



HARK! THE HERALD

The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA

July 2016



From the Pastor's Desk

As I write this article, I am just over a week from my wedding. I appreciate the prayers and support from St. Luke's in this wonderful but very busy season of preparation. Since marriage is very much on my mind these days, I thought it would be appropriate to write about it in this month's *Herald*. Many of you have been married for decades (and thus may not feel you have much to learn about marriage from a soon-to-be newlywed), while others are single or widowed (and may feel that marriage has little relevance for you right now).

However, marriage is significant for us all. Why? The beginning of the wedding service puts it this way:

Almighty God established the bond and covenant of marriage in creation, as a sign of the mystical union between Christ and his Church. Our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and it is commended by Holy Scripture to be held in honor among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind was ordained by God: for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; for their mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the up building of his kingdom in family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name.

Marriage serves as a "sign of the mystical union between Christ and his Church" for all believers. You do not have to be married to see this sign. Rather it is by reflecting on the meaning of marriage, and seeing the marriages of others, that we learn what it means for the Church to be the bride of Christ. Meanwhile, for those who are married, the calling of God is to seek to live out your marriage as a sign of Christ's love for His bride. Have you thought lately about how your marriage represents the love that God has for His church?

Note also the blessing of marriage. It is the natural and blessed context for children, both for having them and for raising them. It is the right and blessed context for sex, which maintains "purity" and allows us to serve as "holy and undefiled" when it is found within marriage (this is important to mention because so often Christians talk about sex only in a negative sense by discussing it only in the contexts in which it is forbidden). Finally, marriage is about "mutual joy...help and comfort." This is an emphasis that was added by Thomas Cranmer (the first Anglican archbishop). Previously, marriage was emphasized as a way to have children and avoid sin, but the joy and comfort of partnership was too often missed. Cranmer recognized that life can be challenging, even painful. Marriage is intended to help in the midst of those burdens. It may not remove those burdens, but it is a gift in the midst of them.

(Cont.)

Movies and television often portray marriage as if it is supposed to be easy. If you find the right person, you will experience never-ending romance and constant happiness. That is nonsense, of course. On the other hand, I recently read a Christian book that made marriage sound like something that is good for your soul but pretty unpleasant to experience. Neither one is the case. Archbishop Cranmer reminds us that marriage is a gift to aide in both our holiness and our happiness. The beauty of this is that we can hope that marriage will be that gift, while working toward improving marriages when it is not. We do not have to expect everything to be perfect or despair when it is not. With God's guidance and grace, and with the support of our church family, we can work towards marriages that are truly God's gift.



You are Invited...

to celebrate the marriage of Fr. Ryan and Juliet Bradley at a reception in their honor on July 16th, 2—4 pm, at St. Luke's Norvell Hall.

Tote Bag Project

Look out for the new TOTE BAG project soon! Yes, the color is blue to match our St. Luke's T-shirts.

This is another way we can introduce ourselves to the community at large. Nancy Wickstrom will handle details!

Thanks, Church Growth Commission

Bringing Christmas to 3000 Women

Thank you to those bringing articles for women in the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla. We have until the first week of December. There is a flyer in Norvell Hall and the Narthex explaining the entire program. Call Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert if you have more questions.



Christian Nurture at St. Luke's

Sundays

Children's Church meets in Norvell Hall during the worship service and is for children in the primary grades. They follow a liturgy designed for them that is based on the gospel lesson for that Sunday.

Currently on Summer Break.

Church Growth Commission

Church Growth Commission will meet on Saturday, July 9, 2016, 10:00am in the Emma Hunt Room. Please consider joining us.

We meet the second Saturday of every month for an hour. Add yourself to Shirley's email list (Luke22936@aol.com) or call 722-4782. Blessings, Shirley



Up-Coming Events

JULY 1 – First Friday Family Fellowship 6—8 pm @ the Olson's 6015 N. Country Club Place, Merced
Bring an appetizer and drink.
Nancy 756-1098

July 3 – Sisters of Prayer
10:30 am

July 4 — Office Closed

July 9 —Growth Commission 10 am

July 12—Men's Night Out
6—8 pm
3161 Austin Ave. Merced
Richard 383-2164
Ray 723-2358

July 16—Wedding Reception Fr. Ryan & Juliet

July 17 —Worship Commission 11 am

Pantry News

Please remember donating to the pantry either with non-perishable items or else with money in an envelope marked "Pantry fund." We are counting on each of you during these vacation months. Blessings!



Coffee Hour

Several years ago, the Vestry approved some limited funds for reimbursing contributions to the coffee hour. Few people requested these reimbursements, but they still created a variety of challenges and difficulties, as we could never guarantee the amount of reimbursement (since it was dependent on how many requested it) and there was ongoing confusion about what the reimbursements covered. As a result, we will no longer be able to offer any reimbursements for the coffee hour. We appreciate your generosity. We know that some of you are able to contribute food, others are able to set-up or clean-up after coffee hour, and others serve outside the coffee hour. Please continue to give and serve at St. Luke's in whatever way you are most able.

Blessings,

Fr. Ryan

Diocese of San Joaquin Defense Fund

Make check payable to St. Luke's Church, earmarked for the Defense Fund.

By representing the Diocese, they are representing us.

Remember them in your prayers during the appeal process.

News from the Diocese may be found at:
www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net.

Coffee Hour Ministry

JULY 3 Jani Clarke, Connie Baumgartner

JULY 10 Linda Meyer, Ada Causa

JULY 17 Trudy Holck, Darby Minutrn,
Sylvia Bankson

JULY 24 Please sign up in Norvell Hall

JULY 31 Men

Weekly Services

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion [Children's Church meets during the Service]

Church Staff

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, Archbishop,
Anglican Church in North America

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Eric Vawter Menees, Bishop

The Rev. Ryan Bradley, Rector, E-mail: rector@stlukesmerced.org

Mrs. Mady Montague, Choir Director; Mrs. Marilynne Isenberg, Organist

Mrs. Patti McClain, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Sue Linardos, Sexton

Members of the Vestry

Class of 2016

Mrs. Sylvia Bankson, Mr. Richard Blank, Mr. Fred Dutton

Class of 2017

Mrs. Linda Meyer, Sr. Warden; Mr. Mike Waite, Jr. Warden; Mr. Rob Mercurio

Class of 2018

Mr. Ed Gardner, Mrs. Kathy Hill, Mrs. Maria Laurel

Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Treasurer; Mr. Jim Hill, Clerk

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Norman Montague, Calvin Nixon, Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert; Karlyne Paul, alternate.

Contact Us

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ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR
HARK! THE HERALD IS THE
20TH OF EACH MONTH.

Send articles to:

office@stlukesmerced.org

Visit us at our website:

www.stlukesmerced.org

A Welcoming Family...Worshipping Christ...Sharing His love with others

St. Luke's Anglican Church

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Merced, CA 95348

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