

Rector's Report January 2023 (submitted Jan 22)

- It was only a couple days after last month's vestry meeting that a 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit Humboldt County, leaving thousands without power. Since our church was still without power on Tuesday evening Dec 20, 2022, we decided to postpone that evening's scheduled Soup Supper. We intend to offer Kathryn DeLorme's final presentation on the Prayer Labyrinth on Shrove Tuesday Feb 21 at 5:30 PM. In the meantime, you can watch an audio and video recording of her previous presentations here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDtYKdRbEHQ&list=PLvn6cuSUjruPzmFvb30OtcD3hniTyrb00>.
- Despite the earthquake, we enjoyed record attendance at our Christ Mass service, held on Christmas Eve at 7 PM rather than the previous year's times of 8 or 10 PM. Apparently, some people travelled all the way from Redding to attend our service. The livestream recording has been viewed 190 times, which ranks it among the top ten most viewed videos of 2022: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3gv4c9YPG8>
- We also enjoyed record attendance on Christmas Day, which fell on a Sunday this year. We gave the stream team a break on Christmas Day, but I recorded the audio of my sermon, which can be read here: <https://deforestlondon.wordpress.com/2022/12/26/a-very-good-gift/>. (A former member of St. Alban's Albany CA, where I completed my Ministry Study Year with the Rev. Canon Julie Wakelee in 2010, shared both of my Xmas sermons with a Roman Catholic priest and told me that he was enriched and inspired by them both).
- On Thursday January 5, Ashley and I delivered four bedroom bins (packed by Nellie, the Pattons, the Smithler kids and Steve P.) to St. Francis Fortuna, where they have been made available to people in need at the Rio Del Community Center.



- Also on January 5th, [Sacred Ground](#) participants from Christ Church and St. Alban's gathered in the Heritage Room for Session Five of the Film-Based Dialogue Series on Race and Faith, which focused on Exploring Latino History. The Christ Church members currently participating in Sacred Ground are Paul Gossard, Catherine Mace, the Rev. Anne Pierson, Thomas Swanger, Jannetje Vrieze, and myself.

- On Friday January 6 (Epiphany), I led a graveside committal service for Audrey Jennifer Maurer Wells, who was the daughter of Jennie S. Maurer, a longtime Altar Guild Directress. The window in the Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour was dedicated to her brother, Frederick John Maurer. One of Audrey's daughters Tracey Wells serves as the Executive Assistant of PROVIDENCE St. Joseph and Redwood Memorial Hospitals. She had met Deacon Lisa Jacoby when Lisa was working as the Chief Mission Officer at PROVIDENCE and was grateful for the pastoral ministry of the Episcopal Church.
- Also, on Friday January 6, several parishioners and friends gathered in Lewis Hall for an Epiphany Party, organized by Mother Lesley. I chalked the Lewis Hall doors before we enjoyed a dinner including lasagna and other delicious dishes. Mother Lesley led us in an Epiphany Quiz and Merry provided piano accompaniment as we sang "We Three Kings" and "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Merry discovered the baby Jesus in her slice of the Rosca de Reyes (Kings Cake).
- On Saturday January 7, the Times Standard published an article titled "Local Clergy Share Hopes, Wishes for New Year," which includes quotes from Rabbi Naomi Steinberg, Pastor Tyrel Bramwell, the Rev. Nancy Streufert, and myself, among some others. The church office received a call from Glenda Hesseltine, a local Tai Chi instructor, who expressed deep appreciation for my comments on *Metta* (lovingkindness) in the article. She said that she previously taught Tai Chi at Christ Church and would be open to offering Tai Chi here again when her schedule permits. Here is the Times Standard article: <https://www.times-standard.com/2023/01/07/local-clergy-share-hopes-wishes-for-new-year/>
- On Sunday January 8, after the 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, several parishioners gathered outside to help me bless and chalk the front doors.



- On Tuesday January 10, the Sabbatical Planning Team met, and I shared an early draft of the Sabbatical Guide for the parish. We are discussing the possibility of giving the stream team a sabbatical/break during the summer.
- On Saturday January 14, I co-led a daylong retreat on zoom for Associates of the Community of the Transfiguration on Spiritual Friendship with Dr. Paul Houston Blankenship, an adjunct

professor at Seattle University. During the retreat, I shared an early draft of a distillation of the first part of St. Aelred of Rievaulx's book "Spiritual Friendship."



- On Sunday January 15, we hosted an organ concert featuring Ken Cowan, who serves as the artist-in-residence and senior organist at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston TX, where I worshipped while visiting my father at MD Anderson. (See Rector's Report February 2020 <https://christchurcheureka.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/rectore28099s-report-february-2020.pdf>). We had at least 138 people attend the concert, which is likely another attendance record. Ashley and I enjoyed spending more time with Ken Cowan and members of the concert committee at Bayfront One on Sunday evening.



- On Tuesday January 17, the Labyrinth Team met and continued discussing possibilities for building an outdoor labyrinth on the McCarthy Meadow.
- On Thursday January 19, the Sacred Ground participants met online for Session 6 (of 11) in which we explored Asian/ Pacific American History as well as the practice of lament.