



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

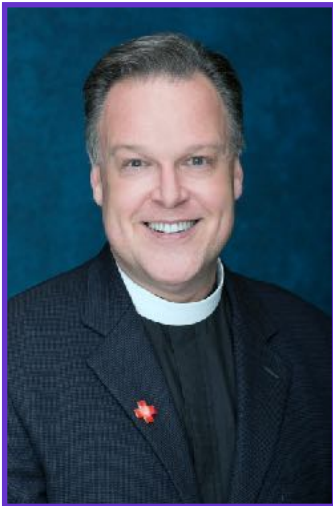
Aug-Sep, 2023

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Discernment—A Most Important Christian Spiritual Practice



"Discernment, the Christian practice of seeking God's call in the midst of the decisions that mark one's life, may very well be the single most important Christian spiritual practice for dealing with our contemporary dilemma." --

Elizabeth Liebert, Author of *The Way of Discernment*

In this fall Kickoff and Home Gathering edition of our Church newsletter, we start off with the theme for this new quarter upon us: **Discernment**. There are a lot of issues going on in our everyday lives as Christians today. We as parishioners of Blessed Sacrament are given an extra dose of transition and decision-making that is happening right now in our government and society, in our local community, in our personal lives, and in the life of our parish.

The extra dose of transition in our parish is all of us embarking on the new ministry on our campus: **Santa Angelina Senior Housing Community**. Our Vestry has just concluded a weekend retreat called **Discernment: Seeking God in Confusing Times**. Our time together included the requirement and importance of discernment and the prerequisite to see what God has in store for us as we move forward in this vital ministry for our community. We also discussed through our discernment process about our Mission

Statement in our parish and how to better define it as we move forward.

Spiritual discernment refers to the ability to perceive and understand spiritual truths and insights, and to receive guidance from them. It involves a deep understanding of spiritual matters and our relationship to God. We as Episcopalians often refer to the "three-legged stool" for such insight for living, as we look to Scripture, Tradition and Reason for discernment in the life of the Church and in our personal wellbeing. We as Christians who practice spiritual discernment seek to understand the will of our Lord and divine wisdom through underlying spiritual sources and realities that influence our lives and decisions.

According to Elizabeth Liebert, a discerning member in Christ is "a person who seeks, in all that he or she does, that which better responds to God's call in the moment. A discerning person begins to desire what God desires more than any other created reality." During the next three months, we will be involved in such participation through our Worship, Sacred Book Study, fall and winter one-day retreats for both our Angelinos and our Angelinas, our Daily Devotion, Bible Study topics and more.

The way of Discernment is the way for decision making and renewal. As members of the Body of Christ, let us together spiritually "sort out" and "sift through" what the Spirit of the living God is calling us to do in all of our 18 ministries in our parish. In discerning together, let us work together through God's amazing Grace and fully participate in the involvement of our full humanity and our full communion with God.

In Christ,
Fr. Barrett

Guess Who?

Thanks to all who voted for last month's "Guess Who". The correct answer is our own Leo Song, Jr. The lucky winner of the \$10 Starbucks gift certificate is Carol Ann Miller.

This month's "Guess Who" is a beloved member of our Congregation. Not only is he beloved, but he is also "high energy" and Blessed Sacrament would be hard pressed to survive without him.

Please Email or call Patty Bell at pbell@bscplacentia.org or 714-528-2995 with your guess. The lucky winner will receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card and be announced in the next Bethlehem.

Good Luck???



Outreach

June, 2023

Soles 4 Souls

The Blessed Sacrament Outreach committee asked, and our parishioners responded with a donation of 94 pairs of shoes. Thank you for your generosity.

All of the shoes from our drive will go into micro-enterprise programs in developing countries around the world. These programs serve as long-term opportunities to break the cycle of poverty for those in need. When the shoes arrive, they are sorted and, together with our partners, we determine where they need to be sent to make the most impact.

Episcopal Relief and Development

The church received a beautiful thank you letter from President and CEO Robert W. Radtke.

"Thank you for your gift of \$1,515 to Episcopal Relief and Development.

Today and over the past few years, our world has faced unimaginable challenges. The magnitude of suffering, illness and loss, resulting from the global pandemic and increasingly frequent disasters, defies belief. It has also exposed some underlying conditions that we have long addressed - hunger, lack of access to health services, economic insecurity and environmental challenges. These conditions continue to ravage many parts of the world, particularly impacting the most marginalized people. Your vital support helps us rise to meet these challenges and make a real difference in the lives of so many. Your gift has been applied to the program assisting Turkey - Syria Earthquake victims."

Laundry Love

On June 15, 2023, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 38 clients, doing 323 loads, spending \$512.50 (\$1.59/load, \$13.49/client, 8.5 loads/client). CLC contributed \$20 cash. The Busy Bee Laundry employees were Beatrix and Odulia, substituting for Maria. The Blessed Sacrament volunteers were Tom Johnson, Marion Lee, and Doug Lee. About 20 8 fl. oz. bottles of hand sanitizer contributed by Sheila Jordan, CLC Asst. Director, were given out. Thanks very much to

July, 2023 Laundry Love

On July 20, 2023, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 52 clients, doing 470 loads, spending \$735.00 (9.03 loads/client, \$14.13/client, \$1.56/load). Tom Johnson, Marion Lee, and Doug Lee assisted Maria, the Busy Bee Laundry employee, in serving the clients. 48 8 oz. bottles of hand sanitizer donated by Sheila Jordan, the CLC Assistant Director, were given out. CLC donated \$20. Detergent provided free by [EarthBreeze.com](https://www.earthbreeze.com) was used. Thanks very much to all supporters.

Ed note: above delayed due to lack of space in June-July Bethlehem.

August, 2023 Laundry Love

On August 17, 2023, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 62 clients, doing 497 loads, spending \$816.50 (\$13.17/person, 8.0 loads/person, \$1.64/load). Marianne Weisel contributed 22 ladies' shirts. We offered one per client. seven were taken. CLC contributed \$20. Nine coloring books and nine boxes of crayons were given to children. Busy Bee employees Odulia and Beatrix led Blessed Sacrament volunteers Tom Johnson, Marion Lee, and Doug Lee in assisting clients. Free detergent from [Earthbreeze.com](https://www.earthbreeze.com) was used. Thanks very much to all supporters.

Yours very truly,

August, 2023, Veterans Village

Our small and mighty parish family gathered items: laundry "PODS", Quarters to wash and dry, paper towels and TP. We received a laundry basket too. Mercy Housing built this 49-unit building, for those having served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and/or Marines. While delivering the items, we chatted with one of the vets, who waited one year for her apartment and was beyond grateful. As always, thank you Blessed Sacrament family members.



September, 2023

Steven Stenersen, Marine and Student Services Specialist/ Peer Mentor at Santiago Canyon College's Veterans Resource Center, said "Vets are not accustomed to asking for help; therefore, sometimes they do without." However, in this picture one can see the magnitude of items donated by our generous parishioners when we celebrated "Christmas in July for Veterans". Steven's job is to inform college staff especially professors that Veterans may not have the same attributes students who have not served in the military. When Vets visit his office, Steven encourages students to ask and receive help.

The picture shows Teri Niebuhr one of the Outreach Chair(s) along with Eric Miller Marine Reservist (left) and owner of All American Brew Works, and Steven Stenersen, Marine, and Student Services Specialist/ Peer Mentor in the Veterans Resource Center at the Santiago Canyon College. Steven and Eric collaborate and raise funds for the Student Veterans.



Luminaria Chamber Singers



The Luminaria Chamber Singers at their Sunday evening presentation on August 6, 2023. Left to right: Sara Minton, Courtney Countryman Poteet, Patty Bell, Deborah Carter, Desha Dunnahoe, Melanie Hagen-Ching, Ashley Mangino, Natasha Pittle, and Alexandre Rei Legaspi with Brigitte Bellavoine, directing. Not pictured: Aimee Aul, offstage. Pix by Jack Patterson.

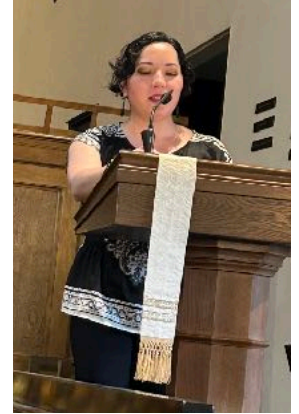
The Luminaria Chamber Singers was honored to present a concert of gorgeous music honoring the sacred journey of parenthood, including pieces paying respects to Mary and Joseph, the earthly mother and father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The evening featured a choral ensemble of women who are incredible musicians, poetry by female poets, and instrumental music played by wonderful flautist and parishioner Aimee Aul. One of the most meaningful pieces on the program was a lullaby written by ensemble member Deborah Carter, and co-arranged by Artistic Director Brigitte Bellavoine, and guitarist Desha Dunnahoe. We give thanks to God for the gifts He has given in providing us with caring families, beautiful music, and a wonderful community in which to share these gifts. Ed note: Thank you, Brigitte Bellavoine for this story.



From left: Aimee Aul, flute and Brigitte Bellavoine, piano. Next: Desha Dunnahoe, guitar.



Wide Angle Music!



Left to right: Deborah Reber Carter performs her original lullaby "A Mother's Prayer" arranged by Brigitte Bellavoine and Desha Dunnahoe. Patty Bell reads "O Sapientia" by renowned Christian writer Madeleine L'Engle. Natasha Pittle reads "Earliest Memory" by Sharon Olds, published by Knopf in her 1996 book The Wellspring. On right, Courtney Countryman Poteet reading "Before the Birth of One of Her Children" by Anne Bradstreet. In addition to the poetry and choral music, the concert featured flute interludes written by either J.S. Bach or his son C.P.E. Bach, or possibly both as a father-son collaboration, according to historical research.



A well deserved standing ovation. Well done!

THE HONORING OF OUR CLC TEACHERS



On August 27, 2023, at the 9:15 a.m. mass, we had a wonderful church service where we took some additional time in order to honor our CLC teachers. We had special music presented by some of our CLC students along with a time of gift giving and recognition of how long each teacher has been serving the CLC, and a sacred time of anointing each teacher with holy oil as Fr. Barrett blessed them.



Our regular coffee hour was SUPER CHARGED! Karen Laufer & Laura Belonax prepared a large assortment of appetizers and delicious desserts. The room was beautifully decorated by Beverly Cardwell and we can't leave out the delectable cookies provided by Teri Niebuhr. Lots of laughter and smiles filled our little temporary parish hall. We actually spilled out into one of the adjacent classrooms. Fun was had by all.

Blessed Sacrament Celebrates and Thanks Tracie Donaldson for her 25 years of Service to the Children's Learning Center

On Sunday, August 27, Blessed Sacrament had a wonderful celebration in honor of Tracie Donaldson on her 25th anniversary as Director of the Children's Learning Center. See the pictures below. We also asked Tracie two questions about her time as the Director.

1) What does she like best about her position?

Tracie responded: Honestly the best part of my time here at school is the children. I'm sure this is probably the expected answer, and, in my case, it is definitely true. Nothing beats a hug or a "I love you" from a child to brighten my day. Knowing that we are a safe place and knowing that each child knows that they are loved is what matters the most to me.

The last couple years one of the best things is having my daughter work here at school (who also went to preschool here) and having my own grandson here with us. I am truly blessed to be doing something that I love, and the relationships I have made with my staff & the parishioners is what makes it easy to come to work.

2) How has the CLC changed in the last 25 years?

Tracie responded: Wow where do I start! When we first started here 25 years ago, we had a total of 4 classrooms. We had 3 classrooms set up in the parish hall with dividers and we used the nursery. We would have to pack the classrooms up every weekend and every Monday put it all back together. With hard work & prayer we were finally able to get our classrooms built on the property (not without a fight from neighbors) some who even picketed outside our school. Now we have grown to 6 classes and are a well-known pre-school in Placentia. Our connection with Blessed Sacrament has also grown throughout the years. We are one with the church, & we are in this together to support and help each other when needed. I always say our school is like "The Little Blue Engine That Could" and if we just keep thinking "I think I can I think I can" we can make it through anything!



A special gift and cake for Tracie for 25 years of service at CLC!



EPISCOPAL-LUTHERAN NIGHT AT DODGER STADIUM



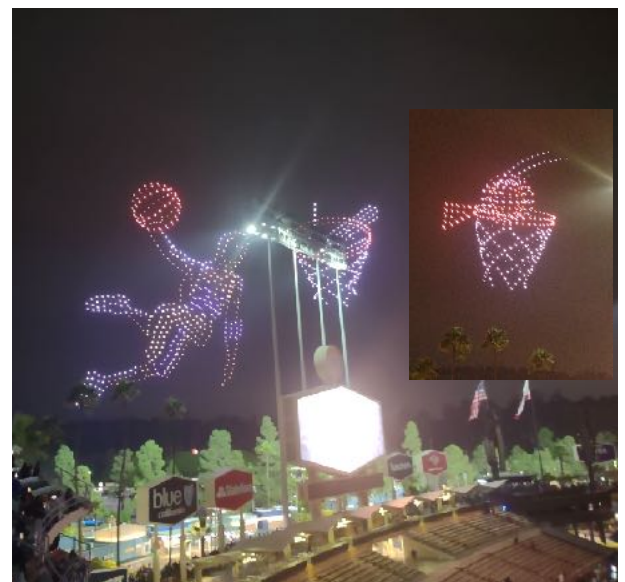
Highlights

Bishop John Taylor enjoyed greeting various members of our parish and had some fun discussions with others in our reserved section of other parishes and missions represented. One of the special moments of the game was the fast ball captured in red circle....."

Gathering on field for light show honoring our Lakers and the late Kobe Bryant in a fantastic drone light show.

Both teams played well with several key double plays, but the Dodgers could not hit the ball to score until the last third where they got 3 runs but not enough to catch up to the 6 by the Braves.

About 1000 from our diocese were at the game!



Dear Church Family,

As you may have heard, I am stepping down from my role as church music director. As my good friend Mr. Fred Rogers says, "You rarely have time for everything you want in this life, so you need to make choices. And hopefully your choices can come from a deep sense of who you are."

I have loved directing the music at Blessed Sacrament for the past few years, but now I believe my most important work is to be the best mom I can be to my daughter, and that means making the choice to work less and to prioritize rest and family time as these childhood years fly by. Though I am stepping back from the church music ministry, I have accepted an opportunity with CLC as their preschool music teacher, which means I will get to spend time each week singing with Ivy and her friends. I can't wait to get started next week, and I pray that my work at the CLC may become the seeds of a children's choir at Blessed Sacrament one day.

Being a church music director was a calling I longed to fulfill for many years, and I am ever grateful to Fr. Barrett and the musicians and good people of our parish, past and present, who helped me grow in my gifts as a singer and conductor. When I started, I did not have very much experience conducting, but I was encouraged by good friends like JoAnne and Nancy who told me to "start where you are, use what you have, do what you can." I am particularly indebted to Sandy Fryling, our former organist who first introduced me to Anglican worship. I still remember wandering around the church property during my first winter in the choir, with beautiful melodies and text floating through my mind and nourishing my heart, thinking how happy I was to have found a home at Blessed Sacrament. I am so grateful for all the music that has been possible when we combined our forces during the difficult years of in-between rectors; and I am full of joy today that we have a priest and leaders who prioritize this vital aspect of our worship.

I am eager to continue singing in the choir and assisting Brigitte however I can be helpful; and I am so very excited to sing under her direction. I believe the HOly Spirit is upon Brigitte in this calling, and I look forward to seeing how the music ministry will blossom under her care. Thank you, Brigitte, for not only sharing your brilliant musical gifts, but your heart of love and service to God and our church.

A passage that comes to mind when I consider church ministry is from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians where he says "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters in anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

Many people are watering our church in all kinds of ways. I am grateful for our many ministries that make Jesus visible to our community. May the Lord bless you all in your labors, and help you to discover and to grow your gifts, whatever they may be.

Yours in Christ,
Ashley



Autumnal Equinox occurs at 23Sep2023@0650:00UTC/22Sep2023@2350:00PDT



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