

CANTERBURY TALES

❧ MARCH 2021 ❧



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

A Report on the Annual Meeting of the Mission

The Annual Meeting of the Mission was held via Zoom on Sunday, February 21. Following a set of slides with summary bullet points and pictures from the previous year, lay leaders reported on the joys and challenges of a year framed by pandemic closure (which occurred just two weeks after the previous Annual Meeting!) and gradual moves to fully reopen the Preschool and church building.

The year included suddenly moving to worship and fellowship via Zoom; adapting to changes in routine as more is discovered about the Covid-19 virus; home delivery of items related to Easter, Advent, and Lent; the addition of prayers for those who are severely isolated from loved ones, and for the now hundreds of thousands who have been lost to the virus. At the same time, Saint Thomas has extended partnerships with Community Mission of Hope to provide for some of the most vulnerable families in our community; two Sacred Ground groups are progressing with the first steps of racial reconciliation, and looking to lead us forward in that work; the Bishop's Committee recommended that the Priest-In-Charge be named Vicar, following a discernment process; at the request of the Bishop's Committee, The Reverend Doctor David Jackson was assigned to Saint Thomas as Assisting Priest.

Full reports submitted by each of these leaders, and a summary of the Priest-In-Charge's comments, will be posted on the Saint Thomas website shortly.

A number of persons are owed a tremendous thanks for their labor and ministry this year. In addition to members of this congregation, we've had the assistance of members' family and friends, lay and clergy leaders of the Diocese, and the Bishop and her staff.

The financial report of 2020 activity was summarized, along with a report describing the first quarter of 2021. Saint Thomas and the Diocese of San Diego are awaiting word on the sale of an unused piece of this property that has been in negotiations since 2019. The completion of that sale will prompt a restructuring of the debt Saint Thomas owes to the Diocese. Because we all hope that we are near the end of those negotiations, we have the January through March short-term arrangement in place.

Completing their terms on the Bishop's Committee were: Tom Reid, who served as Senior Warden for 2020; Frank Rojas, who was Junior Warden in 2019, working with Jon Floth during transitions in Vicar and Preschool Director; and Anne Meservey, who was eligible and willing to stand for election to a successive term. Lauren Walton served as Youth Delegate in 2020. Announced at the Annual Meeting that Elected to the Bishop's Committee, by acclamation: Cynthia McCormick, Anne Meservey, Vincent Walton, and Kathy Widelski. Delegates to Diocesan Convention are normally elected during the Annual Meeting; not having anyone volunteer for service, the opportunity remains open - please be in touch with a member of the Bishop's Committee if you are interested in serving as a Delegate.

The 2021 Bishop's Committee Members are: Tess Crawford, Russell Higgins, Ann Little, Cynthia McCormick, Anne Meservey, Allan O'Neil, Warren Rippe, Vincent Walton, and Kathy Widelski.

Please look for written reports to be posted on the website, or request a copy to be printed and mailed to you.

Resuming In-Person Worship

Bishop Snook has updated the guidelines for in-person worship, strongly encouraging congregations to gather indoors only when inclement weather prevents gathering outside. Additionally, she has restated the need for limited-service length and prescribed the on-going use of masks, health screening, [and distancing], and has prohibited congregational singing.

When given the opportunity to resume gathering in-person a few weeks ago, the probability of rain and cold during January and early February, along with anticipated rise in infection due to post-holiday surge and virus variants, delayed our regathering until at least Ash Wednesday. Meanwhile, vaccinations have begun, and more people are understanding the virulence of the virus and its risks.

I announced at the Annual Meeting a planned resumption of in-person worship beginning March 7, at 10:15 a.m. (allowing a full hour for 9 o'clock Zoom worship and a brief coffee hour) in hopes of resetting the schedule of persons able to undertake the tasks of setting up, assisting with, and then clearing the outdoor worship space. As of this writing (Wednesday, February 24), having surveyed the people who were coming to in-person worship in the fall, it seems that only six to nine persons might attend a service offered at this time.

If you would like to attend in-person worship, outdoors unless it is raining, at 10:15 a.m. until the weather is warm enough at 8:00 a.m., please send a message to that extent to adminasst@episcopalchurchtemecula.org. If there is sufficient interest, and enough assistance available to do so, we will go forward with resuming worship March 14; otherwise, we will wait a few weeks, and look to Maundy Thursday on April 1 as our first in-person service.

Meanwhile, if you would like to receive Communion, there is ample Reserve Sacrament at the Church, and the Sanctuary is often available for private prayer. Please call me to arrange a time to come by so we can ensure all safety precautions are in place.

Because so many people came to the Church to receive Communion on Ash Wednesday, we hope to incorporate Communion from Reserve Sacrament into Sunday worship more regularly, and to establish a regular time for pick-up.

Yours in Christ, Julie +

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March Service Schedule

Sunday Eucharist at 9:00 a.m., via Zoom, with Mother Julie and Father David, who will alternate preaching the Gospel;

Sunday Eucharist at 10:15 a.m., in-person, outdoors in the Fountain Courtyard.*

*Due to changing Covid-19 guidelines, we will resume holding in-person, outdoor services in addition to continuing online services for the month of March, beginning Sunday, March 14, unless otherwise notified.

Zoom Meeting ID: 809 865 440. Please call Rev. Julie Bryant: 310-625-9377, for the Passcode.

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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!



A mission of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, Saint Thomas is a pet-friendly church that cares deeply for our beloved pets. We work with local senior citizens to provide food for their pets and support the Animal Friends of the Valleys. We also hold a blessing for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, and welcome well-behaved pets to attend worship with us.

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****CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS****

Recyclables Still Needed:

The money from these directly benefits our STEP program. Thank you to all who have donated. We are amazed by the volume! Recyclables can be dropped off at the church during school hours, in the outside courtyard, or during Saturday Work Parties. It would be helpful if cans and plastic were already separated. *(We can no longer recycle glass.)**



Help Wanted: We still need volunteers to do a monthly transport of recyclables to the recycling center next to Ralph's on 79S and Butterfield Stage Rd. Please contact Mother Julie if interested: 310-625-9377.

Prayer Meetings/Bible Studies During March



***All meetings will be held on Zoom, using the same Sunday worship link and passcode. Meeting ID: 809 865 440, or participate by Phone +1 669 900 9128. Password required; please contact The Rev. Julie D. Bryant: 310-625-9377, if you don't have it.**

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***"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.

***Noonday Prayer & Lunch: Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 24.**
Enjoy lunch and conversation with Mother Julie after a brief Office of Noonday Prayer.

***Compline is at 8:00, Nightly.** Compline is a wonderful way to end the day with time in God's word, with wonderful friends.



Journey Through Jerusalem: A Weekly Lenten Study

Led by The Rev. Dr. David Jackson

***Fridays at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom**

Our first session in February was EXCELLENT!

Please plan to join us for more sessions!



Prepare the way for **Easter Sunday, April 4!**
 Watch for more information about next month's services
 in Saint Thomas's weekly announcements (e-blasts).



Reminder: 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: Easter

We are ready to have flower and candle dedications for **Easter, 2021!** To make a dedication,
 please send a note to the church or email adminasst@episcopalchurchtemecula.org with: date,
 dedication details, and your name. (For example: "Sunday nearest January 6. In Memory of
 Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, who made the most of life's journey, from Bright Star and
 the Angels," or "Easter Sunday, in memory of our grandparents (** and ***) from the Sunshine
 Family." **The suggested donation for Sunday Flowers, \$35; for a Sanctuary Candle, \$5.**
Donations can be sent to the church, with "Flower" or "Candle" written in the "Memo" line.



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW DEACON

The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego has announced a new addition to our church
 staff at Saint Thomas of Canterbury. According to the EDSD email "Diocesan News
 Extra," on February 28, 2021, "Bishop Susan has assigned the Rev. Deacon Cindy
 Campos to both St. Andrew's, Lake Elsinore, and St. Thomas, Temecula, effective
 March 7. Deacon Cindy will be leaving St. Bartholomew's, Poway, which was her
 sponsoring parish for ordination and has been a much-appreciated venue for her
 learning and spiritual growth. We thank St. Bart's for supporting Deacon Cindy's
 discernment and ministry, and we look forward to her contributions and diaconal
 service in her new assignments."



Deacon Cindy assisted Bishop Snook at Saint Thomas in November, during the
 service for baptism, confirmation, and reception, out on the Saint Francis Courtyard.
 We welcome her and look forward to her ministry here with us in Temecula!

Hey, Saint Thomas members, "Follow" us on Instagram: [#stthomasintemecula](https://www.instagram.com/stthomasintemecula) [#stepreschool](https://www.instagram.com/stepreschool) [#stepreschoolmerch](https://www.instagram.com/stepreschoolmerch)
[#virtualclassrooms2020](https://www.instagram.com/virtualclassrooms2020)

"Like" us on Facebook: Saint Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church (Temecula) and STEP - St. Thomas of Canterbury
 Episcopal Preschool.

Editor's Note: Until further notice, Mother Julie, the Bishop's Committee, and the Communication's Committee
 have agreed not to use a publishing or printing company for this newsletter and will be printing it on-site at the
 church. We will continue to send a color copy **via email** to church and school members. You may **"opt-out"** of
 receiving a **printed, paper copy** in the mail, in the interest of stewardship of the environment and finances. Please
 notify us at: communications@episcopalchurchtemecula.org, type: "Attention: Newsletter Opt-out" in the "Subject"
 line. We will remove you from the newsletter mailing list and will send only the email version of the newsletter to
 you. Also, a few copies will be available for pickup from the church.

****Outreach Events and Projects****

Navajo Nation Diaper Drive



A HUGE thank you to our members who have sent diapers through Amazon to the Tuba City Church of Christ on the Navajo Reservation. To date, the church has received about 800 diapers in single packages of 160-200. This is an **ONGOING** outreach program, if you are able to help, you can send diapers through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to: Tuba City Church of Christ, P.O. Box 108, Tuba City, AZ 86045.

Amazon delivers to the Post Office, but it might take two attempts so make sure you text or email me the tracking # so I can forward to Tracy. (My info is in the member directory [under Deb Mitchell]).

“We are able to do what we do because of Godly people like YOU! Praises to God for using us all and thank you for your sweet encouragement. Our moms are so grateful in these tough times. Love, Tracy and Eric Kee.”

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Community Mission of Hope: Easter Dinner Donations

Please join us in supporting Community Mission of Hope, as they provide Easter Dinner to those in need.

Shopping List:

- 2 boxes of mashed potatoes & 2 packages of gravy
- 2 cans of green beans & 2 cans of corn
- 2 dessert mixes (such as cake & frosting, brownie or cookie mix)
- Plus, ONE DOZEN EGGS & EGG DYE.



If you are able, **please include a check for \$25.00 to cover the cost of ham or turkey.** Make checks payable to **Community Mission of Hope.**

Please drop off your donations at the church Monday through Friday, **during the weeks of March 8 and March 15.** We will caravan to CMoH after church on **Sunday, March 21,** for delivery.

Questions? Reach out to Allan O'Neill: aone830@aol.com. Thank you in advance for supporting the CMoH families of the Temecula Valley.

Habitat for Humanity Projects: March 13



We have a couple of **Habitat for Humanity** projects coming up on March 13. The first is construction of a playhouse for Saint Thomas Episcopal Preschool, for which Habitat is donating the materials to us. This is amazing! The second project is to help Habitat with the ongoing development of their Design Center. **Both will take place on March 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at 27479 W. Enterprise Circle, Temecula. *Please sign up with: Chantel Blas: chantelb9@yahoo.com or Allan O'Neil: aone830@aol.com**

Playhouse - We will need a group of six to eight volunteers. There will three stations (roof, trim painting, and wall assembly) that will be spaced out, with two to three people at each station. Habitat is donating the materials, we are doing the work, and the playhouse is coming to STEP!

Market Shelving - Habitat is moving their Maker's Market inside their Design Center and allowing the vendors to display and sell their items inside. They need to build shelving and repurpose pallets. Volunteers will help cut wood, assemble pieces, and stain the wood. Overall, we would like to have 10-18 people for this day of service. All volunteers will wear masks and sign a waiver. We will have gloves and hand sanitizer on-site for people to use. We will socially distance the best we can. Lunch & water will be provided.

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Health Update by Dr. Ed Rather

While reviewing data from the World Health Organization (WHO) this month, I came across the sad news that we have hit a **half million** deaths from CoVid-19 in the U.S., with three hundred thousand more lost in the last four months. There have been **109 million-plus** cases reported in the world (probably more) with **2.4 million** dead; the total number of cases in the U.S. is now over **thirty million**, up from less than 100 people at this time last year. To me, this is so tragic, and the only advice that I can continue to emphasize to us all is to continue all precautions of social distancing and wearing masks when out; remember that the way we will beat this pandemic is by following this simple plan and by getting the vaccine as soon as it is available. Since last month's article, Kay and I have had our second Moderna vaccine and now plan to be extra careful for the foreseeable future. We did have a few more side effects with this one and had lots of aches and pains for approximately 48 hours—well worth it!

A good article in the February 12 issue of *Science* by K.J. Wu discussing virus mutation with new strains developing was actually very positive in that as new strains of a virus evolve, so do our own antibodies. The important mission of the human immune system is to memorize the features of dangerous microbes, launch an attack to stop that invasion, and keep us safe with this intelligence, being ever ready for future attacks. This is basically how vaccines work; instead of us having to be made ill by whatever "bug" is out there, the vaccine does the work for us. Dr. Wu emphasized that we must remember that vaccines are our major ally!

Tracking the variants that are constantly happening as you read this is crucial. The acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Norris Cochrane, released plans on investing \$650 million to expand advanced testing in schools in Kindergarten through grade 8, as well as in homeless shelters and in places where there are other underserved persons. As reported by CNBC, in the *New York Times*, and by others

on February 17, there is an emphasis on newly organized efforts to search for and prevent the spread of new mutations of CoVid-19 before doing more harm.

And, a new podcast concerning the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic compared with CoVid-19 is available on Apple or Simplecast. It is by the author of *The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Plague in History*, John M. Barry, who discusses lessons learned from one hundred years ago. More information on this topic can be found on the American Medical Association (AMA) website.

One fun thing I read recently which is something a little different is an article in *Vogue* magazine, in the February 11, 2021 issue, written by Michelle Ruiz, about Dr. Anthony Fauci and his wife, Dr. Christine Grady-Fauci, former RN. It gives a great insight on their thirty-five-year marriage and **what an interesting couple they are.**

Until next time, when I hope for better news, stay safe and well. *Your friendly, but retired, Dermatologist, Ed*

Bishop's Committee Member: Vincent Walton



Mr. Walton and his family joined Saint Thomas of Canterbury in February of 2007, upon moving to the Murrieta/Temecula area. Vince, originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, has lived in a wide variety of locations. He graduated from a very unique and nationally recognized high school titled The School for the Creative and Performing Arts. It was there that he broadened his interest and love for all forms of the arts, especially music. He was very active in various performances as a trumpet player and vocal music major.

Vince went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University located in northern Ohio. He majored in Communications and minored in Business Marketing. This educational background allowed him to enter the pharmaceutical industry, initially as a Sales Representative covering eastern Wisconsin. Four years later, Vince was promoted to Product Manager and moved to the US headquarters in central New Jersey.

In 1996, Vince decided to change industries, and accepted a position as Head of Retail Sales for a wireless cellular phone company in Chicago. In 1999, he moved once again to Monroe, Louisiana to accept a position as the Director of Retail Sales for CenturyTel, a telecommunications company. It was during the nine years in Monroe, that Vince and his family became very involved in the Episcopal church. In addition to singing in the choir, Vince also served on the vestry in several capacities, including stints as the Jr. and Sr. Warden. Vince also spearheaded the search committee for a new parish rector.

Currently, he works as a Business Process Consultant for Salesforce.com, one of the fastest growing tech companies in the world, headquartered in San Francisco, CA. Vince is new to Salesforce as an employee; however, he has worked with the company as a client for over fifteen years. He thoroughly enjoys working in this newly created position with enterprise clients that require advanced professional services guidance with their implementation of Salesforce services.

Vince was previously a member of the Saint Thomas of Canterbury Bishop's Committee from 2009 to 2011 and worked as a liaison for the Preschool Committee and Media/Communications. In addition to this, he is also a member of the St. Thomas Choir. Most recently, Vince has been serving as a facilitator for the Sacred Ground racial reconciliation program here at St. Thomas. Vince is married to Monica and they have two children: Alexander, 24, and Lauren, 18.