



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

PERSPECTIVE

From the Rector

Eastertide: From Lilies to Hazelnuts

Tradition calls Eastertide the “Great Fifty Days of Easter,” and many of our daily and Sunday scriptural readings are filled with images and stories of not just the Risen Christ, but the miracles of the early church and glimpses of what Jesus called “the Kingdom” or reign of God.

This past week at Church of Our Saviour, we celebrated Earth Day somewhat belatedly, as the secular recognition coincided with Easter Sunday this year. We heard Jesus’ teaching about the lilies of the field:

“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!” — Luke 12:27-28

On Wednesday, a small group of us gathered for Eucharist and scripture study remembered Julian of Norwich, a fourteenth-century mystic whose vision of the hazelnut mirrors Jesus’ teaching:

“The Lord also showed my soul the unpretentious manner of his loving. I saw that for us he is everything that is good, comforting, and helpful. He is our clothing who wraps us up and holds us close for love... And with this insight he also showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand. It seemed to me as round as a ball. I gazed at it and thought, ‘What can this be?’ The answer came thus, ‘It is everything that is made.’ I marveled how this could be, for it was so small it seemed it might fall suddenly into nothingness. Then I heard the answer, ‘It lasts, and ever shall last, because

God loves it. All things have their being in this way by the grace of God.”

— Revelations of Divine Love, Chapter V

This Eastertide, as we continue the celebration of Resurrection, we remember God’s consummate love for each of us, the world, and all the universe. It was for love of all of this and all of us that not only was Jesus willing to die, but for this he defeated death and rose again.

Much of the time, we can scarcely imagine a love like this, particularly in a cynical age like ours. But what if we did imagine as Julian imagined: That we are held as tenderly as the tiny, fragile hazelnut, and all our being is rooted in God’s love?

What would be different?



My love to all of you: an Easter People!

Br. Richard Edward

MARIN INTERFAITH YOUTH GATHERING

By Gerry Caprio



On Sunday evening, April 28th, a contingent of our parish youth participated in a first ever “meet-and-greet” gathering of Marin youth from various religious denominations. Hosted by Temple Rodef Shalom in San Rafael there were representatives from Hindu, Jewish, Islamic and various Christian congregations including Episcopal, Presbyterian and Methodist. The COS contingent was comprised of Hannah Salkever, Ben and Calvin Ginnebaugh, Cole Roberts, Michael Mooney and Bronwyn Stocks. Overall, sixty youth and ten adults attended. The group sang, played games, prayed in their respective traditions, shared a meal and worked together on a service project – gathering personal items and stuffing them into backpacks for refugees on our

southern border. A great success by any measure! A follow up gathering is planned for the fall.

A few months ago Patty Ginnebaugh and I met with Jeff Shankle, Westminster Presbyterian’s Youth Minister, to explore the possibilities of bringing together youth from around the county. We first met Jeff with his parish youth group last fall with the harvesting event at Green Gulch Farm in Muir Beach. Jeff had previously participated in youth exchanges with the Mill Valley Islamic Center. Our meeting with Jeff laid the ground work for the April 28th gathering. We put the word out to religious congregations throughout Marin and formed a steering committee to plan the evening.

Meeting, greeting and working together with our friends in other religious traditions on common projects is a very effective way to tap into the power of interfaith collaboration. Bay Area Interfaith Councils have been doing this quite successfully for a number of years and now it is time to focus on bringing our youth into this mission.

As Professor Hans Küng famously proposed, “There can no be peace among nations without peace among religions and there can be no peace among religions without dialogue among religions.”



MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE EARTH TODAY

The weather is changing and we can feel it. Climate change is happening faster than predicted and already impacting our world with more severe storms, droughts, fires and floods. These changes impact those with the least resources first and hardest and will affect everyone significantly in our children's lifetimes. The choices we make in the next 10-15 years are very important to protecting our health and our future. The good news is we have solutions and there is a lot everyone can do to help. In fact, together we can make a big difference. The better news – these solutions don't compromise our quality of life, and can also save money, improve our health and create local jobs. Join the challenge and learn more about how you can make choices that will help create a safer, healthier future.

“Thanks to the Diocese of California, our whole church has a new tool to support anyone who wants to make more life-giving choices about how we inhabit the earth. The Carbon Tracker is a web-based application that helps individuals, households, congregations and even dioceses to measure your carbon footprint and take steps to shrink it to fit a sustainable life. Five early adopter dioceses are piloting it this Lent, and by Earth Day – April 22, 2019 – everyone can come on board. I am personally exploring how to use it as part of my own spiritual practice.”

– Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Get started and learn more now at sustainislandhome.org

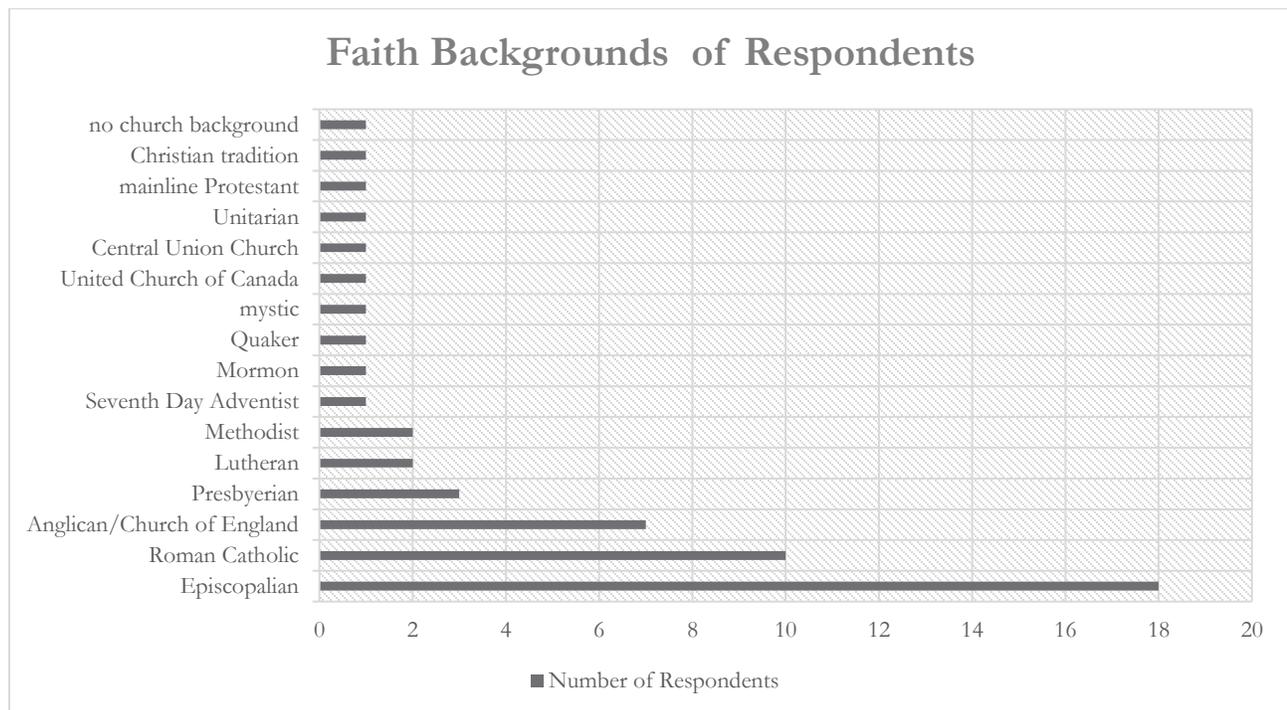


SURVEY SAYS!

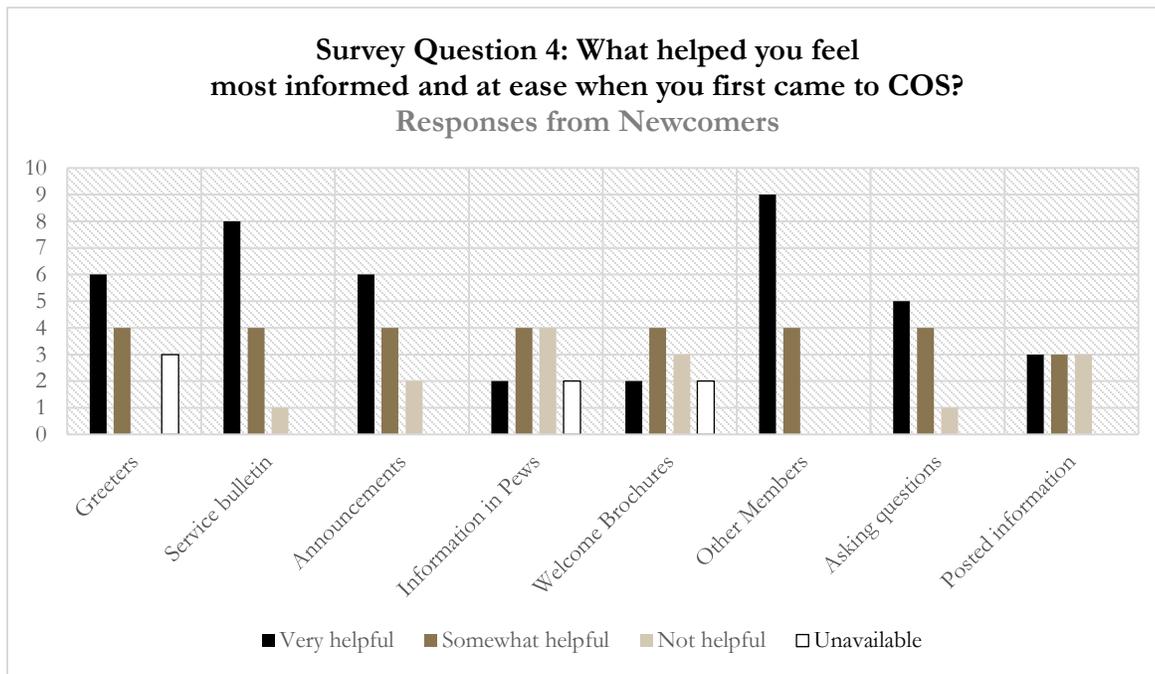
A glimpse at some Parish Survey results. . .

Our online survey regarding welcoming newcomers elicited an abundance of valuable information! One way it will be used is by the newly-forming Newcomer Hospitality team to enrich how we help newcomers feel informed, connected, and welcome. If you're interested in participating, please contact Gerry Caprio.

Many thanks to the 58 parishioners who answered the survey's 18 questions! Respondents ranged from those who've been at COS for 3 months to over 60 years! Faith backgrounds of respondents were diverse. How enriching to have all this experience in our community!



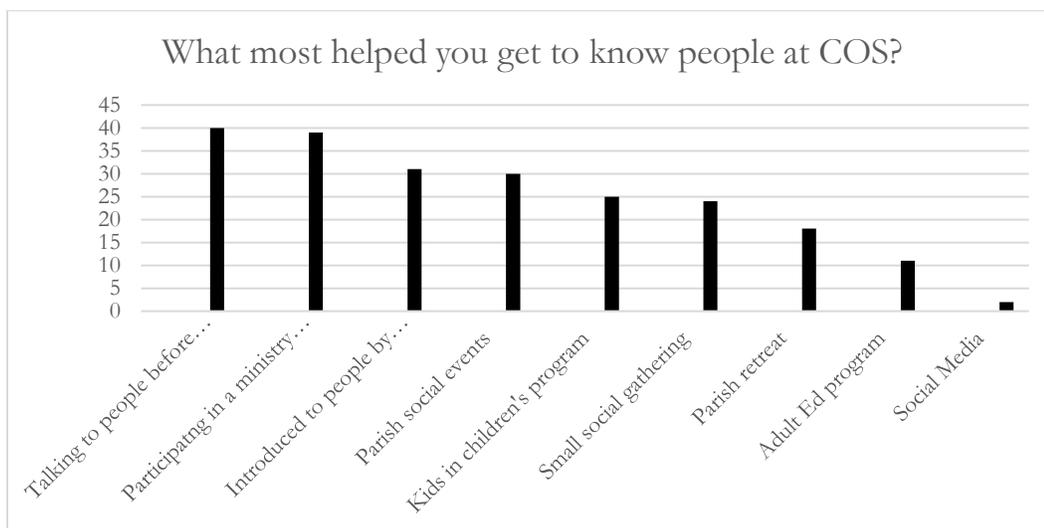
Survey Question 4 asked people to rate what helped them feel most informed and at ease when they first came. Below is a synopsis of newcomer responses.



As a follow up to Question 4, we asked for comments about what else helped. Comments from all 58 respondents included having a freshly baked homemade pie delivered after their first visit! Well, those were the days! For many years, that was a regular part of COS's welcoming ministry. The top 3 comments were: the warmth/friendliness of parishioners (20 respondents); personal welcome from staff (11); involvement in programs or ministries (8).

Survey Question 6 asked what ministries and programs people were most interested in learning about. Top three responses: Social Events, (54), Adult Education (44), and Community Service (43).

Survey Question 10 asked: What most helped you get to know people at COS?



A major insight from the data is how impactful it is for everyone to say hello to newcomers and welcome them. The results consistently revealed it as the single most important factor, and this community is generally very effective! Our Greeters do a great job, and COS is clearly a caring community filled with many gifts of hospitality. AND welcoming the newcomer really calls for continuous awareness for all of us as friendly ambassadors. Some newcomers reported standing alone at Coffee Hour and never having anyone approach or acknowledge them. This is sad to hear, because first, it can lead to people never coming back, missing what may have been here for them; and second, because it doesn't reflect the warmth and love in this community. It just speaks to the need and importance of being aware of new people in our midst, and how daunting or awkward it can feel. It's heartwarming to know from the data we gathered how welcomed so many people felt, and how much that mattered to their choice to become a part of this community.

May our gifts, blessings, and our own vulnerable humanity continue and grow ever more to be used to create a welcoming house of God, offering God's grace, nourishment, and respite to all who come. May we offer our service to create a place where the work of bringing love, comfort, and compassion into the world is joyously fostered.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me. . . Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me." ~ Matthew 25: 36, 40

Patricia can be contacted at prose2@ses.cdsp.edu or 513 293 1038.

May Birthdays

7th Madison MacLeod

8th Bill Thomas

11th Dylan Lang

14th Olivia White

17th Lucy Gibbs; Kathleen Piraino

20th Louise Gaumond

22nd John MacLeod

26th David Smith (Yay!)

28th Carlisle Huson

Earth Day at Church of Our Savior

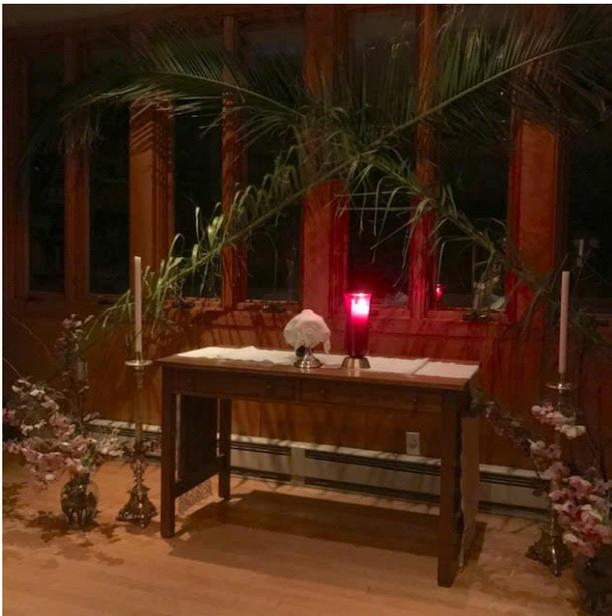
Led by guests Melita and Dave Rosenfeld, with accompaniment from the Choir, COS celebrated a belated Earth Day on May 5th. During children's reflection, Brother Richard explained the Genesis story ... at their level.



Songs for the day included *Adamah V'Shamayim (Earth and Heavens)*, *Deep Inside My Heart*, *Down to the River*, and *Yonder Come Day*.



Easter Vigil at Church of Our Saviour



He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:6-7

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all. Acts 4:33



Staff

The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer, BSG, Rector 415-244-1860
 The Rev. Gerald Caprio, Youth Minister 415-786-3949
 Patricia M. Rose, Seminarian 513-293-1038
 Albert Campbell, Music Director 510-710-1215
 Rose Scarff, Parish Administrator
 Jeff Johnson & Gay Rawlins Johnson, Co-Treasurers
 Terry Peck, Sexton
 David Smith, Editor, *Perspective*

2019-2020 Vestry

Marsha Dugan	Senior Warden
Mary Washburn	Junior Warden
Lex Campbell	Patty Ginnebaugh
Anders Knox	Elizabeth Mooney
Jonathan Walker	Tiana Wimmer

Worship at COS

Sundays	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	9:45 a.m.	Children & Youth Programs
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Wednesdays	10:30 a.m.	Eucharist & Bible Dialogue
Monday-Thursday:	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

Phone: 415-388-1907
 Email: office@oursaviourmillvalley.org
 Web: oursaviourmillvalley.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Ministry Coordinators

Acolytes	The Rev. Gerald Caprio
Adult Education	Dryden Liddle
Altar Guild	Gay Rawlins Johnson
Archives	Rose Scarff
Care of Creation Ministry	Mark Tarpey-Schwed
Coffee Hour/Parish Life	Kristi Shaffer
Eucharistic Ministers	Rosalind Patterson
Faith in Action	
Healing Team	
Lectors	Nancy Cone
Pastoral Care Team	Suzanne Johnson
Stewardship	Tatem Read & Mike Yelverton
Sunday School:	
Godly Play & Faith Quest	Mallary Walker, Liz Murray & Tiana Wimmer
Middle Saints	The Rev. Gerald Caprio & Patty Ginnebaugh
Confirmation	The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer
High School Youth	The Rev. Gerald Caprio
Ushers	The Rev. Gerald Caprio
Greeters	Mallary Walker
Pastoral Counseling	Nancy Cone
Blessings, Baptisms & Pastoral Counseling	Richard Helmer

The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour
 10 Old Mill Street
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

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