

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2017

THE MISSION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SERIOUS DISCIPLESHIP, SACRED WORSHIP AND SELFLESS SERVICE

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Letters bring more than timely surprise

The question loomed large, larger than the news that her job was about to end.

Would she be “all in” with her promise to faithfully tithe from her very last paycheck? Or would pending rent and an already overstretched budget be reason enough not to give this one time?

It was a question the mother of two pondered. Officially single at summer’s end after a 20-year marriage, and with teenage children to consider, it seemed logical to hold onto every cent. Already, the “40-something” mom was accessing the church food bank and pulling cash from her IRA to survive.

“I rationalized that God would understand,” reflects Cathy about the financial unknown she was facing. “He knew my situation, and that I would make it up to him once I knew what was happening after September.”

But was that really her original intention when she had told God she was “all in” with her renewed relationship with him?

The Bible she had begun to study months earlier had a lot to say about giving back to God. Something Cathy had never done when she and her husband lived on a combined household income of almost a quarter-million dollars.

“I am so sick to admit that we probably gave the least then than we ever did,” says Cathy with regret as she remembers the many “toys”, big home and properties they enjoyed – and had to maintain. “We thought we couldn’t afford to give 10 percent.”

Now in the leanest of times so far – and with the holidays just around the corner – she had to ask herself whether she would step out on faith again, trusting God to provide. Without a job

and not knowing where she and her daughter would live the next month weighed heavily, and her faith faltered.

“Then I stopped myself right in the middle of it,” the petite brunette remembers, “and said out loud, ‘No! I am going to trust God with this. I’m all in and I mean it. I’m doing this.’”

Cathy immediately wrote a check for her \$265 tithe from the gross income she had received – the last foreseeable income.

“I didn’t calculate anything because I knew it wouldn’t add up and only stress me out,” the struggling professional said of her meager budget. “I prayed out loud, ‘Jesus, I trust you. Please have this little bit serve you in the best way, and please get me through this month.’”

Shortly thereafter, a letter from her attorney arrived. Cathy knew there could be a few hundred dollars left from what had been set aside for divorce proceedings. However, there was also the possibility that additional paperwork may have incurred more cost.

“I prayed before I opened it, that I would have grace with whatever was in that envelope,” says Cathy. “And I found a check for \$2,900!”

This was three times the amount she thought would be in the account after seeing the previous statement – and now enough to see her through another month’s living expenses.

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Once again, Cathy knew God had blessed her and so she wrote a 10 percent tithe from the \$2,900 to her church. But then she felt a nudge to give even more out of her “abundance.”

“I felt God strongly told me to share his gift with some friends I had been praying for,” Cathy explains. “I knew they were in a very dark situation in their lives; the husband was losing his faith.”

Cathy decided to give the married couple \$200. But she then felt God say it should be \$165.

Why \$165, Cathy had wondered? She would happily give even \$250. But the thought came again that it needed to be \$165.

“I’m lying there in my bed one morning going, ‘Why \$65, God? That’s weird,’” Cathy says of her bewilderment. “I’m willing to give them more! ‘How about’ Then I felt strongly him telling me, ‘\$165! Do it!’”

So Cathy penned a letter explaining the money was from God and included the check.

“I knew I was supposed to tell them that he is hearing their prayers, he knows what’s happening to them, and he is there with them,” Cathy says about the message.

A few days later, an envelope addressed to her friends arrived in their distant mailbox. It sat unopened while this couple priced two tires they desperately needed, but absolutely could not afford.

Then, remembering the mail had not been picked up in a day or two, Cathy’s friends discovered her letter and gift. Stunned, they stared disbelieving at the amount on the check - - \$165.

And the quote they had gotten for the tires? \$164.52.

Without a doubt, Cathy has learned that when we are “all in” with God, his abundant blessings pour out on others, too.

Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”



Shalom,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! As we enter into the Holiday Seasons of Advent, Christmas and New Year’s things start to get very busy. We get pulled in all kinds of directions with the hustle and bustle. It’s important to set aside time for the Lord.

This is part of what the season of Advent is for, the preparation of the coming of the Lord. Not only for his birth when he left the comfort of heaven, but also for the second coming when Jesus will reign as king. An Advent calendar like the ones in the hall will help you with reflections. If you haven’t gotten one, I encourage you to find one to use. If you can’t find one, a good thing to use is the ACNA office of morning and evening prayer, it should have the readings that will help with your reflections.

Speaking of Advent and preparing for the coming of the Lord to rule over his kingdom, the ACTS DVD series is a great way to prepare for not only during this Advent season but throughout the year. It is called ACTS the spread of the kingdom. It gives us a look at how the Apostles spread the kingdom. With us starting out in our new location this give us not only a way to prepare for the coming of our Lord and savior, it will help us prepare by spreading the kingdom. The ACTS series will help inspire and encourage us to have the courage to go into the world and make disciples! When we do this we not only will increase those in our church but increase those in the kingdom.

As we prepare for our Lord Jesus, we can start to prepare for the time when we will enter into the fullness of the kingdom. I mentioned in my sermon that we are at the point of already but not yet! Meaning the yes we are in the kingdom now, but the kingdom is the earthly kingdom that is in the time of preparation and spreading so that when God makes the New Heaven and Earth we will then enter into the fullness of the eternal kingdom. This is why Jesus said that we are to be in the world, not of the world because we are to be in the kingdom that he ushered in when he became incarnate and dwelt among us.

Sacred Worship

So we are to be in the world but living in the kingdom. By living in the kingdom now we show the world the hope and glory of the Gospel. This in turn shows that we live what we believe in; this is in fact what we are called to do! This Advent season is a time in the church calendar to help remind us that the way to prepare for the coming of the Lord is to live as if we are with Jesus in His kingdom, which in fact we already are!!

May the Peace of the Lord be always with You!
Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer

St Francis uses Flocknote to send emails to our parishioners with notices and information. If you do not receive these notices, we do not have your email.



Please put it in the offering plate with your name, or call the church office 565-0648

Then watch your emails!!!



Childcare Available

Child Care is Available each Sunday from 8:30am.

Please see an Usher for location.

Thank you to all you have been so generous in your giving and prayer for our new location.



Of course if any of you have done remodeling, you will know there are always unexpected expenses.

St Francis has had some of those: Nursery items, additional kitchen storage, extra window coverings for safety, etc. If you have not given, now would be an excellent time to do so. If you already have.....could you do a little more?

We pray you will be called to help in some way during this transition.



<http://stocktonanglican.org/sermons/>

Daily Office Resource

<http://legereme.com/office>



Sundays

9:30am St Francis of Assisi

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month

2pm O'Connor Woods Chapel
3400 Wagner Heights Rd, Stockton

St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church

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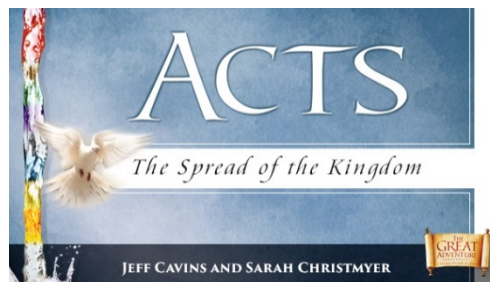
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Serious Discipleship

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stocktonanglican.org



Beginning November 12th at 8:30am
See Deacon Jeff or Cyndi Telander for
more info. Study Guide \$28

Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>

Diocesan Newsletter:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/san-joaquin-anglican.html>



Lorraine Hitchcock is offering a
Women's Bible Study to begin in
January.

The study is of Jesus "I AM" Statements from the
book of John.



Choir: Upcoming Rehearsals:
December 3

Coffee Hour Hosts: See Cat Rhodes

Altar Guild:
Cleaning - December 22nd @9am

Daughters: December 9th

Bishop's Committee Meeting: Sun, Dec 17th

Other Ministry Opportunities

Acolyte
Lector
Prayer Team
Collection Counter
Hospitality
Usher
Flowers
Homebound Ministry
Senior Ministry



December 3rd

Isaiah 64:1-9a

Psalm 80

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

December 10th

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85

2 Peter 3:8-18

Mark 1:1-8

December 17th

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

John 3:22-30

December 24th

2 Samuel 7:1-17 Psalm 132:1-19

Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

December 31st

Isaiah 61:10—62:5 Psalm 147:13-21

Galatians 3:23—4:7 John 1:1-18

Selfless Service

Under the Freeway Ministry the First Saturday of Every Month

Our ladies are always in need of ladies toiletries, such as small shampoos, deodorants, lotions, lip balms, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc, underwear as such. See Samantha Towne for more info. This is an awesome ministry to the homeless women of Stockton.

This ministry piggy backs on the Downtown Feeding of the Homeless on the First Saturday of the Month.

See Deacon Jeff for more details



October

Steve and Agnes Olmsted in Celebration for the baby shower for Christina Dillon Boone

November

Rachel Allanigue in memory of her dad, Ismael and her brother, Cesar



December

- 11th Hester Showalter - Warren Osgood
- 11th Melva - Cliff Kenst
- 17th Patsy - Wife of Lee Atwater
- 28th Bill Eich - Husband of Gloria Eich



Don't forget to sign the cards on the back table for our homebound and sick



December

- 1st Jose Rosal Sr
- 2nd Marianne Berghuis
- 5th Augustine Nwaogu
- 7th Rachel Allanigue
- 10th Helen Arcala
- 13th Ken Berry
- 15th Carol Sherwood
- 24th Leroy Goulart
- 28th Mary Sigwart
- 29th Agnes Olmsted



December

- 22nd Mr & Mrs Phillip Giambastiani



December 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Advent I 9:30 Holy Eucharist	4	5	6	7	8	9 Bishop to Consecrate our New Space 9:30am Daughters of the Holy Cross
10 Advent II 9:30 Holy Eucharist	11	12	13 2pm O'Connor Woods Mass	14	15	16
17 Advent III 9:30 Holy Eucharist Bishop's Committee Meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Advent IV 9:30 Holy Eucharist Christmas Eve 6:30pm Caroling 7pm Holy Eucharist	25 Christmas Day 9:30am Holy Eucharist	26	27 2pm O'Connor Woods Mass	28	29	30
31 Christmas I 9:30 Holy Eucharist						

The Messenger
 Published monthly by
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 Editor - Staff
 The Rev. Woodrow Gubuan - Vicar & Publisher
 Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer
 Kimberly Combs - Parish Administrator
 Bishop's Committee:
 '17 Nancy Thomas, Bill Aaron
 '18 Jim Telander, Rachel Allanigue
 '19 Mike Combs, Mike Finney



Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve –
 6:30pm Caroling
 7pm Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day –
 9:30am Holy Eucharist

The Bishop's Visit



Our Bishop will be with us on Saturday, December 9th at 9:30am to Dedicate and Consecrate our New Church Space.

This will be a special service beginning in the courtyard with all of us standing outside and our Bishop knocking on the door and driving out all evil spirits.

He will then proceed in to bless all of our liturgical furniture.

It will be a most joyous occasion as we can now celebrate our own new Worship Space, Fellowship Hall and Office.

What a Blessing this is!





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