

Saint Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
CANTERBURY TALES



∞ AUGUST 2021 ∞

The Rev. Julie D. Bryant, DMin., Priest-in-Charge

**A Message from our Bishop's Warden,
Dr. Frank Rojas:**



My Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Friday, July 23rd, Mother Julie shared with the Bishop's Committee that she has received and accepted a call to serve another congregation in the Diocese of Los Angeles. Sadly for us, Mother Julie's final day with St. Thomas of Canterbury will be Sunday, August 8th.

On behalf of the Bishop's Committee and the entire Saint Thomas of Canterbury congregation, I would like to thank Mother Julie for her dedication and many contributions that she has provided over the past 20 months while she has served as our Priest-in-Charge. The Bishop's Committee is especially appreciative of her leadership during unprecedented challenging times. This includes the global pandemic, civil unrest, and our need to make continual adjustments to every facet of our church life.

The Bishop's Committee is beginning to work with the Diocese of San Diego to determine the next steps for finding a new vicar for our church. In the meantime, we will work with the Diocese to determine how we will operate through this period of transition. The Bishop's Committee believes that ongoing and frequent communication is vital to this process. Therefore, we are committed to providing you bi-weekly updates at a minimum.

During this transition, the work for moving our church and preschool forward will continue under the leadership of the Bishop's Committee, the involvement of the entire congregation, and the support of the Diocese. This work includes the ongoing efforts to develop and implement a strategic plan for church and preschool.

Please, pray for our church throughout this transition process. We all need to support each other. St. Thomas has overcome numerous challenges in the past, and the Lord has always made way for us. He will continue to do so. We have a loving and faithful Father. Proverbs 16:9 offers us this encouragement, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps" (NIV). While none of us plan to go through these transitions, we should trust the Lord and the plans He has for Saint Thomas of Canterbury Church and Preschool.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My email address is rojas1012@yahoo.com. You can also reach me on my mobile number, which is 626-255-0475.

Lastly, please stay tuned for updates regarding a farewell send-off for Mother Julie.

Wishing you all a blessed day,

Dr. Frank Rojas
Bishops Warden – Saint Thomas of Canterbury

SERVICE SCHEDULE

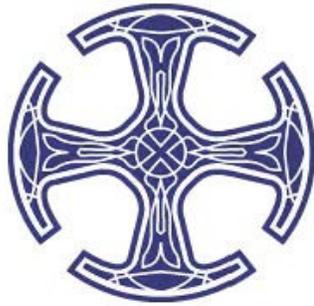
Reminder: The Sanctuary has reopened for In-person Worship, but in lieu of recent events, Bishop Snook has asked for masks to be worn for all indoor activities for the foreseeable time. Thank you for your cooperation.

We are currently evaluating our service schedule and will have updated information available very shortly. Thank you for your patience.

Communion: if you wish to have it delivered to your home, please email: adminasst@episcopalchurchtemecula.org with: your name, the number of persons receiving, and your telephone number. Also, please let us know if you need Gluten-free Hosts. Please **Do Not Hesitate** to ask for Communion to be brought to you. We are eager to share the blessing of the Sacrament!

Interested in Serving as Altar Guild Members?

With the resumption of in-person services and the possibility of two inside services again each Sunday, the Altar Guild needs your help. We are looking for individuals who can help with either the 8:00 am or the 10:15 am services or both. Training is provided and the time commitment is reasonable and fulfilling. It's interesting to learn about the various items used, their function and names, and how it all comes together! Contact Elena Gimpel: lonelena@msn.com for more information.*****



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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Help Wanted:

Volunteers to transport recyclables monthly to the recycling center next to Ralph's on 79S and Butterfield Stage Rd., Temecula.

Volunteer for 8 hours per month to help with photocopying, folding, and mailing newsletters.

*Please email Dr. Frank Rojas, Bishop's Warden, if you are interested. Rojas1012@yahoo.com / mobile: 626-255-0475

Help Wanted: Requesting a Housekeeper

A gentleman in our community has spoken with Mother Julie regarding his search for a reliable housekeeper for his daughter's family in Temecula. In his words, his daughter "has a medical condition that makes a helping hand more important than ever." His name is Tom Boysen, and his phone number is: 310-922-2894. Please call for more details if interested, or if you know anyone who is willing to help. Thank you very much!

Prayer Meetings/Bible Studies

***With changing CoVid restrictions, watch for notices regarding hybrid In-person/Zoom meetings.** For Zoom access, use the same Sunday worship link and passcode.

Meeting ID: 809 865 440, or participate by Phone +1 669 900 9128. Password: 469008.



****"Hear the Word of God" Bible Study Group with Lani-Karyn Jones:
Tuesdays, from 2:00-2:30 p.m.**

Lani introduces, then reads passages of the Bible. This is a time to immerse yourself in the beloved Word to let it wash over you and carry you into a deeper relationship with God and the human family. We are moving through the Epistles of the New Testament.

***Bible Study: Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.** We are looking at the upcoming Service Lessons.

Pledge Payments can be made through the mail or electronically via the "Give/Pledge Online" button on the Saint Thomas website: www.episcopalchurchtemecula.org. Thank you so much for keeping your pledge current.

Flower and Candle Dedications for Summer



To make a dedication, please send a note to the church or Email Virginia Patton at Hilligoss@verizon.net with the dedication details and your name. The suggested donation for Sunday Flowers, \$35; for a Sanctuary Candle, \$5. Donations can be sent to the church, with "Flowers" or "Candle" written in the "Memo/Subject line."

After-Church Coffee Hour Has Resumed

We are happy to announce a return to after-church coffee hour which takes place inside in the Narthex. Thank you to the Hospitality volunteers!



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

There are SO many opportunities to be of service to the STOC community. Please prayerfully consider getting involved and help us show God's love to one another.

Opportunities include:

- **Bishop's Committee Treasurer ****a major priority******
- Ushers
- Counters
- Clerical volunteers
- Gardening help
- Hospitality Team
- Zoom / AV Set-up and Support
- Web Developer
- Website "updater"

If you are interested or would like to learn more about any of these roles, please send an email to: adminasst@episcopalchurchtemecula.org

The Return of the Canterbury Hikers/Walkers

What could be better? The great outdoors, lots of movement, and great Saint Thomas friends!

If this sounds like what you've been looking for, come join us! Walkers of all levels are welcome for neighborhood jaunts, gentle and more challenging hikes, and other walking adventures!

Please contact Cynthia McCormick, if you would like to join in the fun. Let's get moving, Saint Thomas family! (csmccormk@gmail.com /951-551-6277).

*P.S. We got off to a bit of a slow start -- my apologies -- looking forward to getting this going --
CM*

July/August Preschool Events

In July, we had our Fourth of July parade and it was so much fun! Thank you to everyone who came out and cheered on our students, and a special “thank you” to Dave Weaver for the amazing music!!!

During our Summer Fun weeks, our students are enjoying water days and fun themes such as Legos, camping, and transportation!

Congratulations to Miss Maggie (STEPs “twos” teacher) on her upcoming marriage that will take place at St. Thomas on Saturday, August 7th!!!





Sacred Ground

What is Critical Race Theory and Why is it Under Attack?

By Dr. Deb Mitchell

In *Sacred Ground*, we examined America’s historical subjugation of Native Americans, Asians, Blacks, Hispanics and others, which, I believe, is a result of society’s fears associated with cultures, religions, and lifestyles that differed from the white Protestant ethic that built this country. *Sacred Ground* asked us to open our hearts and minds to become a “Beloved Community.” We were called “to be responsive to the profound challenges that currently exist in our society... to focus on the challenges that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them.” We were asked “to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, and to do so in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story. *Sacred Ground* holds the vision of beloved community as a guiding star – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another’s pain and seek one another’s flourishing.”¹

Critical Race Theory or CRT has exploded in the public arena this spring—especially in K-12 education, where at least seven state legislatures have passed bans on the use of **CRT** or related topics in school curricula in recent months, and conservatives in approximately nine other states are seeking similar measures.² Events of the last decade, most recently the death of George Floyd, have heightened Americans’ awareness of social justice and equity and diversity. It’s unclear whether these new bills are constitutional, or whether they restrict free speech. It would be extremely difficult, in any case, to police what goes on inside hundreds of thousands of classrooms. But social studies educators fear that such laws could have a chilling effect on teachers who might self-censor their own lessons out of concern for parent or administrator complaints. With little consensus on the government’s role in righting these wrongs, throwing the education of our children in the mix results in a volatile situation.

¹ *Sacred Ground*: episcopalchurch.org/sacredground/invitation

² www.washingtonpost.com. Marisa Iati, What is critical race theory? 2021/5/29

The academic concept of CRT is more than 40 years old and centered on the core idea that racism is systemic and that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but embedded in legal systems and policies. Basic tenets emerged from a framework for legal analysis in the late 70s and early 80s created by legal scholars, Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Richard Delgado and others. Promoted by civil rights scholars and activists, the original intent was to critically examine U.S. law as it intersects with issues of race in the U.S. and to challenge mainstream American liberal approaches to racial justice.³

CRT states racism is part of everyday life, so people—white or nonwhite—who don't intend to be racist can nevertheless make choices that fuel racism. Fundamentally, the disagreement is the result of differing conceptions of racism. Some critics claim that the theory advocates discriminating against white people in order to achieve equity. However, CRT emphasizes outcomes, not individual beliefs, and calls upon these outcomes to be examined and rectified. Of course, this raises tension and disagreement among lawyers, educators, policymakers and the general public. Unfortunately, no consensus exists on whether/how much CRT informs public education's attempts to heighten focus on race.⁴

A 2007 U.S. Supreme Court school assignment case on whether race could be a factor in maintaining K-12 school diversity, Chief Justice John Roberts' opinion concluded: "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race." But during oral arguments, then-justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said: "It's very hard for me to see how you can have a racial objective but a nonracial means to get there." CRT emerged from postmodernist thought, which "tends to be skeptical of the idea of universal values, objective knowledge, individual merit, Enlightenment, rationalism, and liberalism—tenets that conservatives tend to hold dear."⁵

Critical race theory is not a synonym for culturally responsive teaching, which emerged in the 1990s. This teaching approach seeks to affirm students' ethnic and racial backgrounds and is intellectually rigorous. But it's related in that one of its aims is to help students identify and critique the causes of social inequality in their own lives. Many educators support, to one degree or another, culturally responsive teaching and other strategies to make schools feel safe and supportive for Black students and other underserved populations; however, they don't necessarily identify these activities as CRT-related. As one teacher-educator put it: "The way we usually see any of this in a classroom is: 'Have I thought about how my Black kids feel? And made a space for them, so that they can be successful?' That is the level I think it stays at, for most teachers."⁶

³ <https://americanbar.org>. Janel George, A Lesson on Critical Race Theory. Vol. 46, No. 2. 2021/1/11

⁴ <https://edweek.org>. What is Critical Race Theory and Why is it under Attack? Leadership:2021/05

⁵ <https://edweek.org>. Districts Face Uncertainty in Maintaining Racially Diverse Schools. Law:2021/6/28

⁶ www.brown.edu/education-alliance/teaching-diverse-learners The Education Alliance of Brown University. Culturally Responsive Teaching. 2021

Criticism of CRT among conservatives is varied. Some critics suggest that curricular excellence can't coexist alongside culturally responsive teaching or anti-racist work. The first national poll by the conservative advocacy group *Parents Defending Education* claimed some schools were teaching that “white people are inherently privileged, while Black and other people of color are inherently oppressed and victimized”; that “achieving racial justice and equality between racial groups requires discriminating against people based on their whiteness”; and that “the United States was founded on racism.” Only 808 respondents completed this telephone poll conducted from April 9th-19th, 2021. It is interesting to note that 64% of respondents were white, 8.1% Latino, Asian-American 2.1%, 6.8% African-American and 80% identified as living in urban areas.⁷ Besides the extremely small sample size which skews the study to the right, I found other factors such as the question requesting only the husband's income troubling.

While some district officials have issued mission statements, resolutions, or spoken about changes in their policies using some of the discourse of CRT, it's not clear to what degree educators are explicitly teaching the concepts, or even using curriculum materials or other methods that implicitly draw on them. For one thing the majority of scholarship on CRT is written in academic language or published in journals of higher education and law not easily accessible to K-12 teachers. The charge that schools are indoctrinating students in a harmful theory or political mindset is a longstanding one. CRT appears to be the latest chapter in this ongoing debate. Much of the current debate then appears to spring not from the academic texts, but from fear among critics that students—especially white students—will be exposed to supposedly damaging or self-demoralizing ideas.

A current example that has fueled much of the recent round of CRT criticism is the *New York Times' 1619 Project* (August 2019), which sought to put the history and effects of enslavement—as well as Black Americans' contributions to democratic reforms—at the center of American history. The founder, Nicole Hannah-Jones, was offered a position at UNC-Chapel Hill without tenure which caused significant backlash in the higher education community. The literature on critical race theory is vast. Presented here are merely some starting points to learn more about CRT, culturally responsive teaching, and the conservative backlash to CRT.

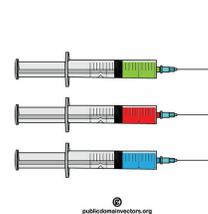
⁷ defendinged.org. Parents Defending Education National Poll. 2021/5/20

Health Update by Dr. Ed Rather

** On holiday: see you next time! **

Please consider:

If you are not already vaccinated and you are able to be vaccinated, please consider rolling up your sleeve. The Delta variant is fierce, highly contagious and is filling our hospitals. **If you need assistance in locating a shot, please reach out to Kathy Foxen.** You can also call CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens; all are vaccination stations. **Vaccines are offered free of charge -- you don't need to have insurance.**



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Save the Date:

The Canterbury Youth Group is back!

“Kick off the School Year”

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Look for more information in the Sunday bulletin



Inland Summer Swelter

**Bees buzzing,
Sun glaring,
Lizards sunning,
Kids swimming,
Dogs panting,
Sidewalks steaming,
Dry fields crackling,
Inland summer sweltering,
Ocean dreams enticing me to come home.**



Editor's Note:

Please have submissions of articles, information, and photographs to me by the 20th of each month. If there's a special event or meeting you want to publish a report about, please let me know ahead of time, so I can plan accordingly. Thank you for your help!

Arija (Aria) Applegate, Editor. akmapplegate@yahoo.com