



# ***The Shepherd's Staff***

***Newsletter of the  
Diocese of the Western States***

***November 2021***

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## **Something to Think About**

Leo Tolstoy once told the story of a man who lived to seventy years of age and lived in sin all his adult life. However, he had been raised in the Church and, on the verge of death; he wept and cried for all around him to hear, "Lord, forgive me as you forgave the good thief upon the cross." At that moment, his soul left his body and instantly he awakened and found himself at the gates of heaven.

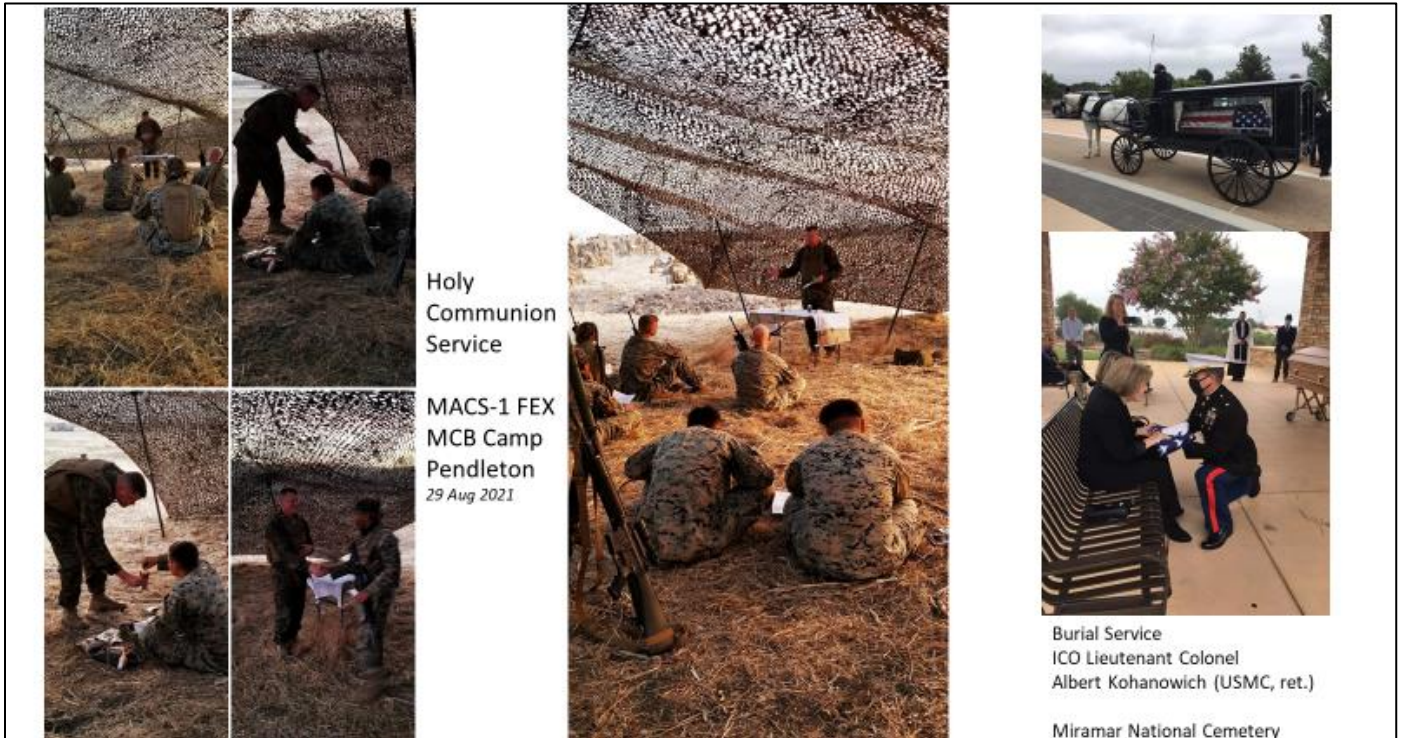
He knocked on the gates and a voice within asked him, "Who is it that knocks at the gates of Paradise and what deeds did he do during his life? Then he heard the voice of the Accuser – the old Devil Satan who wanted the man's soul for himself to torment for eternity - tell of all the man's deeds – no, not one of them good. The first voice then answered, "Sinners cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Go away!" Then the man said, "I hear you, but cannot see you. Who are you?" The voice answered, "I am Peter the Apostle." Then said the man, "O great Apostle, have pity on me a sinner. Remember the weakness of men. Were you not a disciple of Christ? Do you not remember his sorrow when you slept when he had asked you to watch and pray? So it was with me. Do you not remember that you denied him thrice; and that you wept bitterly? So it is with me. You cannot refuse to let me in." Peter's voice was silent. The sinner stood for a while outside the gate; and then knocked again asking to be admitted into paradise.

Then a second voice from behind the gate said, "Who is this man, and how did he live on earth?" And once again Satan told of the man's deeds - no, not one of them good. So, the second voice replied, "Sinners cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Go away!" Again, the man said, "I hear you, but cannot see you. Who are you?" The voice answered, "I am David, king and prophet." The sinner did not despair and said, "Have pity on me King David! "You possessed a kingdom, and honor and riches and many wives. Yet, when you saw another man's wife, you took her and sent her husband into battle to die. Nathan the prophet compared you to a rich man who slew the beloved lamb of a poor man. Do you not remember how you repented; and said, "I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is ever before me." I have done the same. You cannot refuse to let me in." And the voice of David was silent. So, the man knocked again.

Then a third voice said, "Who is this man, and how did he live on earth?" And again, Satan told of the man's deeds - no, not one of them good. So, the third voice replied, "Sinners cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Go away!" Again, the man said, "I hear you, but cannot see you. Who are you?" The voice answered, "I am John, the beloved Disciple." Again, the sinner did not despair and said, "Peter and David knew of man's weakness and God's mercy; but you, John the Divine, who wrote that God is Love and said that men must love one another, how can you look upon me with hatred and drive me away? Either you must renounce what you have said, or loving me, you must let me enter into the kingdom of heaven." And the gates of heaven opened; and John embraced the repentant sinner and took him into paradise.

## Military Chaplaincy

Our Diocese has two Military Chaplains in active service: Father H. Bowen Woodruff who is deployed in the Middle East and Father Daniel McGrath who is stationed in San Diego. Father McGrath recently sent the *Shepherd's Staff* the follow photo showing his activities.



## A Centennial Milestone Celebrated

On Sunday October 10 (Trinity XIX) the parishioners of Saint Augustine of Canterbury in Chico celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mary Bedford. Mary said her secret to longevity is luck and “living the Christian life.” Married in 1944 to Stewart, they raised 3 children. During World War II. Mary served as a safety and security officer for the Army Ordnance Corps traveling around the country inspecting bomb plants.



## Congratulations for Fifty Year of Wedded Bliss

On October ninth, the Very Reverend David Sweeny and his bride Wendy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Hilton Garden Inn, Crabtree Valley, Raleigh. There was a reception and wonderful dinner and entertainment from a couple who are the Sweeney's neighbors. The wife played the fiddle and the husband played the guitar and did a number of tunes that were accompanied from the audience with singing, clapping, and dancing. A good time was had by all with the couple being surrounded by family and good friends. Archdeacon Sweeny is the Rector of St George's Pro-Cathedral. He has finished three years of Ecclesiastical Latin and is in his third year of Biblical Greek.



Bishop Ben Jones gave this invocation, *Heavenly Father, We pray to you in thanksgiving for your abundant blessings which you have bestowed upon Wendy and David. We give you hearty thanks for this wonderful celebration of the 50th anniversary of their joining together in Holy Matrimony. We pray that you would continually increase their love for each other in this 'honourable estate, instituted by God, which signifies to us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and His Church.'*

*We pray that you would surround them with your infinite love and the love of good friends and the love of family. Protect and Bless their home. Provide their daily bread. Guard them and Bless them with good health. And we pray that you would afford them to enjoy many, many more celebrations of the anniversary of their marriage. And Heavenly Father, we pray that you would Bless this Anniversary dinner of your gifts to the use of our bodies and us to Thy loving service, and to make us ever mindful of the needs of others. All this we ask in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Saint Joseph of Arimathea Chapel and College



Four Zoom classes are progressing along in great form. Bishop Schultz is teaching an in-depth class in the *Book of Common Prayer* on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Bishop Ashman is teaching two sections of *World History and Religion* on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time. On Fridays, the Bishop is also teaching 1<sup>st</sup> year Ecclesiastical Latin at 9:30 a.m. and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Biblical Greek at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

This last summer nine security cameras were installed which record the environs and can be accessed twenty-four hours daily. The Library/Conference Room is being equipped with new bookshelves and Carol Karcher is working on cataloguing the library.

The Crew Team is back and assisting Dean Napier every Sunday at Mass. (left)

Finally, plans are being made for offering Hebrew and for Archbishop Upham's return to teach Ecclesiology – and an in-person Summer Session for 2022.

# More From Saint Augustine's Chico

## Fall Parish Cookout

With special thanks to Deacon Brian and Cassie Faith....



## 2022 Ordo Kalendars

As 2021 draws to a close don't forget to order your 2022 Ordo Kalendars which have been edited, prepared and available for ordering. The Ordo Kalendar conforms to the 1928 Prayer Book and the American and Anglican Missals and is in full color and edited for Church use by Father Matthew Weber of Saint Ann's Chapel in Palo Alto. This useful guide to the church year displays detailed information about feasts and penitential seasons, saints' days and colors used during the church year. There is space on the front of the Kalendar where a parish may, if desired, insert a picture, its name and other information after receiving the Kalendars. Nona has mailed out order forms but if lost or you didn't get an order form, you may direct inquiries to Mrs. Nona Gourley (209) 862-2582 or email our Ordo Kalendar website: [order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com).

*right: Nona Gourley and the Bishop*



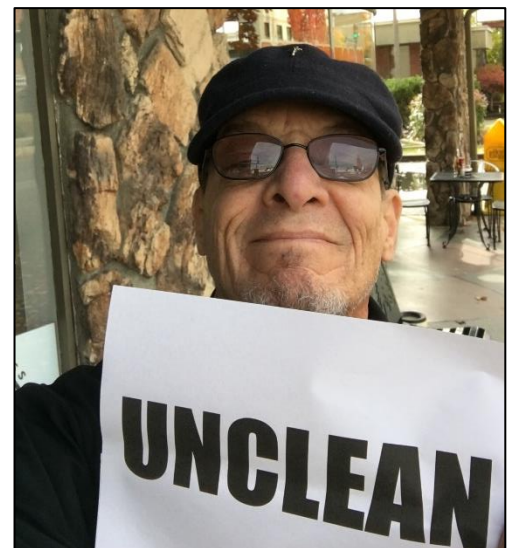
## Lunch in Grants Pass



While traveling for the Diocese the Bishop stopped in Grants Pass Oregon and enjoyed lunch with members of Saint Jude's parish family at the legendary Powderhorn Restaurant. [There are no small portions and the cinnamon rolls are astounding]

left to right: Claudia Baker (Senior Warden), Bishop Ashman, Erin Salazar (Standing Committee), Gillian Golden (DWS ACW President] and Bishop Scott Mitchell.

Father David La Barbera, Rector of Saint Jude's had been exposed to COVID the week before so he had to be in self-isolation. But Father was not to be outdone and sent the picture below right. I think millennials call it a selfie.



## ACW Notes, November 2021

In Southern Oregon, November brings thoughts of cold foggy days and long winter nights, but it is also the month of Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for in APCK. We have survived almost two years of lockdowns and gloomy forecasts for posterity and have been able to keep our faith in the future with the aid of our incredible clergy and modern technology. Don't forget to always keep our clergy in your prayers, and to let them know how much we appreciate them. We are so very blessed. Think about what YOU can do to keep our churches active and alive. Anglican Church Women are about service to the church, and there are always ways even the shyest and (seemingly, in their own eyes) insignificant women can help. Bring something to share for coffee hour, offer to help with clean-up, bring some new ideas for fundraising, bring a friend to church. The opportunities are endless. We are all a part of our church and need to do our part to keep it alive. We also need to bring in more families, for without children to take over in the future we will not survive.

I know that some churches will be holding Christmas Bazaars or other fundraising events. Take pictures and send them to Bishop Ashman so that we can all join in the festivities! Remember also that we need items for the Welcome Bags for the Synod in Redding, and if you are having ACW meetings during the winter, it might be a good time to make bookmarks, prayer cards and other small items for the bags. It is also a good time to decide what you are going to contribute for the ACW drawings, which are so important for the Bishop Morse Youth Camp!

God bless you all. Gillian Golden. DWS-ACW President

### Musings from Canon Dillon at Saint Stephen's in Napa

Right here on the edge between beautiful vineyards and wildland forests, we contemplate our fallen human world with its treacherous older sister Nature ... and we praise God that He desires to actively penetrate into this broken world and lovingly save us.

From the instant of Creation, He has built a dynamic into our fallen reality ... a dynamic that alters how things work or have to be. It's about our faith and obedience, and the power of our loving God. It helps us deal with the paradoxes of a furious world of dangerous nature and unsettled and chaotic peoples. Those are the questions for us all, when we bring our hopes and fears to God in prayer. Will we try to insist on His submitting to our demands? Or will we subordinate our hearts to the purposes of His will? Are we still trying to have our way with God, or have we really decided to let God have His way with us? Are we ready to trust in His mercy, and obey His will, leaving the outcome to Him? "Thy will be done" is really tough medicine for most of us. Jesus Christ gives us something to believe, and something to obey. Our faith is an act of obedience. It is action based on belief. Belief which is sometimes exquisitely and joyfully felt ... and sometimes acted upon in sheer and difficult obedience. We do it out of faithfulness. Sometimes we feel it and sometimes we don't. We are not the ravening crowd. We are the father pleading for his son. We plead from our state of utter powerlessness with contrite hearts and humbled spirits.



Saint Stephens as photographed by the editor in 2001

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, hears and responds ... when we are in His will. "Thy will be done" ... such simple words, that carry the weight of heaven.

## A Sermon for the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

There is a heart-warming story told of a man who finally decided to ask his boss for a raise. He told his wife that morning what he was about to do, All day the man felt nervous and apprehensive. Late in the afternoon he summoned the courage to approach his employer. To his delight, the boss agreed to a raise. The man arrived home to a beautiful table set with their best china. Candles were lit. His wife had prepared a festive meal. Immediately he figured that someone from the office had tipped her off! Finding his wife in the kitchen, he told her the good news. They embraced and kissed, then sat down to a wonderful meal. Next to his plate the man found a beautifully lettered note. It read: "Congratulations, darling! I knew you'd get the raise! These things will tell you how much I love you." While on his way to the kitchen to get dessert, he noticed that a second card had fallen from her pocket. Picking it off the floor, he read: "Don't worry about not getting the raise darling! You deserve it anyway! This card will tell you how much I love you."

Total acceptance! Total love! Her love for him was not contingent upon his success at work. In fact, just the opposite. If he were to fail there, if he were to be rejected by his boss he'd be all the more accepted at home. She stood behind him no matter what; softening the blows, healing the wounds, believing in him, loving him. We can be rejected by almost anyone if we're loved by one.

Did you ever stop to think that in so many of the Gospel stories, Jesus stopped what He was doing to help those who were hurting – or being hurt? He was constantly thronged by people, but He always found time to stop what He was doing and make time for the hurting. He was God made flesh, who found time to feel compassion for people like you and me. This is hard for us to do because we are so busy and get wrapped up in our own little worlds, but it is a lesson we must learn if we are really going to show people we care.

Moreover, Jesus always acknowledged the person he was helping. He cared enough to tell the woman hurting for twelve years not to be afraid, her sins were forgiven. He knew that she, according to Jewish custom, was convinced that she was irredeemable in God's eyes. That's what she was afflicted! It was God's judgment on her sins. Jesus took the time to assure her that it was now all O. K. and that God loved her. We must learn to acknowledge others who are hurting and in need of our help so we may be good examples as ambassadors of God's love.

The wife whose husband wanted a raise was alert to his needs. (Men, are we listening? Are we willing to do the same for our wives and families, friends and neighbors?) That wife is an icon or window into heaven for us. For we all need to look for needs of others, both voiced and unvoiced. At a Latin Convention, I once watched a teacher do something along the same lines. I was helping the teacher judge a contest called Latin Sight Reading, basically just reading Latin aloud correctly. One student started off well. Then he made a mistake. We judges could feel him panic and he struggled to finish the passage. When it was over the teacher said to him, "Do you realize what you did? You panicked. We judges felt your panic and we felt your pain. We also noted that you bravely finished the passage. I sincerely hope you will not leave this room feeling a failure. Rather, I hope you will practice and come back for the spring contests." It was wonderful to see the change in the student from defeat into hope just because of a teacher who looked for the unvoiced needs of another human being.

So I hope we see that the greatest things we accomplish in life are often the unseen or barely noticed. They are the kind words we speak to those in pain – physical, emotional and spiritual; they are gentle support in tough times, the forgiveness of a stupid remark, a careless attitude or even an unintentional slight. They are taking another's work or pain on ourselves and learning to say "thank you," "excuse me," or even just "I love you" more often. I commend to your hearts and souls that wonderful housewife who was alert enough to her husband's needs to prepare two cards to place on his dinner plate. How many of us will act in the same manner before we enter into this church again?

## The Last Word

Our Western world is moving steadily into the darkness of denial. It conveniently embraces the absence of moral values in atheism and substitutes relativism for thought. The materialism of the West hides from the truth. It ends in separation and emptiness. The American soul is caught in despair. We try to remain individuals amidst the growing collectivization of life. No one can withstand this tension without a purpose in life. Agnostic materialists, in their denial of religious tradition, flounder between meditation and melancholy.

In contrast, Aristotle observed that with truth all things sing together. We turn a blind eye to the unseen reality of eternity that lies so close. Where do all the denials, the negative attacks of the media, the loss of faith, eventually end? They end not in Heaven. They end in nothingness.

But the twinkling votive lights of prayer burn on into history before the humble Virgin Mother who holds out to us in her hands God Incarnate. The Faith given to the Apostles and saints remains unchanged. The Resurrection and Ascension reassure us that love is the source of courage and sacrifice. Our Lord said, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Nothing changes the nature of God. We are surrounded by the personal tragedy of those who have erased from their memory the three cardinal virtues: faith, hope, charity. They have lost awareness of the unseen encircling saints and have become cold and indifferent to the burning heart of incarnate love. God is the purpose of life to believers. There is a unity, not always understood, but accepted by faith. Without God mankind cannot survive as individuals.

We are caught in a struggle between the collective and the individual, as seen in the segregation of generations and age groups. In the new retirement towns the aged are separated from their communities, their wisdom sealed off from the young. Teens are grouped into their own culture, controlled by peers rather than parents, exploited by advertising, drugged by self-pity and entitlement, isolated from family love and support.

Many clergy don't believe the Creeds but consider them myths, not history. They claim that Our Lord was not born of a virgin, did not literally rise from the dead, and did not ascend, because Heaven is merely an idea not a place. Father Raynes, Superior of the Community of the Resurrection in England and a great saint, when asked about Hell said: "People make hell for themselves and will not get out. I think this is observable." When asked who were the people most in danger of Hell, he said, "I think the indifferent," and then added, "and priests."

We are called to personal sanctity. In our pilgrimage into God with God, God is the most wonderful person in this universe. He told us that if we loved Him we would keep his commandments. The saints are those remarkable beings who have done this, loved God and all that He created, loved one another, their families, parents, children, friends, and even more remarkable, loved their enemies. We should not collectivize into age groups but find our common mutuality in Christ. God does not separate us according to age, race, class, or gender. There is only Christ and His saints. We are called to be part of that great company of light.



**Bishop Morse at Old Holy Apostles, 1980**