



SLO NEWS

for December, 2010 and January, 2011

from the Episcopal Churches Serving the San Luis Obispo Deanery

+ Arroyo Grande + Atascadero + Cambria + Los Osos + Morro Bay +

+ Paso Robles + San Ardo + San Luis Obispo +

www.sloepiscopalians.org

Diocesan and Deanery News

SLO DEANERY MEETING

Sunday, January 9 – 2 pm at St. Stephen's, San Luis Obispo

Please remember that the January meeting elects new officers. Please consider thoughtfully how you can best serve in the Deanery. Lynn Wiech, Secretary, lwiech@kcbx.net

BISHOP MARY VISITS SLO DEANERY

All day Wednesday, January 19 – at St. James' Church, Paso Robles

Bishop Mary will be making appointments with SLO Deanery members on January 19. If you would like to meet with her, please write Mary Beth Powell at MaryBeth@edecr.org.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Wednesday, January 19 – 7 pm at United Methodist Church of Atascadero

Facilitated by the churches of the northern part of San Luis Obispo County, Bishop Mary will be preaching at this service held at the United Methodist Church of Atascadero, and hosted jointly by the UMC and Saint James', Paso Robles. The theme this year is: "One in the Apostles' Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread and Prayer." For more information, contact barbara@stjamespasorobles.org.

SLO DEANERY TAX PREP VITA PROGRAM ANNOUNCED!

The SLO Deanery Tax Prep **VITA (Volunteers in Tax Assistance)** is looking for volunteer tax preparers for the 2011 tax season. Free tax preparation services will be offered for seniors and low-income tax payers at churches throughout the Deanery starting in late January and running through April 15, 2011. No previous experience is required: If you've prepared your own taxes but have no other training, please consider volunteering. Training and certification is available either on-line or in a classroom setting by Coordinator (and Enrolled Agent) Lisa Gonzalez of St. Benedict's. (Lisa has her own tax preparation firm – Controller-on-Call – and prepares taxes for a fee for individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations.) Preparers will only need to provide a lap-top computer with a WiFi connection and to donate at least two Saturdays during the season. Everything else will be provided. CPAs, CTECs and EAs are encouraged to volunteer, but will still need to be certified by the IRS. This can be done by passing a series of certification tests offered on-line. Join this tremendous opportunity to provide this needed service, as well as learn about tax preparation. For further information or to sign up for training, contact Lisa at lgonzo@fix.net or call 544-2895.

[SLO Deanery Youth Ministry](#)

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD (J2A)

Sunday, December 12 – 10:30 am at St. James' Church, Paso Robles

Sunday, January 9 – 10:30 am at St. Stephen's Church, San Luis Obispo

Don't forget that Mica Baldwin-Granger's Rite 13 Womanhood ceremony is set for January 9 at St. Stephen's. Other meetings are scheduled on February 11-13 (Ski Trip), February 25-26 (30-Hour Famine), March 13, April 10, May 15. For more information, contact Chaplain Berkeley Johnson at canterburyslo@gmail.com.

[Canterbury Club: Ministry with Young Adults in December](#)

MATCHING FUNDS FOR CANTERBURY

Deadline is December 15

Help Canterbury continue to touch lives of the young adults in our community. Our deanery Canterbury (young adult) Ministry has received a generous offer of \$3,000.00 in "matching funds" for any donations made by deanery parishioners this fall. All donations by deanery parishioners, collected prior to December 15, 2010, and up to \$3,000, will be matched. Any amount, whether it is for \$10, \$100 or \$1,000 will contribute to this effort! Please make checks payable to the "SLO Canterbury Foundation" and note in the memo area "Matching Funds." Donations should be sent to: Canterbury Club Matching Fund Drive, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. **And remember – if you are between the ages of 18 and 30 and looking for a spiritual home, please stop in to talk or contact Chaplain Berkeley Johnson at canterburyslo@gmail.com.**

[Spiritual Formation for Adults in December](#)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASS at St. Barnabas' Church, Arroyo Grande

Wednesdays December 1, 8 and 15 – join the class from 1:30-3 pm or from 5:30-7 pm

We see people with extraordinary abilities, great musicians or athletes, and sometimes wish we had their talent. But we have all been given gifts by God which we may or may not be aware of and which we may not fully appreciate. We do not choose which abilities or gifts we will receive, rather God bestows them upon us through the work of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are to be used out of love for service to one another. The focus of these classes led by the Rev. Valerie Valle is to more deeply understand the nature of spiritual gifts, discern our own unique gifts both through a Spiritual Gifts inventory and the insight of those around us, and then reflect upon how we can employ our unique gifts and talents to in our work, our homes, the church and the community. When we identify, develop and exercise our unique cluster of God given abilities we find joy and satisfaction in the process of becoming that which God intends for us to be. Members of this class will explore the concept of spiritual gifts, take an inventory to help discern their own spiritual gifts, and reflect upon how they can employ their unique gifts and talents to serve God and the community. For more information, contact saintbarnabas@sbcglobal.net

[Caring for God's People](#)

FOOD BANK COALITION: HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As the holidays approach, the Food Bank is conducting its annual holiday food drive, "Hope for the Holidays." Please purchase a little more when you shop for groceries, and deposit in Food Barrels at most of the markets in the county. We also have a Turkey Drive on one day, November 17th. Turkeys may be brought to Sierra Vista Hospital in SLO from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. on that day, or to the Food Bank in north

county at 2212 Golden Hill Rd. in Paso Robles. Of course, financial donations are always welcome, and each dollar donated provides 10 pounds of healthy food for our food insecure neighbors. For more information, contact Carl Hansen at chansen@slofoodbank.org.

MUSIC FOR THE SOUL – FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Sunday, December 12 – 5 pm at Studios on the Park, Paso Robles (Concert at 6:15pm)

\$40 per person benefits Loaves and Fishes and St. James' Church.

Music for Advent and Christmas

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday December 12 – 5 pm at St. James', Paso Robles

Sunday December 19 – 4 pm at St. Luke's, Atascadero

St. James and St. Luke's are again joining to hold a service of Lessons and Carols in Advent. The services will be Sunday, December 12, 5pm at St. James and Sunday, December 19, 4pm at St. Luke's. For more information email barbara@stjamespasorobles.org.

ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 12 – 5 pm at St. Peter's Church, Morro Bay

St. Peter's choir, with guests singers, will again present the beautiful Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 12, at 5 pm. This traditional succession of lessons leading up to the birth of Jesus is interspersed with choir anthems and congregational singing. A free will offering will be accepted. A reception follows in the parish hall. For more information email stpeters1@sbcglobal.net.

NORTH COUNTY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 19 – 5:30 pm at St. Peter's Church, Morro Bay

The North County Chorus, part of Cuesta Community College, will give a concert at St. Peter's on December 19 at 5:30 pm. Conductor Cassandra Tarantino leads singers from the county. Jennifer Sayre will accompany the group on the harp. Included in the program is the lovely "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten. and other Christmas music of various times. Come and enjoy the concert, followed by a potluck in the parish hall. The free-will offering will help to support the chorus's concert tour of Ireland in the spring. For more information email stpeters1@sbcglobal.net.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Sunday December 19 – 5 pm at St. Benedict's, Los Osos

The holidays are not happy for everyone. Economic difficulties and personal losses weigh heavily at a time when others are pouring money into celebrating family and friends. This simple service provides an opportunity to hear again the Christmas story but this time focused on the hope and the comfort it brings to those in sorrow and difficulty. Participants are invited to stay for a quiet soup supper after the service. For more information, contact stbenedicts1@aol.com.

CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS DRAMA

Wednesday December 22 – 7 pm at St. Benedict's, Los Osos

All your favorite carols combined with special holiday music and a brief reflection on the Christmas story! Everyone in the community is invited to get in the holiday spirit and sing your hearts out. We'll finish with carols by candlelight. The evening ends with cookies and spiced cider. Bring Grandma and the kids too! We invite donations to help the homeless through the Maxine Lewis Homeless Shelter. For more information, contact stbenedicts1@aol.com.

Looking Ahead to January

ST. PETER'S READERS' THEATER

Sunday, January 2 – 3 pm at St. Peter's Church, Morro Bay

St. Peter's Readers' Theater Christmas Production is planned for Sunday, January 2 at 3 p.m. Please save the date and come along to enjoy readings from favorite stories and poems by an ecumenical cast of eleven. Join us in singing a selection of well-known carols, then come to the Social Hall for delicious seasonal refreshments. Tickets, \$12 available now. Please call Dorene Hughes for tickets or further information at 528-4065

THE WISDOM JESUS

Thursdays January 13 through February 25 – 10 am at St. Benedict's, Los Osos

"The Wisdom Jesus" offers a fresh perspective on Jesus' teachings. The author (the Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault, Episcopal priest, teacher, and popular retreat leader) writes, "I see Jesus first and foremost as a wisdom teacher, a person who clearly emerges out of – and works within – an ancient tradition called "wisdom" ... which is in fact at the headwaters of all the great religious traditions of the world today. The wisdom tradition is concerned with the transformation of the whole human being. Transformation from what to what? Well, for a starter, from our animal instincts and egocentricity into love and compassion; from a judgmental and dualistic worldview into a nondual acceptingness. This was the message that Jesus, apparently out of nowhere, came preaching and teaching, a message that was radical in its own time and remains equally radical today... Have we really yet unlocked the power to deeply understand and follow this Jesus along the radical path he is calling us to?" Intrigued? So are we – the Revs. Brian McHugh and Donna Ross will be leading these discussions on seven Thursday mornings, beginning January 13. Sponsored by the Hollister Institute at St. Benedict's Church in Los Osos. To sign up for the class and learn how to order Bourgeault's book, contact donnaross@charter.net.

WORKSHOP: INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER

Saturday, January 22 – 10 am–3 pm at St. Barnabas, Arroyo Grande

Centering Prayer presenters: Br. Roy Parker, OHC, an artist and calligrapher, who leads the monthly Centering Prayer Practice days at La Casa; and Sr. Suzanne Dunn, SFCC, who coordinates Contemplative Outreach in Santa Barbara and Ventura. Sr. Suzanne is the spiritual leader of the Beatitudes community in Santa Barbara. Contemplative Prayer is the opening of mind and heart – our whole being – to God; Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer. It presents the Christian teachings of earlier times in an updated form with a certain order and regularity. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; it simply puts other kinds of prayer into a new and fuller perspective. This Saturday workshop provides background on the place of Centering Prayer within one's spiritual life, an introduction to the actual method, and two opportunities to experience Centering Prayer within the group setting. It is the first part of a seven-session Introduction to the Centering Prayer Practice program. (Six additional weekly sessions led by Rev. Valerie Valle will be held at a later time, still to be determined. These additional sessions will provide an opportunity for discussion and questions concerning the practice of Centering Prayer, to practice Centering Prayer within a group, and to watch a half hour video by Fr. Thomas Keating.) A \$20 donation requested for the January workshop (but no one will be turned away for lack of funds). Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided – bring a bag lunch. Please pre-register so that we will have adequate materials, at saintbarnabas@sbcglobal.net.

ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK GROUP

Monday, January 24 – 6 pm at St. Stephen's, San Luis Obispo

St. Stephen's book group meets in Ramsden Hall for a pot-luck dinner, friendship, and great discussions of the various books we select. After dinner in January, we'll begin discussing The Candy Bombers: The

Untold Story of the Berlin Airlift and America's Finest Hour, by Andrei Cherny. This book is a terrific (entertaining and enlightening) history lesson. Dick Warren was actually in Germany during the crucial time described in the book. He's a regular member of the Book Club and will be available to add depth to our understanding and discussion. For more information, call Diane Levison at 544-6486 or email her at dilevison@hotmail.com

HOW TO ADD *YOUR* NEWS TO THE NEXT SLO NEWS (FEBRUARY 2011):
send it to editor@sloepiscopalians.org before **January 25**
There will be no SLO News in January