

# February 2021

## CALVARY CROSSROADS



Calvary Episcopal Church

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Sundays, 10:30 am and Thursdays, 11:30 am

### February Message

#### The Rev. Dr. Austin L. Leininger



Happy February, Calvary Family!

As we progress through these last couple weeks of the season of Epiphany and approach lent, we move from the time of watching for the new things God is calling us to and the new ways God's light is present in our lives and world into the time of living into what those new things are. The season of light, of new beginnings, and of new callings transitions into the season of wilderness contemplation, of journeying with these new elements of our lives and world, and of walking the pilgrimage steps that lead to transformation.

As we close out this season, we conclude our cycle of seasons spent for the first time in quarantine, and enter into the season of Lent this year with a fuller understanding of what the wilderness journey looks like. Lent last year was a time of concern, of uncertainty about how long we would be away from one another, and of dawning realizations about what Covid-19 was and what it meant for our world. This year, we move toward global vaccinations and toward a time of reunion with one another. Like last year, we don't know when that time will come, but we know that we will be spending Lent, Easter, and Pentecost together over Zoom and Vimeo. Sometime during the season after Pentecost, we see dimly what appears to be the light at the end of this time of seclusion.

CALVARY CHOIR PRESENTS

### GINSING!



### GinSing! 2021 goes Virtual

One of our favorite events, with the express purpose of raising the funds to support the Choral Scholarship program, is virtual this year

**SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 13, 2021 - 4:30 pm**

This 60-minute Zoom event features musical performances by our Choral Scholars, previous recordings of our choir, our Organist and accomplished Old-Time-Piano player, Kylan deGhetaldi, *GinSing!*'s favorite bartender and mezzo-soprano, Amy Mendon

Admission to *GinSing! 2021* is free. Simply respond to the email address below and we will send you the Zoom link, the program, and all of the other information to help you enjoy a wonderful afternoon with Calvary's Choir

Gather the ingredients listed in your confirmation email and Amy Mendon will give us a live demonstration on creating a special Valentine's Day gin cocktail,

#### *The Love Potion*

We will be asking for donations to support our Choral Scholar Outreach Program for 2021

[ginsing@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:ginsing@calvarysantacruz.org)



**Zoom Ash Wednesday!**  
**Wednesday the 17th of February**  
for our service of Ash Wednesday  
with the imposition of ashes

See Announcement on page 3

But looking to the end of the journey isn't the purpose of Lent.

As we conclude our season of Epiphany and enter into our second Lent together sheltering in our homes, may we find these last couple weeks of basking in God's new light to be a time of true Epiphany—of awakening to God's presence in our midst, of hearing God's call to renewal and new beginnings, and of seeing God's light shining in the darkness. And as we enter in the time of journeying together in the wilderness, may we recall the journey of the Israelites through the desert that took 40 years, and of Jesus journey in the wilderness of 40 days—both of which brought about transformation and a new identity. What we're being invited into is not a season of bleakness, nor of short-cutting the work by skipping ahead to the destination, but a time of deep reflection, of honesty with ourselves and with God, and of living through the work of change that leads us also into transformation and a new identity.

When I was a kid, my family would take our summer and winter vacations to drive out to where my grandparents lived—a two-to-three-day drive from coastal California to Sioux Falls South Dakota (near the south eastern border of the state). Flying wasn't an option for a family of four, particularly when we needed a car on the other end of our journey to get between Sioux Falls where my dad's mom lived, and Garretson where my mom's mom lived. We also had uncles and aunts peppered across the area, and frequently went to Aberdeen (near the north border of the state) to visit my great uncles. As much as we looked forward to seeing our relatives, my brother and I always relished preparing for the journey, which itself was a great adventure. We'd bring our favorite comics and other books, as well as a stock of carefully chosen toys, pillows, sleeping bags, blankets, music, and candy, and my parents would pack a cooler full of snacks for the drive. Other than the few cities we'd pass through, most of the drive was wilderness. We'd plan stops to visit some of the natural wonders along the way, and we'd usually stop for a visit to my great aunt in Laramie Wyoming at the end of the first long day's drive. Familiar town names were Elko, Winnemucca, Salt Lake City, Laramie, Rapid City, and finally we'd see the signs for Sioux Falls or for Garretson depending on where we were staying. The drive back home was just as much of an adventure, and if we hadn't stopped to visit my Auntie Pug in Laramie on the way, we'd stop on the way back. Returning home we felt like world travelers, and, in more ways than one, we weren't the same people as we were when we'd left on the journey.

Memoirs could be written about those trips, but for the short space of our Crossroads, we come back to the journey of transformation that we're about to take together in Lent. Part of the excitement about those trips was the anticipation of waking up early, loading up the car, and setting out.

Lent is the journey that lies ahead. With Jesus baptism, he was named from the heavens as God's son and was called into his life's work. He began his journey of transformation into his time in ministry by going into the desert for forty days, and returned ready to take up his calling. So too, may we anticipate this coming season as one of journeying together into the new callings we've heard in this time of Epiphany. This is a new chapter in our lives—let us take the time together to journey into what lies ahead with open hearts and intention. And may we prepare ourselves for the journey ahead with joy and anticipation!

Blessings,



Austin

## Family & Youth Report

By Teacher Sonja Reetz

In Sunday School we began our new year with a Godlyplay lesson on *Jonah and The Whale (or Big Fish)*. In doing some research, we discovered that human beings have actually survived being swallowed by a whale, once in 1771. Another incident occurred in 1891 when a man named Bartley was swallowed by a sperm whale. A day or two later when the whale was caught, Bartley was found alive in the stomach of the whale. Perhaps they had trouble loving their enemies as did Jonah!?

We will then return to the New Testament as we learn about the Presentation of the baby Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem. Our "pageant baby Jesus" will be with us for this lesson as he is still spending some time at the home of the Edwards.

We look forward to doing something creative via Zoom on Sunday, Feb 14, Valentine's Day. No frosting of Valentine's cookies in the parish hall this year!



## COPA Report

By Sonja and Al Reetz

Tracking the status of new housing developments in Santa Cruz County was a front & center topic for COPA during January. This action is motivated by stories shared at our meetings showing that many working class citizens struggle with finding affordable housing. We are reminded that many who are employed in retail, the trades, as first responders or as teachers, for example, often have long commutes to their places of work. On a personal note, I have shared the story of our auto mechanic, who lives in Prunedale. He opens his shop each day at 11 am, then closes at a later hour in order to avoid stop & go commute traffic.

Currently, there are a dozen or more new housing projects "in the pipeline", projects COPA members will track through the many stages as they move toward completion. A service COPA offers is advocacy as appropriate, at city council and county board of supervisor meetings.

## Announcements

**Zoom Ash Wednesday!** Join us on Zoom, Wednesday the 17th of February, for our service of Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes. Each person on our mailing list will be receiving instructions in the mail on how to self-impose ashes during our service. The mailing will include a small plastic bag of ashes, the Ash Wednesday Bulletin, and a Zoom invitation. For those who aren't on our mailing list, have a candle present for the service, which you can light when we begin. At the imposition of ashes, blow out the candle, wait a moment for it to cool, then pinch the wick for your ashes (voila!).

The service will be over Zoom and will take place at Noon and 6:00 pm. We'll record the Noon service to post online for those who can't make either service. The Zoom invitation is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82939546311?pwd=K1JRaKg1WnB3V2F2amRwZTdxbjgwQT09>.

**Lenten Study 2021** –The Adult Education Committee invites you to join in our Lenten Study program for 2021. Starting on **Wednesday, February 24 and for the following six Wednesdays**, we will engage in a study and discussion of the book **Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian** by Paul Knitter. "In this landmark work, well-known theologian Paul Knitter explains how he looked to Buddhism to overcome a crisis of faith, becoming a stronger and more committed Christian in the process. From the nature of prayer to Christian views on life after death, Knitter demonstrates how Buddhist perspectives can inspire a more person-centered and socially engaged understanding of Christianity." – from the cover. Each week we will read a chapter and then engage in a one-hour discussion via Zoom. **Our tentative plan is to begin each week at 4:30 p.m. and end by 5:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited! If you are interested in participating, please contact either

Cathy Watson at [cjktlw845@gmail.com](mailto:cjktlw845@gmail.com) or Martha Dexter at [mmdexter@gmail.com](mailto:mmdexter@gmail.com) to confirm your availability and get on the email list for future announcements and Zoom invitations.

**Outreach Sunday, February 28** -- Each month we focus on a Calvary outreach ministry and collect a special offering for it. **Starting February 28 and through March 21, we support FEAST** (Faith, Education, Action, and Service Together). During non-pandemic school terms, FEAST engages college students in the Santa Cruz area (focusing on UCSC and Cabrillo) in progressive Christian community that is Open and Affirming of our identities and diversities. Activities include: Dinner Church, Bible Study, Book Group, Social Justice. Funds collected through our outreach offerings will support distribution of grocery gift cards and laundry money for students in need when college school terms resume in person. Donate cash or checks payable to Calvary with FEAST in the memo line and mail to Calvary at 532 Center St., Santa Cruz 95060. For more information about FEAST while they are on hiatus, contact Austin at [aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org)

**Video Readers needed!** We're back to having readings by video until the Covid-19 restrictions ease up again. Reading are the three lessons, Nicene Creed, and Prayers of the People. Contact Father Austin: [aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org)

**Bible Study** Tuesdays at 11 am. Please email Father Austin directly ([aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org)) to ask to be included in the Zoom email list and to provide an email address for the invitation!

**Thursday Interactive Worship.** Thursdays at 11:30, Father Austin and others gather on Zoom for Morning Prayer with conversation around the assigned readings and the saint of the day. Join us for some mid-week worship, conversation, and fellowship! Please email Father Austin directly ([aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org)) to ask to be included in the Zoom.

**OFFICE CLOSURE:** The staff has been asked to work from home, and committees are asked to meet via Zoom. If you need pastoral care, or to contact any of the staff, please reach out via email or telephone. Father Austin: text or call 831-350-1344 or email [aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org). Please text Nicole: 831-325-9390 or email: [nmacargel@gmail.com](mailto:nmacargel@gmail.com).

**SUPPORT:** During this time of virtual-church, we have no way to pass the plate other than offering the option to donate online or mail in a check to Calvary. But we still need the support of the worshipping community to make ends meet. Please feel invited to make an offering to our **General Fund** by clicking the "Donate" button on our website <https://calvarysantacruz.org/index.php/donate/> or by mailing a check to the Calvary office: 532 Center Street, S.C., CA 95060.

**Calvary Book Club** -- will meet next on **Friday, February 19 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom** when we will discuss **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson - On many "best of" lists for 2020, "Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings." - from the publisher.

The club also selected books for this spring:

**March** -- **News of the World** by Paulette Jiles, "In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex, multilayered novel of historical fiction that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust." - from the publisher.

**April** -- **There There** by Tommy Orange, "One of *The New York Times* 10 Best Books of the Year and winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award, this wondrous and shattering bestselling novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. Hailed as an instant classic, *There There* is at once poignant and unflinching, utterly contemporary and truly unforgettable." - from the publisher.

**May** -- **Transcendent Kingdom** by Yaa Gyasi, "A deeply moving portrait of a family of Ghanaian immigrants ravaged by depression and addiction and grief--a novel about faith, science, religion, love. Exquisitely written, emotionally searing, this is an exceptionally powerful follow-up to Gyasi's phenomenal debut, *Homegoing*." - from the publisher. For more information and/or to get on the email list for announcements and Zoom links, contact Martha Dexter at [mmdexter@gmail.com](mailto:mmdexter@gmail.com).



## Just for kicks...

Thank you Elizabeth!



It's weird being the same age as old people.

When I was a kid I wanted to be older...this is not what I expected.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember...Don't sing!

If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

## Treasurer's Report

The pandemic and subsequent quarantine and its effect on our finances has illustrated the strengths and weaknesses of the various components that make up our annual income. First, we are blessed with a loyal and supportive parish community that allows us to depend on pledges for the bulk of our income.

Our giving remained strong throughout the year up until December, with plate income for the year only down (-\$1200.00) and pledge only down (-\$1800.00). I think this is remarkable considering the economic uncertainties of 2020. The December loss can be laid directly at the feet of the pandemic. Being unable to gather with the greater community for Christmas services in our historic church certainly cut back on the amount of income we received in December as compared to historical figures.

Second, we are fortunate to have a steady income that hasn't been affected by Covid-19. I'm referring to the money the city pays us for the use of our land for the city parking lot adjacent to the church. This plot of land has been a major asset for us for many years and will continue to be for years to come. We owe a debt of gratitude to those parishioners before us who had the foresight to purchase this land.

Third, it's become evident how much we depend on the income we receive from community use of our buildings. We ended 2020 (-\$21,000) behind budget in combined use of church and 12-step income. If we'd achieved our budgeted 12-step income (based on steady historic figures) alone, we'd have ended the year with a surplus of \$4,000.00 rather than our year-end deficit of (-\$10,000.00).

Finally, the recent decision to upgrade our kitchen so that we can rent it out for commercial use has proven to be wise. In the past, we have relied on the rental of the Parish Hall for social gatherings to make up the bulk of our "Facilities Rental" income. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings, we only realized \$4,000 of income in this category in 2020. Luckily, the commercial kitchen brought in \$14,000, another factor at keeping our overall deficit at a relatively low (-\$10,000). Again, thanks are due to the parishioners who recognized the possibility inherent in our kitchen and acted on it. We almost made up for our income loss in 2021 with reductions in expenses. Our total administrative expenses were (-\$11,000.00) below budget. More than half of this reduction was due to our new solar panels, which means we'll continue to benefit from this savings in the post-quarantine future.

Once again, our gratitude to those generous parishioners who donated to this project. 2020 was a year of great uncertainty. 2021 promises more of the same, although there is hope that we will be moving towards greater stability rather than the opposite. Because of the difficulty of forecasting the future in current circumstances, the Finance Committee and

Treasurer have recommended that the 2021 Vestry consider the budget to be a more fluid document than we have in the past and be open to Finance Committee recommending changes in it throughout the year as prudent and necessary.

Here's to a happy New Year!  
Cathy Watson

## Vestry Report

Annual General Meeting Elects New Vestry Members.

Three members of the Calvary Vestry completed their terms in January 2021: Terry Hall, Ola Monaghan, and Susan Whalen. Thank you so much for your service!

Three members were elected at the meeting: Al Reetz, Dick Tippett, Liz Wesolowski. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

### Calvary Vestry Members

John Blymyer [jporterbl@yahoo.com](mailto:jporterbl@yahoo.com)  
Blaine Brokaw [b\\_brokaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b_brokaw@sbcglobal.net)  
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Liz Wesolowski [wesocruz@comcast.net](mailto:wesocruz@comcast.net)

**Crossroads Articles.** If you have an article to submit to the Crossroads please email [carolsmail133@gmail.com](mailto:carolsmail133@gmail.com) by the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

# Musical Soulmates Celebrating Collaboration *presents*



**Diane Syrcle** | Soprano



**Kate Alm** | Piano

*Benefitting*



**NAACP**  
Santa Cruz County



**Saturday | February 27, 2021 | 5:00 pm**

**The Life and Love of a Woman**

featuring **Diane Syrcle**, Soprano  
with **Kate Alm**, Piano



**TICKETS** | \$30 plus fee; Donations also accepted  
**Calvary Episcopal Church**  
**LIVESTREAM**

**EVENTBRITE:**  
Search "Musical Soulmates"

**More Info** | 831.227.7535



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