

SLO NEWS

November 2008

The Episcopal Churches serving San Luis Obispo County

+ ARROYO GRANDE + ATASCADERO + CAMBRIA + LOS OSOS +

+ MORRO BAY + PASO ROBLES + SAN LUIS OBISPO +

Celebrating the Seasons

Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Barnabas' Church, Arroyo Grande

Wednesday November 26 at 7 pm

St. Barnabas will be hosting Arroyo Grande's ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service this year. Come and join with five other congregations as we listen to our combined choirs, sing songs of praise, and give thanks for the abundance of God's gifts.

Thanksgiving Worship at St. James' Church, Paso Robles

Wednesday November 26 at 6 pm

St. James' Thanksgiving Eve worship will include a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Thanksgiving Worship at St. Stephen's Church, San Luis Obispo

Thursday November 27 at 10 am

St. Stephen's has a Thanksgiving Day service of Holy Eucharist at 10 am including organ and hymns. All are invited to bring their own loaves of bread and bottles of wine for a blessing to take home for their family meals.

Community Advent Service at Santa Rosa Church, Cambria

Wednesday December 3 at 7 pm

This annual ecumenical service features readers and singers from throughout the Cambria community. Members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church always take part. (Santa Rosa Catholic Church is at 1174 Main Street, Cambria.)

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols in Morro Bay

Sunday December 7 at 5 pm

St. Peter's annual service comes from King's College, Cambridge, and features lessons from scripture on salvation history, interspersed with hymns sung by the choir and congregation. Singers include St. Peter's choir as well as several members of St. Benedict's, Los Osos; the music director is Dr. Marti Lindholm. Reception follows in the parish hall.

Advent Festivals of Lessons and Carols in North County

Sunday December 14 at St. James, Paso Robles at 5 pm

Sunday December 21 at St. Luke's, Atascadero at 3:30 pm

St. James and St. Luke's, Atascadero will join voices for two services of Lessons and Carols: on December 14 at St. James (5 pm) or December 21 at St. Luke's (3:30 pm).

Community Carol Singing with Retelling of the Christmas Story in Los Osos

Thursday December 18 at St. Benedict's, Los Osos at 7pm

St Benedict's hosts its third annual evening for the community to come and sing carols and enjoy a retelling of the Christmas Story followed by spiced cider and cookies.

Blue Holiday Service, Los Osos

Sunday December 21 at St. Benedict's at 5pm

The holidays are not an easy time of year for everyone. This quiet service acknowledges the sorrow that many of us feel due the absence of loved ones and the presence of great difficulty in our lives.

Diocesan News

The Rev. Jesús Reyes is the new Canon to the Ordinary for Congregational Development. Jesús is now in the diocesan office, beginning his El Camino Real orientation before Diocesan Convention. He can be reached at the diocesan office at 831-394-4465 or at JesusReyes@edecr.org.

Diocesan Convention: Delegates from every congregation in the diocese will meet this Friday, November 7 and Saturday, November 8 at Sherwood Hall in Salinas. This year, we will be celebrating our Latino ministry and having a Mariachi Eucharist and Fiesta Dinner with entertainment on Friday afternoon and evening. The Rev. Anthony Guillén from the National Church Center will be our guest preacher. **Who are your parish's Delegates to Convention? What are their impressions of the health of our diocese? What kind of help can SLO parishes expect from the new Canon, Jesús Reyes?**

SLO Outreach

FOOD BANK: The Rev. Carl Hansen, Executive Director of the SLO County Food Bank, was interviewed by the New Times in late October: What particular need does the Food Bank have now? Our main need is for donated food, in that our sources of low-cost food have dried up due to food's increasing cost. Our supply agencies have to pay a lot more for food. What issues are the most pressing? Our most pressing issue is for donations to cover our escalating operating costs. Our administrative costs account for only 4% of our budget, and we're able to donate much of our food for free, but have to pay freight and administrative costs to get it to distribution agencies. Has there been an increase in clientele recently? We're averaging about a 25% increase across the county, with about 35,000 people being served on an annual basis. About half of our clients are families with children, and we've seen more working people coming in because they're experiencing economic hardships. What impact does the Food Bank have on the communities of SLO County? We donate over 4 million pounds of food annually, estimated to be worth over \$5 million, to financially distressed individuals across the county. It's a large impact when you take into account that around 15% of the county is estimated to be living either at or below the federal poverty level. How can individuals and community organizations contribute? We regularly send out mailers to county residents, as well as coordinate events with businesses and organizations within the county. People also help us out through telethons and

our “Hunger Awareness Day.” And people are always able to donate at our website, slofoodbank.org.

CENTRAL COAST CLERGY AND LAITY FOR JUSTICE

At What Cost Our Holiday Purchases?

November 20 at Congregation Beth David, Los Osos - 6 pm

A panel discussion of leaders from the California Rural Legal Assistance, Catholic Charities, and Economic Opportunity Commission will be featured. We will be looking at apparent abuses of low-wage workers in the fields, restaurants, and hotels of our own region, and thinking about how both individually and collectively we can improve their wages and working conditions. Location: Congregation Beth David, at the corner of Los Osos Valley and Foothill Roads. For more information, contact the Rev. Caroline Hall at stbenedicts1@aol.com.

HABITAT APOSTLE BUILD: Our deanery's commitment as part of the Apostle Build in Atascadero is coming to a close. We have no more scheduled days to work as a group but we still need extra help on the finish work. They will need help with installing all of the pavers, scheduled for **November 12-19** (and 19-22 if need be). The work day is 8am-2pm; anyone over 18 is welcome, especially on the Wednesdays and Thursdays. The push is on to finish on-time and thus far we're doing a great job; let's keep it that way and give our four families a great Christmas in their new homes! The Home Dedication is scheduled for Saturday December 13. A free-will offering from the participating Apostle churches will be taken to build more homes. Leann Brooks and Mark Waters would like to thank all who volunteered, provided lunches and made financial donations to this project. The new Grover Beach project has been approved and Habitat will be looking for Apostles for it as well. If you are interested in being the Apostle Coordinator, contact Leann Brooks at leannbrooks@hotmail.com, and I'll put you in touch with the church relations folks.

SLO Youth Ministry

RITE 13: The Rite 13 group gets together once a month, meeting at the designated church in the morning to attend morning worship and coffee hour together; after lunch (provided by the parish) the teens then meet all afternoon for lessons and discussion. They return to their homes about 4 pm. The group will meet at St. James on **November 23**, St. Luke's on **December 14** and St. Stephen's on **January 18**. Christmas caroling will be scheduled for San Luis Obispo and possibly also Paso Robles. A new Rite 13 group has formed, and the “bridge” group is continuing from the previous Rite 13 group to transition to J2A. For more information, contact Kathleen Pennington at kapennington@netscape.net or Anna Foote at anna_foote@yahoo.com.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLERS... Mark November 15th on your calendar and come to St. Stephen's, San Luis Obispo from noon to 3 pm for an afternoon in the kitchen with your friends and a lot of apples! (Questions? Ask your youth leader or call Kathleen at 546-0880 or Anna at 226-7322 or 835-5637)

APPLE PIES FOR YOUTH: You know you want an apple pie for Thanksgiving dinner, but you don't want to do all that peeling and slicing. Sure, there are canned pie fillings, but they're just not the same. We have the solution for you.... teenagers to the rescue! On Saturday,

November 15 junior and senior high schoolers from the Episcopal churches in our deanery will be gathering at St. Stephen's for an afternoon of peeling, slicing and pie preparation, and we'll sell our wonderful, frozen, ready-to-bake creations to you for just \$10. Funds raised from the sale of apple pies will go to a Deanery Youth Scholarship fund to help young people participate in activities like Rock-N-Water, J2A or Rite 13 Retreats and other Deanery Youth activities. We're taking orders through Sunday, November 9th and will be making the apple pies on Saturday, November 15th. There will be a limited number of these very special creations, so get your order in early. Order forms are available from our young people, or by emailing kapennington@netscape.net or anna_foote@yahoo.com. If you don't want to order an apple pie and want to help in some other way, we can use donations toward ingredients or donations directly to the scholarship fund.

Canterbury – Youth Adult Ministry

Cal Poly Students and Chaplain Berkeley Johnson:

will be visiting and preaching at St. James, Paso Robles on **November 9**; St. Stephen's, San Luis Obispo on **November 16**; and St. Benedict's, Los Osos on **November 23**.

Education and Spiritual Formation for Adults

Nov - MYTH IN WESTERN RELIGIONS – Los Osos

6 Tuesday afternoons starting October 7 - 1:30 to 4 p.m. at St. Benedict's

Much of religious talk is mythical; that is, religions tell foundational stories which are not meant to be taken literally but are meant to be taken seriously. We live, however, in a culture that does not have much time for myth, that does not probe for serious meaning. For instance, how do most Jews understand the following concepts: God as creator; the prophets speaking for God; and Israel being the chosen people? How do most Christians understand the narratives of Jesus' birth, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, and ideas of atonement and the trinity? What do Christians and Jews understand by God as a person, a covenant with God, and an afterlife? Discussions led by Lenny Erickson of St. Peter's Church; Morro Bay, sponsored by the Hollister Institute at St. Benedict's Church. For more information, contact Lenny Erickson at lenny8332@sbcglobal.net.

Nov-Dec – WOMEN FOLLOWING JESUS - Cambria

Monday mornings starting October 6 – 10 am at St. Paul's

This class began with a review of Jesus' own attitudes towards women and then examined the more traditional attitudes of the early church. The class is currently looking at women after the Reformation – Catholics and Protestants – and their ministries in and beyond their churches. The study will conclude with a look at women's spirituality today. This class will be repeated in January-February at St. Benedict's, Los Osos. For more information, contact the Rev. Donna Ross at donnaross@charter.net.

Next SLO News deadline: December 1. Please send information to donnaross@charter.net.