



JANUARY 2024

## IN THE INTERIM. . . .



Recently a member of the congregation remarked to me that we had had a good interim period but that it was time to move on and appoint a new priest. This caused me to reflect not only on the interim here at Christ Church but also interim periods that I had participated in at other churches.

We refer to the period between the departure of one priest and the arrival of the next priest as an interim, but it is often referred to as an “interregnum”. Merriam-Webster defines interregnum as “a period of time when normal government is suspended”. In the Roman Catholic Church that period of time between when a Pope dies or vacates and the cardinals appoint a new Pope is called an interregnum. In a church such as ours, this period when “normal government is suspended” causes the dynamics of the church to change particularly with regard to leadership.

An interim priest is often appointed by the Bishop to provide for the congregation’s spiritual and pastoral needs during the interim period. The interim priest is not responsible for the organization or the administration of the church. These duties fall upon the members of the congregation and their leaders most notably the Senior Warden.

A number of articles have been written about the dynamics of the interim period and it is often said that this period in the life of a church can be divided into three phases:

The first phase at the start of the interim period is usually marked by a mixture of excitement of looking forward to the next priest, the preparation of the parish profile, the search process and an enthusiasm to keep things going and sometimes there is an unspoken feeling that a new priest will be appointed fairly quickly.

In the second phase, the mixture of excitement and enthusiasm begins to waver and occasionally frictions begin to emerge. This phase can often last for some time and can result in some people leaving the church. Eventually, you reach the third phase where the congregation recognizes that the group needs to compromise and everyone needs good will to see them through until the next priest arrives.

Some of this may seem rather strange to many of you, although from my experience of five interims, the phases that I have described are very typical of a normal interim period in a church.

Here at Christ Church, our interim started with the departure of Father Michael Bush and his family in January. There was the enthusiasm to keep things going and also looking forward to appointing one of the two priests that the vestry interviewed at the end of January. This was not to be as both declined the position. We then embarked on a time of growing our parish and we accomplished many things over the next few months. Our weekly attendance has remained constant and although the Bishop could not provide us with an interim priest we were blessed to have Deacon Chuck to officiate at our Sunday services.

As we enter 2024, I feel that we have accomplished so much through the efforts of so many of you and we are well equipped to continue to grow until such time as we appoint our next priest.

Blessings, **John**

## Vestry Report – Friday, December 15, 2023

- The Bishop participated in the meeting via Zoom.
- The plans for the renovations have been received from our architects and would be submitted to Madera County for approval shortly.
- The vestry approved the budget for 2024 for presentation at the Annual Church Meeting.
- The Annual Church Meeting will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup>. 2024.
- The Defibrillator had been received and training in its use would start in the new year.

## BIBLE STUDY

*Heather Prescott*

The Thursday Bible study resumes on January 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. We will be studying what Anglican theologian N. T. Wright calls Paul's greatest letter, Romans.

We will be challenged to look at each chapter using Wright's criteria for understanding the text:

What is the main thrust?

Pay attention to connecting words like *but, therefore, and, so then, etc.*

Think in the first century perspective.

We will use our imaginations to try to understand as the first Christians understood.

No book other than your Bible is needed to participate, or simply listen and learn. Join us either in person or on Zoom.

You are invited to come to some of the sessions or all of them. See Heather Prescott if you have any questions.

## Daughters of the Holy Cross

*Judy McCaleb*

The Daughters of the Holy Cross is an order of women committed to serving Jesus through a Rule of Life: prayer, service, study and evangelism. We currently serve by maintaining the Christ Church Prayer Chain. If you would like to be part of the prayer chain, please contact Pat Sunda or Judy McCaleb. We can notify you by email or phone and we try to get as many prayers going as quickly as possible. We know our prayers work.

Judy McCaleb      559-999-2548  
[jammc41@gmail.com](mailto:jammc41@gmail.com)

Pat Sunda      559-760-0562  
[sunny\\_425@yahoo.com](mailto:sunny_425@yahoo.com)

If you would like more information about the DOHC please ask Judy, Pat, Cyndy Trippel or Karin Tashiro.

Christ Church Financial Report		
January 1st to November 30th 2023		
	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$75,570	\$73,990
Expenses	\$102,291	\$45,510
Net	-\$17,005	\$28,480

## Celebrations of Life

Birthdays:

- 1/03 Cyndy Trippel
- 1/05 Hannah Beaumont  
Justin Beaumont
- 1/25 Patsy Minney
- 1/26 Logan Beaumont
- 1/31 Bert Lagerquist
- 2/02 Clarisse Beaumont

## CCW NEWS

Laura Ashley-Spencer

The annual kick-off meeting for Martha's Market will be held at the home of Heather Prescott on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 11 am.

We will discuss the November boutique, and vote on the grants we will award our local charities. We will also share ideas for items to add to our 2024 boutique and top it off with a potluck lunch. Please RSVP to Heather at (408)205-1541 with what you will be bringing.

## GIVE THANKS.....



To Patsy Minney and Camella Nair for giving a festive look to the church, particularly the office window. and to Camella for making the 2023 angels for the tree. Be sure to take one home.



To Heather Prescott and Sally Simpson for changing the altar from Advent to Christmas Eve on the same day.



## Getting to know you.....

Laura Ashley-Spencer



Pat Eby was born in Waterville, Kansas, a town 7 miles from a 4-season property that her father farmed. She grew up on the farm until she was 12, when drought and floods caused the family to move to Wichita, Kansas, where

her dad found work, and she finished high school.

Pat attended Wichita University and worked at Beech Aircraft in advertising until the call of California drew her to Orange County where she worked in Disneyland's marketing division for ten years.

Pat moved to Mariposa in 1972 and worked for Mariposa County Legal, then Tavis Corporation. Next, she worked for Merced County for two years, and then for Wallace Transport in Planada, where she met and married Bruce. Bruce had two grown boys and a girl, and they all "adopted" Pat as their mom.

In 1985 the California Department of Corrections began expanding very quickly. Due to Bruce's 20+ years in the Air Force, he decided to apply for the new prisons. Pat looked at the qualifications and decided they might want me too. However, everyone was required to be in uniform "on the line". I begged to be moved and finally transferred into counseling and then supervisor of counseling. To transfer out of Tehachapi Max, I went back into uniform as a lieutenant and was finally transferred to the women's prison CCWF in Chowchilla. Bruce had already transferred and for 6 months I commuted from Tehachapi to our home in Mariposa. A women's prison was a whole different experience. I am currently working on a book of stories of my experience working in a women's prison.

Raised a Christian, Pat grew up attending a Czech Presbyterian church in the country, and then Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Wichita. Mariposa was a challenge, as there was no Presbyterian church. The Methodist church was Bruce's family's place of worship until Bruce met Deacon Chuck at St. Andrews. St. Andrews became their place of worship, and she was confirmed there in 2004.

Bruce passed away in 2016, and when St. Andrews closed in Mariposa, she began attending Christ Church in Oakhurst.

Pat lives on Indian Peak Road (part of Bootjack) on 57 acres where upkeep and her beloved animals keep her hopping!

### CAROLING AT CARE HOMES

