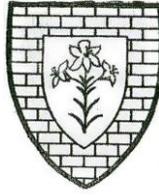


*St. Anne's Musings*  
*July & August, 2016*



**A few good people...**

*Rev. Lyn Morlan*

Jesus went out to places that were familiar and those that were unknown. At least in the sense that a good Jewish boy didn't mingle with them. He knew he would find God working in all parts of the country. So Jesus goes out.

In Luke's gospel, Chapter 9, verses 57-62, Jesus is recruiting men to follow him, and he seems downright rude in his response to their requests. (Note that two of the men offer to follow Jesus and only one of the men is asked by Jesus to follow him.)

As the group is on their way walking to Jerusalem, a man asks to go with Jesus and he tells the young man, that the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. What does Jesus see in the man's heart that he feels the need to reply that this journey is not 'for fun'; it will be very difficult and dangerous.

Jesus asks another to join him, "Follow me." But he replies, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus is curt with the man, and tells him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." On reading this we assume that the poor man's father has just died. In that culture, the son was responsible for staying at home until his father has died – so the implication is that he wants to wait, and join Jesus later; it is more likely that his father is still living. Jesus knows that if the man does not come now, he will probably not come at all.

The next man asks to follow Jesus but adds "let me first go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replies that those who look back are not fit for service in the kingdom of God. To us it seemed a reasonable request, but to the people listening to the conversation, they knew that the man was making an empty offer. He offered the excuse that he needed to go back

home and get permission from his father to follow Jesus. Given what we just learned about the culture of that time, we can be sure that the father would not give permission for his son to go traipsing off after a wandering teacher and his strange band of followers.

Jesus was recruiting those who could be totally committed to the journey. He knew what was coming and the cost that his followers would pay. Jesus was looking for a few good people who would take his teaching to heart and be able to bring the message of God's love to the world. That much hasn't changed. God still looks for people to teach the world about God's love for all creation.

How do you respond?

Do you resemble any of the characters in the gospel story? Haven't we all fallen into one or another of those patterns at some time? An idea that sounds like fun, until we get half-way into the project and realize it's a lot harder or more complicated than it first appeared, so we just stop participating. A request or job that we really don't want to say 'yes' to, but we don't want to hurt someone's feelings so we say – maybe – when we really mean not likely. (I'll come later or I'll get that done next week.) Similarly, we make an empty offer. (I'd love to join you/do that/help out, but...).

Yes, we all at times have opted out of something. We have all backed off from an opportunity to share the gospel and what it means to us, personally. But like all of those men in the gospel story – we are still alive. We have other chances to act like a follower of Christ. Luke never tells us whether any of those three men in the story decided to join the band of people following Jesus or whether they joined the 'Christians' some years later. That's not as important as whether we are willing to be people who follow Christ.

## **Service Times**

For the summer, we are having one principal service at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to this service. We began on June 5, and will have a town meeting on August 21, to discuss whether to continue or not come September 11. Please give the one service a chance before making up your mind. We are one body, and sometimes it is difficult to remember that when we worship at separate times.

The Tuesday morning service is at 7:30 a.m. There will be Eucharist when Rev. Lyn is available and Morning Prayer when she is not. Either way, everyone is welcome to gather at UJ's for breakfast following the service (usually about 8:00 a.m.).

We continue to offer a Eucharist service at 5:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. On August 7, Rev. Lyn will be out of town, so it will be Evening Prayer service.

## **Patronal Feast**

Each church celebrates the Sunday of their patron/patroness saint – the one for whom they are named. The celebration may be the Sunday closest to the actual saint's day. At St. Anne's, our patroness' day is co-celebrated with Joaquim as Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Their day is July 26 and we will be celebrating on Sunday, July 24. Join us at 9:00 a.m. for service. There will be a "Picnic in the Parish Hall" after the service. Sandwiches, chips, salads and drinks – bring your appetite.



## **Items from the Vestry**

### **Electronic Pledge Payments?**

The vestry has been discussing/investigating the idea of allowing electronic payments. While we understand that this would make it easier for some, there is a cost to St. Anne's (monthly and per transaction). In order to proceed, we need to know that enough people want to pay their pledge (on-line and/or on site via credit card or echeck) to justify the cost. If you are like me and travel fairly often, you may be looking for a way to stay current on your pledge when you are out of town. During the summer, I am away a lot

and have chosen to pay my pledge via the online bill pay system through my bank. The budget of St. Anne's is based on a constant cash-flow, and in order for us pay the bills of the parish on time, we need everyone to stay current on their pledge (weekly, monthly, etc). If you have any questions about how to fulfill your pledge via online "bill pay", or if you would like the vestry to move forward with another form of electronic pledge payment (such as PayPal), please contact me ([lydiakfox@gmail.com](mailto:lydiakfox@gmail.com) or 209-608-2835).

### **Have Feedback on the One Service idea? Come to the Vestry meeting on August 21**

At the August vestry meeting (8/21 at 10:30 a.m.) we will discuss if we want to continue with one service in the Fall. We welcome your feedback and invite anyone who is interested in providing feedback to our meeting.

Meetings are held in the sanctuary and are always open (there is a "Public Comment" item on every agenda). We hope to have a rich discussion about the single service change at that meeting. If you would like to provide feedback before the August vestry meeting, please feel free to contact me, or any member of the vestry.

Lydia Fox  
Senior Warden

### **Bible Study/Christian Education**

With new summer service hours, those who have attended Bible Study at 9 am each Sunday have decided to continue having our study during coffee hour, after the service. But we don't have to stop there. Anyone who is interested on having a book study another day, we are certainly open to suggestions. The present Bible Study is from Bible Lessons that Work. It's been a very interesting and enlightening hour because all who are there contribute their thoughts about the Scripture studied.

We'd like to hear what you would like to do for our continuing education. A suggestion offered is to watch a movie and then have a discussion about it. It can be flexible but interesting too.

Contact Leslie Sanchez at 209-406-8530.

## **July T3 Program – Healthy Eating**

In addition to asking everyone to bring healthy snacks for our coffee hours in July, we have arranged for Sandra Zambrano to do a series of classes on eating and the new food pyramid. Sandra works for Catholic Charities – Diocese of Stockton in the SNAP-Ed Program.

Classes will be on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in July (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>). This is open to the community so invite a neighbor. The classes will be held in St. Anne's Parish Hall and last about one hour.

## **Daughters of the King**

Meeting schedule: Tuesday, July 5, at 2 pm. Devotional by Christina. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE DUE TO HOLIDAY. Sunday, August 7, following church service. Devotional by Jan. Please remember to update your prayer requests to share at the meetings. Also, please remember that dues now are payable.

## **Men's Group**

St. Anne's Men's Group meets the second Wednesday of each month. We get together in classroom 3 at 6 pm and then head over to David's Pizza. The July meeting is Wednesday, July 13. All men who attend St. Anne and friends are invited. If you would like to know more or have a question please see Dave Morlan or Bill DeMotte.

## **From the Editor**

Prior to moving to Stockton, I was the editor of the newsletter at my former church in Fullerton for over four years. It is now my great pleasure to edit St. Anne's Musings. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me (Suzanne Kaisch) at 714-400-8615 or [suzkaisch@hotmail.com](mailto:suzkaisch@hotmail.com).

## **Spiritual Companionship: Walking Together with God**

Do you long for a deeper relationship with God? Do you wonder what God is calling you to be and to do? Do you attend church and/or read the Bible, but don't see anything changing in your life? Do you want more peace in your life? If you answered any of these questions with "Yes", spiritual companionship may be for you.

Spiritual companionship (also known as spiritual direction) is an ancient practice of one person (seeker) who desires a deeper walk with God meeting with a more experienced like-

minded person (companion). God is always present to us, but we are not always present to God. Spiritual companionship helps to focus our awareness of God's presence so that we may be more present to God.

We are spiritual beings on a human journey. God is present in all aspects of our lives. Sometimes we notice God; sometimes we do not notice God. Spiritual companionship encourages us to notice God more and more. God is active in the ordinary everyday activities of our lives. So every topic can be discussed in a spiritual companionship meeting.

During a spiritual companionship meeting, both the seeker and the companion may move more deeply into an awareness of God's action and God's love. Prayer and listening are also important parts of the time together. The focus is on the seeker's relationship with God, and thus with every aspect of the seeker's life and experience.

The role of the companion (or director) is to listen with an open mind and a loving heart. The Holy Spirit is also present during the meeting of the seeker and companion and may guide the seeker to raise concerns or share experiences to discuss. The guidance/direction that is revealed is inspired by the Holy Spirit. And, of course, everything discussed within the meeting is confidential.

Having been both a seeker and a companion for many years, I have found my life in God deepening beyond anything I could have expected. The peace that comes from knowing God is always with me enables me to know in my heart that "All will be well" (Julian of Norwich). This poem from St. Francis of Assisi sums up, for me, the benefits of spiritual companionship.

### **In All Things**

It was easy to love God in all that  
was beautiful.

The lessons of deeper knowledge, though,  
instructed me to embrace God  
in all things.

The seeker and companion typically meet once a month for an hour. If you have any questions or would like more information about spiritual companionship, please feel free to talk with Rev. Lyn to phone me at 714-400-8615 or to email me at [suzkaisch@hotmail.com](mailto:suzkaisch@hotmail.com).

Blessings on your walk with God,  
Suzanne Kaisch

## Looking Ahead

July 4 – Office Closed, Holiday  
July 5 – DOK Meeting @ 2 p.m.  
July 7,14,21,28 – Healthy Eating Seminar  
July 13 – Men’s Group, 6 p.m. Room 3  
July 24 – Patronal Feast Day and Celebration  
July 25 – Aug13 Rev. Lyn Unpaid and Vacation

August 7 – DOK Meeting after the service  
August 7 – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer service  
August 10 – Men’s Group, 6 pm in Room 3  
August 21 – Town Meeting following coffee hour  
August 21 – Community Forum, 4 p.m.

Sept 10 – Faith in the Valley Rally  
Sept 24 – Quiet Day

October 1 – Northern Deanery Meeting  
Oct 28 -29 – Diocesan Convention

(Editor: As you can see, I have yet to learn how to do the calendar page. Thank you for your patience as I learn how to create this newsletter.)



## **Around the Diocese**

### School for Deacons and Lifelong Learning

Beginning in the Fall, the Diocesan School for Deacons will open their doors to adults who would like to learn more about the church. The classes will be for everyone. We all need to be learning more about the missional church and understand how we choose to be a part of this ‘Jesus Movement’. More information about classes, dates and cost will be forthcoming. The classes will be in Fresno, so it will be a good idea to have a carpool – both for transportation and for study buddies.

### Diocesan Convention, Oct. 28-29, 2016

In October, the diocese will gather at ECCO (Evergreen Conference Center, Oakhurst) for our annual convention. Delegates, Alternates, Church leaders, and Clergy are requested to attend. Everyone is invited to enjoy the Diocesan Conference facility. The key speaker will be the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism and Reconciliation. She also wrote the book

*“Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation”.*

Accommodations at ECCO are double occupancy, triple occupancy quadruple occupancy, and dorm style. There will also be a block of rooms available in Oakhurst, about a 15 minute drive away. Registration will open by mid-July. Go to [diosanjoaquin.org](http://diosanjoaquin.org).

### A Vehicle for the new Canon

Like the Bishop, the Canon spends most of their time in a car traveling through the diocese. The vehicle Canon Kate used had nearly 200,000 miles on it and it has been sold. With the anticipation of a new Canon coming – fingers crossed – in September, he or she will need a portable office. The people of the diocese are being asked to contribute to the purchase of a vehicle for the Canon. (A Prius is being strongly considered.) So, know that the money will be put to economical, environmentally friendly use. Look for the special campaign and please give generously. From the Friday reflections: the car appeal is called the Canonball Express! Please send your donations to The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, memo Canonball Express, 1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355



### From the Book of Common Prayer Catechism:

- Q.What is the ministry of the laity?  
A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

## **In The Community**

### **For the Sake of Art**

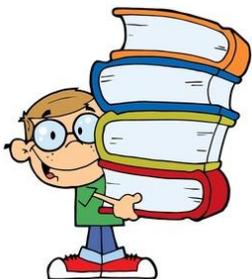
For the Sake of Art is a free art education outreach ministry at Zion Lutheran Church, will be conducting a Summer Art Camp July 18-21. The camp for children ages 6 to 12 will be held in Zion's Grace Hall from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The camp is free and all art materials are supplied by the program. Registration forms are available through the church office, in the church narthex, or by visiting [www.zlcstockton.org/art](http://www.zlcstockton.org/art).

Instructor for the camp is Stockton artist Patti Kennedy, an art education specialist who works for the San Joaquin County Office of Education. Ms. Kennedy is the resident artist for Zion's art program. The theme of this year's art camp will focus on the Summer Olympics and draw on artist Leroy Neiman for inspiration. Parents and grandparents of youngsters interested in the program may call art ministry team leaders Frank and Barb Whitney (209-477-3515) to pre-register their children.

### **Big Free Library**

The bounty from the Little Free Library is a warehouse of books that need to be distributed. On the weekend of July 30<sup>th</sup>, the LFL Stockton Association, with the tremendous support of a few partners will be giving away 80,000 books of mostly adult reading levels. The invitation is open to anyone who has need of books; literacy programs, shelters, care homes, or community centers with a library, religious/philosophical organizations, social service programs and anyone who likes to read.

The Big Free Library Book Giveaway will take place at the warehouse of Intelligent Wireless Networks Inc., located on Rough and Ready Island, Port of Stockton. The address is 712 W. Luce Street (or building 712). Hours are July 29<sup>th</sup> 1-5 pm and July 30<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm.



### **Concerts in the Park**

Wednesday evenings at Victory Park there are free concerts throughout the summer. The concert is from 6-8 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner, blanket or chairs, family and friends. The band line-up for the remaining Wednesdays is:

**July 6: Valley Concert Band** -- Big Band

**July 13: Swingaires** -- Big Band, Swing

**July 20: Would Be Famous Band**

**July 27: Steve Trucco Band**

**August 3: Valley Concert Band**

**August 10: Nick Isaak** -- Country

**August 17: Waterloo** -- Abba tribute band



### **Community Forum**

St. Anne's has asked Jonathon Mendelson of Central Valley Low Income Housing to speak to us about homelessness in San Joaquin County and what we might do individually and as a parish to address it. (Central Valley Low Income Housing was the lead agency for the county's Continuum of Care submission.) He has agreed to come speak at St. Anne's on Sunday August 21, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

As homelessness is a justice/social issue which affects everyone in Stockton, we are inviting anyone to attend this forum. Our neighbors and other faith communities in our area. There will be light refreshments. Both the Vestry and the Church Life Committee are sponsoring Mr. Mendelson. Help us get the word out. This is an issue that will take all of us working together.

### **Thought for the summer**

#### **Share**

Jesus has come to give us life. And we have this life to give it away. Not cling to it, nor grasp after it, nor squander it, nor squirrel it away, but to share it abundantly. There is always more provision. Draw on it and share it.

-Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE

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1020 W. Lincoln Road  
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