



MARCH 2024

## IN THE INTERIM. . . .



Just over two weeks ago Patsy and I decided to head into Yosemite National Park to go snowshoeing. When we arrived at the Badger Pass ski area we were greeted by a very pleasant sunny day. So, putting on all our equipment we headed out on a trail towards Dewey Point, a trail that we had not been on for two years.

The first part of this trail uses Glacier Point Road which during the summer months is packed with cars heading out to Glacier Point. In the winter though, it becomes a groomed Nordic Ski trail with a few hardy individuals on skis or snowshoes. The first mile of our journey involves a steady climb and apart from admiring the beautiful scenery your mind tends to wander and I started to think about Christ Church.

Eventually, the trail takes us away from Glacier Point Road and into the forest. This part of the trail is not groomed so snowshoeing becomes a little more difficult, but as this was immediately after the weekend the trail was well marked by previous travelers. Walking through the forest was very peaceful and the only thing that disturbed the silence was the “crunch” of our snowshoes and ski poles in the snow.



Coming to the end of the forest we came to McGurk Meadow, named after John McGurk a sheepherder who had a cabin there in the 1890s. Standing there on the edge of the meadow, Patsy and I were faced with decisions similar to those types of decision that we at Christ Church need to make in the coming months.

There was a very clear well compacted trail that many had chosen to travel. It was well marked, comparatively safe and easy to walk on. Whereas, some had chosen to be more adventurous and made their own trails through the virgin snow. Patsy and I know from experience that traveling through the virgin snow is harder, has more risk, particularly in McGurk meadow for under all the snow is a stream that flows even in winter. When you reach your destination though, there is a greater sense of achievement and reward. That day we used a mixture of both, using that well marked trail when it suited us but also venturing into virgin snow.

A month or so ago, when sorting through paperwork in the church office, I came across a letter that was written over twenty plus years ago by a longtime member of the congregation, Les Lagerquist. Back then the church was still a mission church but striving to achieve parish status and Les had written the letter to the other members of the Bishop’s Committee. In his letter, Les passionately wrote about his concerns for the church and asked what type of church they wanted to be, a status quo church or a dynamic growing church.

Moving forward to today, what type of church do we want to be? A church that takes the well marked trail used by many others before us, the “status quo” that Les referred to in his letter, or do we want to be more adventurous and go off that well marked trail, be exciting and possibly reap greater rewards?

There are difficult decisions to be made in the coming months, but if we ask ourselves where do we want Christ Church to be in say ten years and think with our hearts, then maybe the path will become

clearer. Above all though, we should listen to what God is telling us to do as we continue to do His work in this place. Blessings, *John*.

PS. In case you are wondering, the rewards for our efforts that day were: beautiful weather, the scenery, above all the silence and finally back at the ski lodge a very nice cup of hot chocolate with whipped cream!

**Vestry Report – Friday, February 15, 2024**

- The Defibrillator will be installed and training in its use will start shortly.
- Requests for Quotation (RFQ) for the renovations have been sent to four local contractors.
- Work on the acquisition of new chairs and podium/s is continuing.
- Training will start shortly on Pastoral Lay Eucharistic Ministers to administer communion to the sick and shut-ins.
- Father Carlos will celebrate at 10:00am. on Easter Day. There will be no 8:00am. service that day.
- The main entrance door into the Fellowship Hall will be replaced.
- The new Purple Burse and Veil which was paid for by a donation from a member of the congregation, was used on Ash Wednesday and the Green set has been ordered.

<b>Christ Church Financial Report</b>		
<b>January 1st — January 31st 2024</b>		
	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$6,338	\$11,981
Expenses	\$12,438	\$2,922
Net	-\$29,151	\$9,059

**GIVE THANKS.....**

To John, Patsy, Laura Ashley-Spencer & Jay Smith for rearranging Martha's Corner.

To Bill Atwood for serving on the Anglican Church of North America executive committee.

To Frank S., Jay, and Jeff for cleaning roof gutters (twice)

**CCW NEWS.....**

*Laura Ashley-Spencer*

Our next CCW meeting will be Tuesday, March 5th. We will be making our final decisions on our 2024 budget including grants from our boutique profits. We will also have a guest speaker from the Oakhurst Senior Center, Georgia Kopel.

Please bring a bag lunch and join us for noonday prayer @ 11:45am.

**MARTHA'S MARKET**

Have you noticed our new set-up for Martha's in the fellowship hall? Remember we sell products all year long, not just in November at the boutique. So if you need something for a birthday gift -- like a birthday gift card holder or a jar of lemon curd, come check us out. We also do custom work if you need something in a certain color. We will be featuring new products in the coming months.



## Getting to know you....

Pat Eby



Laura Ashley-Spencer was born in Portland, Oregon, on September 10, 1948. From the age of 10 until 16 she picked berries and beans and babysat. Her first "real job" as she calls it was at 16 at a convalescent nursing home where she learned valuable lessons of patience and respect for the elderly.

Graduating from Oregon City high school, Laura then enrolled at the University of Oregon, however, after completion of her freshman year, she joined the U.S. Army. Her basic training was at Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama, and then she transferred to Fort Benjamin Harrison, near Indianapolis, Indiana, for Finance School. Laura's final assignment was Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville, North Carolina, where she became a payroll specialist.

On off hours Laura spent time at the main post swimming pool. That is where she met her husband, who was a part-time lifeguard attached to the 82nd Airborne. They took a month's leave, two weeks in California for Laura to meet his family, and two weeks in Oregon for him to meet her family. Soon after they were married, he received orders to go to Korea.

After leaving the service Laura moved to California and lived with a former roommate from the service whose husband was in Vietnam. She worked 31 years at Pacific Bell doing a variety of jobs in the accounting department. She worked in Payroll, Property Tax and Personnel. These jobs required her to train, supervise, write instructions and do computer programming.

It was during her 31 years at Pacific Bell she also went back to school where she earned a BA in Management at St. Mary's College of California in Moraga and then an MS in Human Resource Management at Golden Gate

University in San Francisco. She also had personal struggles as she became a single parent.

"It was during college that I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church. While married we did not attend church as my husband was a non-practicing Roman Catholic " Laura explains.

"After divorce, I started attending St. James Episcopal Church in Fremont, Ca. There I met Ray and Lori Hedvall. We became fast friends. They were my Cursillo sponsors, I went backpacking with Ray, and was Lori's tent mate on the women's camping trips."

After retiring from the phone company, Laura started working for a small non-profit company as their payroll manager. While there, she discovered she had breast cancer. She spent six days at Stanford for a mastectomy and reconstruction. A representative from the Episcopal church visited her every day.

"I was laid off from my job due to consolidation. Lori and Ray had already moved to Oak Creek, and I had visited them several times, even attending Christ Church one time. In July of 2005 I moved to the mountains. I lived with the Hedvalls for 3 months while my house was being built. I worked as an ancillary at Longs/ CVS for 4 ½ years and then in the cage at Chukchansi Casino for 8 years," Laura reminisces about her many jobs through the years.

Laura presently has many jobs at Christ Church. She is an usher, a member of the altar guild, participates at Martha's Market, and currently is President of CCW and clerk of the Vestry.

## Celebrations of Life

Birthdays:

3/25 Jay Smith

3/28 Joanne Alle-Cellum

## Lenten Bible Study Romans Chapter 8

Anglican Theologian N. T. Wright says that Romans chapter 8 ...is one of the most spectacular pieces of early Christian writing. It is the very heart of Romans – and, with that, it has a claim to be near the heart of what the Bible, and Christianity itself, is all about.

This chapter draws together Genesis and Exodus, and the Psalms and Isaiah. And from the high peak of Romans 8 we can gaze ahead and glimpse the final chapters of Revelation as well.

Wright sees this chapter in Romans as so important that he wrote an entire book on it.

Please join the Thursday Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in person or on Zoom. All you need is your Bible.

February 29    Verses 1 – 17    Entry into the Family of God  
March 7    Verses 18 – 25    Glorious Hope  
March 14    Verses 26 – 30    All is of God  
March 21    Verses 31 – 39    Nothing Can Separate Us  
March 28    Maundy Thursday NO BIBLE STUDY

*See Heather Prescott with any questions.*

### HOLY WEEK 2024 at CHRIST CHURCH

March 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	8:00 am.    Holy Communion. 10:00am.    Holy Communion with Procession of the Palms.
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	12:00pm.    Holy Communion.
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	12:00pm.    GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE. 1:00 pm.    Stations of the Cross.
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	NO 8:00AM SERVICE 10:00 am.    Holy Communion. Sunday School. Easter Egg Hunt.