ages 3 and 4)
Godly Play: 10:30 am, Hospitality room (grades K to 6)
Men's BBQ: 5:00 pm, church (first, alternate months)
Youth Group: 6:30 to 8:00 pm, church
- Mondays:** Morning Prayer: 8:30 am, chapel (Monday - Friday)
Yoga for Christians: 9:30 am, Patsy Gorczyca
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)
- Tuesdays:** Study Group II: 9:15 am, Ruth Diekman
(second and fourth)
Yoga for Christians: 7:00 pm, Patsy Gorczyca
- Wednesdays:** 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

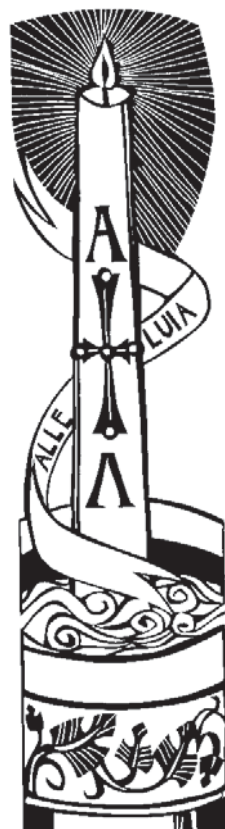


Events In March

Thursday, March 6:	Lenten Soup Supper Program, 6:00 pm
Friday, March 7:	Cooking for Salvation Army, 5:00 pm
Thursday, March 13:	Lenten Soup Supper Program, 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 15:	Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, March 16:	Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday services 8:30 and 10:30 am, church
Thursday, March 20:	Maundy Thursday Liturgy, services 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm, church The Watch, 8:00 pm to midnight, church
Friday, March 21:	The Watch, 12:00 am to 7:00 am, church Good Friday Liturgy, 7:00 am, church Ecumenical Service, Noon, Methodist Church Private Confession, upon request Good Friday Liturgy, 7:00 pm, church
Saturday, March 22:	Great Vigil of Easter, 9:00 pm, church Easter Feast, 10:30 pm, church
Sunday, March 23:	Easter Day, services 8:30 am, 10:30 am, church Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 service
Monday, March 24:	Office Closed

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





Easter at
St. John's

Great Vigil of Easter

9:00 pm (incense)

Easter Feast Follows

(sign-up sheet on ministry table)

Easter Day

8:30 am and 10:30 am

(child care provided)

Egg Hunt follows both services

Editor's Corner

Yesterday was a perfect day. It started when I woke up on my own, with no wake-up alarm. It continued through a wonderful breakfast, prepared by my husband. It progressed through the collaborative effort of both of us in revising a lengthy document (something we've been wanting to do for some time). It took us through a surprisingly perfect visit from other family members. It began to close during a dinner, prepared jointly, and it finished up with some comfortable quality time in front of the television.

Who could ask for more? Good company, good food, good progress, good relaxation.

So often we turn to God in times of trouble, distress, pain, or need. He enfolds us in His love, offering support through trying times. We forget, when things are good, to thank Him, as His love is present then, too. God's grace granted me a perfect day, and I thank Him for that gift with all my heart.

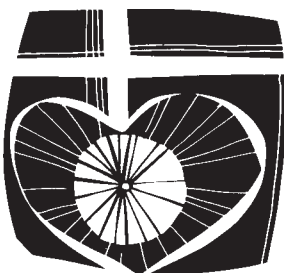
Take a moment, right now, and thank God for something (or someone) wonderful in your life.

Michelle Hakala

I welcome your comments, questions or critiques. Email me at winebird@winebird.com or drop a note in my church folder.

March Birthdays

1: Trude Graves	11: Ryan Bedford	25: Devin Landreth
Arabella Mills	12: Amanda Cariati	Dee Mayfield
2: Kathy Bell	Melissa Johnson	Erin Catherine Toomey
Robby Loiacono	13: Amanda Louise Reynolds	Carolyn Wilson
3: Frank Pegg	14: Mary Dawson	26: Kimberly Bronson
Lisa Wallace	Allison Williams	27: Jennifer Bond
5: Ann Marie Addler	16: Bill Olson	Annabelle Goodwin
6: Claire Lima	17: Ron Buck	Linda Harkins
8: Danielle May Geist	19: Michelle Renee Cook	Nicholas Hudson
Steve Woodard	20: Andee Zetterbaum	Karen Olds
9: Karen Trueman	23: Chris Morgan	29: Bob Gorczyca
10: Margaret Meyer		31: Angie Garcia



March Anniversaries

4:	Cynthia and Lucian Neely
29:	Patsy and Bob Gorczyca
	Sylvia and Erik Patten



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

March 16 to March 23, 2008

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

8:30* and 10:30* am

Maundy Thursday

12:10 • 7:00* pm

The Watch

8:00 pm Thursday to 7:00 am Friday

Good Friday

7:30 am

12:00 Ecumenical Service at First United Methodist

7:00* pm

Great Vigil of Easter

9:00 pm Saturday (with incense)

10:30 pm Easter Feast

Easter Day

8:30* and 10:30*

Egg Hunt Follows Both Services

Opportunities for Private Confession

*Child Care Provided

Men's BBQ

Come one! Come all! Our next gathering will be on March 9, at 5:00 pm. Soft drinks, water and wine are available. The menu this month is "Duke's Surprise," so come and expect a delicious surprise. Bring your friends.



Easter Feast

Rejoice with us Saturday, March 22, at 9:00 pm for our Easter Vigil service; immediately following the service we will celebrate with an Easter Feast. Watch for the sign-ups on the ministry table.



VBS (Vacation Bible School)

Watch for upcoming information on our VBS program this summer! Details will be posted in the April newsletter.

Thursday Evening Offerings for Children

As in the past, a class for children has been and is being offered following the soup suppers on Thursday evenings during Lent. The time coincides with the adult lesson on the Lenten reading *Pathways to God*. The children's topic is "Walking With Jesus." Each week a volunteer teacher presents a lesson which includes a bible character from the new testament together with an appropriate craft and various activities. The work and dedication of the leaders, Beth Elwood, JoEllen Fortenbury-Ford, Patricia Fehling, Jeanne D'Angeli, and Ruth Diekman is greatly appreciated.

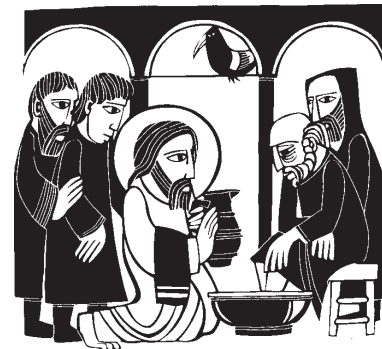
Helping Hands

Thank you so much, Barbara Jones and Charlotte Rossen, for providing assistance in February.

Helping Hands for the month of March will be Frank Pegg and Ida Lobb.

If you hear of a family or individual who is in need of a meal, please call Frank, Ida, or myself.

Donna Lind
Coordinator



The Watch

We are invited to meditate and pray "in the garden" in the church from 8:00 pm Maundy Thursday to 7:00 am Good Friday. Beginning March 9, you may sign up for one or more blocks of time.

St. John's Small Groups

Small Groups continue meeting during all seasons of the Church Year. Scan the highlights to find a group that could match your interests and time commitments. New participants are always welcome to join a group

Men's Barbeque Group will meet at the church on Sunday, March 9, at 5:00 pm for fellowship and fine vittles. Bring a friend. Contact John Ledbetter, 368-0865, for information.

Cursillo Reunion Groups meet on Mondays at noon year-round. The men's group contact is Frank Pegg, 369-9610; the women's group contact is Marilyn Cook, 334-3197. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

St. Margaret's Group is reading, *First Light*, by Sue Monk Kidd. Meetings are the first and third Mondays at 7:00 pm. Please call Claire Lima, 334-4047, for information and location.

Women of Faith Study Group meets the first and third Thursdays, at 9:00 a.m., at the home of Barbara Jones. The March study will continue 1 Kings together with *A Wing and A Prayer*, by Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori. For more information please call Barbara Jones, 368-6361, or Gretchen Nelson, 369-3952.

Study Group II meets at the church, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. The continuing study is *When the Heart Waits*, by Sue Monk Kidd. Please call me for further information.

Yoga for Christians meets Monday mornings at 9:30 am and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the church. Please call Patsy Gorczyca, 367-1812, for details and when attending for the first time.

Singles Supper Club will meet on Friday, March 28. Details will be announced in a Sunday bulletin. Sara Heberle, 368-5744, is the coordinator for this group.

Green Piece is an opportunity for self-selected involvement. The churchyard garden is divided into plots for maintenance. Warmer spring weather will call for increased activity. Plan to join along with others in this ongoing project. More help is needed and will be appreciated. There is room for additional workers in previously chosen spots. Please call Rich Shook, 327-8406, for information.

The Bridge Tournament play for 2007-2008 is under way. Please keep current with the schedule. For information contact Sara Heberle, 368-5744, or me.

Reminder: New groups may be formed whenever interest and leadership is identified. Please let me know if there are families with young children interested in forming a group, or groups.

Ruth Diekman
Small Groups Coordinator, 369-2938



An Easter Message from Father Basil

This Easter promises to be of very special importance for the parish of St. John the Baptist. It falls within the interim period of my being parish priest and we all hope that by Easter 2009 there will be a new and permanent rector, and perhaps a new and permanent Bishop of San Joaquin too.

That is very exciting and there's much to look forward to. In the meanwhile we need to listen, yet again, to the words of the risen Christ given to St. Mary Magdalene in the Easter garden for her to pass on to the frightened and doubtful disciples. The message is full of promise and reassurance: "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God". (John 20:17)

My perception of the general feeling among us is that, like the disciples, we too are disturbed, perhaps doubtful and bewildered. So much has happened and is happening and so much dust has been raised in recent times. Will life ever be the same again, we might wonder? Change, perhaps, may be perceived to be a threat, rather than an opportunity; so much so, we might cling to the past so tenaciously as to overlook the danger of stagnation. For instance, so many issues are being raised by the review process of the Search Committee, it is not surprising if some feel disturbed. On the other hand, too much enthusiasm may lead to the opposite danger; using the present situation to make change happen. From stagnation we might lurch toward revolution. The result might be unwelcome to all, especially if it sets up opposing parties; change and no change. How do we protect against this? The Easter garden holds the key; from then on the walk with the risen Jesus begins and the disciples discover a completely new way of life, revolutionized by the Risen Saviour. It's the 'old, old story' experienced in a completely new way.

Someone once said, "To live is to change; to be holy is to have changed often." That is how life was for the primitive Church as Jesus prepared his followers for the coming of the Holy Spirit. They had everything to learn. The Holy Spirit, Jesus promised, would lead them into all the truth and they would be empowered to do still greater things than they'd seen their Master doing. That is truly amazing, for them and now for us. So, we must remain firm in the faith, but not in a rut. We must be of good courage, forsaking servile, narrow fear, for the real thing, 'reverential fear.' That will both encourage, strengthen and sustain us for the journey ahead. "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world". Alleluia!

Father Basil+



Message From The Senior Warden

As the Search Committee continues to engage the parish, through the detailed survey and the series of small group meetings, it brings to mind the fact that we are asking questions of who we are, where we have been and what qualities we are searching for in a new rector. This process brings up the past, the present, and the future. It also brings up the idea of change and opportunities for the future.

For some of us, change can be scary or uncomfortable. Fear of change is a normal human reaction. We need to stay focused on our goal and not let ourselves get sidetracked. We must continue to keep the big picture in mind. For others of us, change can be challenging and exciting. This is important as it will engage the parish to ask ourselves the hard questions.

Whether we fear change or look forward to change, the search process is an opportunity for St. John's to look to our future without forgetting our past. The experts in the search process will say we are approaching the challenge in a healthy way. At the same time we are searching, we are allowing ourselves the time to mourn the departure of Father Rick and his family. Father Basil's thoughtful care during this time has been extremely valuable and it will continue. We must remember that St. John's parish is very fortunate that we are united in "celebrating and extending the Love of Christ from within the Episcopal tradition." We have an active parish, a committed Search Committee, a strong supporting vestry, a wealth of volunteers, a strong administrative team, friendly, accepting parishioners, and a loving pastoral team. We are truly blessed and it is important for us to count on our blessings and not dwell on any negatives.

I ask you to continue to pray for our parish, our clergy, our Search Committee, our vestry, our continuing Diocese of San Joaquin, and our National Church for guidance, wisdom, open minds and hearts, forgiveness and the love for each other. Let us remember that St. John's future will bring us challenges, but also great opportunities. All is well. Thanks be to God.

John Ledbetter
Senior Warden





Adorning The Altar For Easter

___ Check here if you participated last year and want your entry to remain the same. Fill in only your name on this form. Finally, put your donation money and this form in an envelope and put it in The Box.

___ Check here if you want to change last year's wording, or if you are doing this for the first time. Please fill out this form completely, place it and your donation money in an envelope and put it in The Box.

A minimum donation of \$25.00 is requested. All paid adornments will be published in the Easter bulletin and the April newsletter.

Thank you!

ADORNMENT FORM FOR EASTER

Adornment in thanksgiving /in honor of / in memory of: (circle one)

Given by: (print clearly)

Your phone number: _____

ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

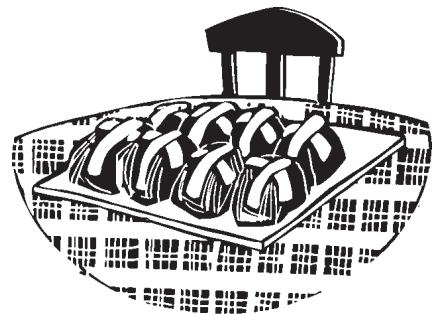
This group would empower the women of St. John's to share their talents and ideas to help existing ministries and St. John's to achieve their goals. We will meet on a regular basis and discuss the needs of the church. Our first meeting was February 29; it was decided to set plans for our VBS (Vacation Bible School) program this summer and develop the fall education program. Our next meeting is Friday, March 28, at 7:00 pm. Please plan on attending and bring your ideas!

Our mission statement: *We want to share the love of Christ in our community through prayer, education, and concern for others with joyful service.*



Notes From The Church Mouse

We grieve with the families of Anna Lou Showalter, Marion Reeve, Charlie Jinks, Ellen Smith, Maise Cramm and Patricia Stickers on the death of their beloved one. Our prayers of sympathy go out to Mary Ellen McConnell on the death of her brother, John Steacy. May God receive these souls into His kingdom.



Blood Drive

St. John's Annual Spring BLOOD DRIVE ... Save the Date! On Saturday, April 5, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Delta Blood Bank will once again join forces with St. John's parishioners and the Stockton/Lodi community to donate blood. Blood is always in short supply and everyone's will be greatly appreciated! The date has been scheduled so that it doesn't conflict or overlap with other blood drives in our area, so clear your calendar to give blood on April 5, here at St. John's. If you cannot donate blood, you may still contribute to this great community outreach program:

Tell your families, neighbors and friends to encourage their participation.
Help put posters around town and at your places of work.
Volunteer to facilitate on the day of the event.

The donor sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church, with time slots throughout the day's timeframe. If you would like to assist with the poster distribution and/or on the day of the event, please call me.

St. John's is proud to continue this bi-annual community outreach program ... it's a beautiful way to save lives, to meet others and to introduce them to St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church. Let us walk in the ways of the Lord ... do good to others ... share what you have ... give from your heart.

Blessings,
Beth Elwood, 473-4231
Compassion Committee

Liturgical Notes

Why should we celebrate Easter?

The question came from the children's choir innocently enough. I didn't see it as an indictment of our parish or our inability to communicate this core of our beliefs (or should I have seen it that way?)

Instead, I used it as a chance to teach; to make clear that we **do** believe Christ rose from the grave. He was resurrected, not just resuscitated, and Easter is the time and day to declare it to the world. Indeed, for us in the Northern Hemisphere (and here in Lodi), it is so obvious to see the connection between a celebration of "new life in Him" and the new life all around us. Trees, fields, gardens, all springing to new life; even during an early March Easter. So this association of the Resurrection of Our Lord, his new life that we are all tied to, through baptism and Easter, the new life celebration of the northern European peoples, gives us a mix up of signs and wonders we have to sort out at the supermarket, our homes, in schools and even at church! Bunnies, flowers, pastel colors, Easter Eggs - signs of new life and Easter. The empty cross, trumpet-shaped Easter lilies, gold and white, pure white linens, folded on the altar or credence table -- signs of Resurrection, of a new life promised to us, made for us, by the work of a gracious God. All this is mixed up in the wonderful day and season of Easter!

So why do we celebrate Easter? We celebrate to claim and proclaim that new life, given to us as a gift; given to declare to the world, so they, too, know that this new life is merely ours to claim; to share in. So, bring out the trumpets and the trumpet-shaped lilies. Scatter the Easter Eggs, too; for they have a place in this proclamation of new life. Moreover, spread them out on a mid-March lawn, growing green in a valley in central California that feeds so much of the nation and the world. Let us and those who celebrate that morning know that new life, new hope, is again alive and made known on this Easter Day!

Coffee Hour

Search Committee

During March, the Search Committee will be processing all of the information you have given us in question cards, congregational surveys, cottage meetings and personal contacts. This information will provide a parish profile (a type of church resumé) to be sent to applicant rectors.

Developing the profile will take some time; therefore, know that we are hard at work and will be less visible with after service reporting.

Vanadeane Brooks

Appreciation and thanks go to Beth Elwood, Bob and Jeannette Clottu, Sara Heberle, Sperry Utz, Joan Krack and Martha Scott for their continued support. We also thank Vanadeane Brooks for her donation of a brand new coffee pot to our kitchen.

The Coffee Hour sign-up sheet is always at the back of the church.

Thank you
Kathy Girard



Designers Guild

A walk in our garden revealed our tulip tree and flowering pear forming buds for their spectacular presentation in the spring. The forsythia is already blooming and the small roses and vines are producing rosebuds and roses amidst the rose hips from last year's blooming. My paper whites have pushed up for the first bulb blooming this season. The earliest bloom, however, is our beautiful white flowering quince with its delicious scent wafting through the garden. I was hoping that its beautiful waxy bloom would be present for Easter Arrangements. As much as I plead for these spectacular blooms to hold back, there is a time for each plant to bloom independent of our wishes.

At our meeting on Saturday, the Designers Guild will be establishing our committees for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, the Garden of Gethsemane, Good Friday and Easter with Pentecost looming in the future. For those people who gave memorials last year and wish to give again, you will find last year's list on the information table. Please check your listing. Those who did not give and wish to, add your name to the list. Please clearly write your dedications. We are so grateful for your confidence in the Guild to memorialize your loved ones.

The green banners have been removed and are being embellished with leaves and grapes for their next hanging.

Our spring trip is also being planned with Filolie and the Sunset Experimental Gardens as a possibility. I'm very excited about such a plan. You will be alerted to details next month.

Norma



Adornments of the Liturgy

March 2:

Ida Mae Lobb in loving memory of her husband, Joe, for his birthday, March 3

Mrs. Jack Brooks in loving memory of her husband's mother, Margaret Brooks, for her birthday, March 2

March 9:

Sara Heberle and family in loving memory of her husband, Edward, for his birthday, March 9

Trude Graves in loving memory of her husband, Henry, for his birthday, March 19, and for Henry's father, Henry Graves, Sr., for his birthday, March 2

March 16:

Palm crosses today are given by Patricia Fehling in memory of her husband, Don

March 30:

Bob and Patsy Gorczyca in loving memory of his mother, Stella, for her birthday, March 29

The Arts at St. John's features

The Legends of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar



Led Kaapanna and Mike Kaawa

Saturday, April 26, 2008

at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets \$20

St. John's Episcopal Church

Lodi, 209-369-3381

www.stjohnsoflodi.org

Message From The (Interim) Rector



What would you think I was referring to if you overheard me say, "It's not a question of you 'must' or you 'should'; but rather, you 'can,' you 'may' or perhaps you 'ought'?" Well, what would you guess I had in mind?

Let me explain. In our prayer book, under the section Pastoral Offices, on page 447, you will find the service Reconciliation of a Penitent. That means Confession, to use an older term. If only to satisfy curiosity, I recommend that you ponder on the two collects at the top of page 448. The first speaks of the authority conferred on a priest at ordination to absolve; the second explains the power of the Church to pronounce forgiveness of sins. Both are referred to in our regular Eucharistic celebration.

The first thing we learn is that this additional service, besides being personal and discretely private, is, by extension, part of the Eucharist. Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, it is recommended but not imposed as obligatory on the faithful. But there is more to this additional 'sacramental' action than is immediately apparent. It encourages self-examination and can be part of a growth in spiritual maturity and a deepening of one's personal faith. As such, it may be accompanied by spiritual direction. That is to say, sharing one's faith journey with someone else, not necessarily ordained; sometimes called having a 'soul friend.' It might also be considered part of a retreat.

Reconciliation is twofold; it is both personal and private and it's part of the corporate discipline of the whole Church of God. Whilst we should repent of sinful acts we should also rejoice when, through grace, we overcome temptations. The danger might then be patting ourselves on the back and considering ourselves better than others. That is called pride; the really big one on the list of really dangerous sins. Pride has been defined as 'an inordinate love of one's own perfection.' Remember, Jesus teaches us to be holy and perfect, 'as your heavenly Father' is holy and perfect. We do make difficulty for ourselves in hearing and accepting this as both possible and true. Jesus teaches that God's holiness and perfection consist in his love, mercy, compassion and ready forgiveness - even before it's asked for. So, as St Paul urges us, "be reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20), that is, share in God's righteousness. (And carry on the commerce of love with each other.)

Father Basil+





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St. John's Newsletter

March 2008

The Rev. Raymond C. Knapp, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Eric B. Yeoman, III, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Basil Matthews, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Anthony J. Morello, *Associate Assisting Interim Priest*
Randy Knutson, *Lay Associate*
Robin Knutson, *Organist*
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