



Episcopal
Diocese of
Northern
California

E News

News from the Diocese and Wider Church

December 7, 2021

Around the Diocese

Afghan refugee family has a new home thanks to Incarnation, Santa Rosa



Last month the vestry at Incarnation, Santa Rosa, were working to find a renter for Incarnation's vacant rectory, as rector Stephen Shaver and his family had recently moved into their own home. Just as the property was being listed, the vestry learned through the local interfaith community that a family newly evacuated from Afghanistan were in need of a home.

Seven members of the family were evacuated from Kabul just a few weeks ago. They had been staying at a US government processing center in Texas until a couple of weeks ago, when they arrived in Santa Rosa and were reunited with the oldest son and with the patriarch of the family. The son has been in the US for a few years; a few months ago, he was able to get his father out of Afghanistan. The seven include the family's mother, one sister (expecting a baby), her husband, and four brothers. They were at the Kabul airport when the bombings occurred and were lucky to have escaped with their lives. [Read more](#)

Office of the Bishop

Rodgers named to lead development of laity and clergy in scripture and worship.

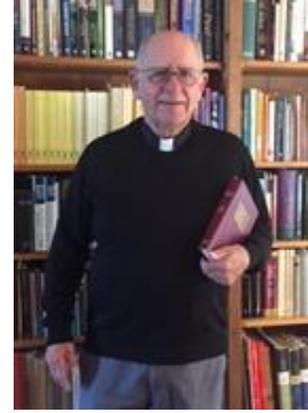
Bishop Megan is pleased to announce that **The Rev. Peter Rodgers** has agreed to lead and facilitate programs that will support diocesan laity and clergy in their understanding of scripture and worship.

His work will entail three tasks: **Explorations, Conversations, and Celebrations.**

Explorations: Each week in the Diocese E News, Rev. Rodgers

will write a short, weekly exploration on the Gospel of Luke, designed to help Lay Preachers, Bible Study leaders, Sunday school teachers, etc. who follow the lectionary. These will explore Luke's particular emphases in the larger biblical story.

Conversations: Each month, "Conversations on 1 Peter" will help people to a deeper understanding of this letter, which is the text chosen for biblical focus for the Lambeth Conference. These conversations will be posted on the Center for Bible Study website.



Celebrations: Rodgers will facilitate two Celebrations of Lay Ministry – One in the spring and the other in the early fall. These two online conferences, via Zoom, will seek to encourage laity in their ministries.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Peter Rodgers to this new role.

Peter Rodgers is Vicar of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Antelope, CA. He is the author of several books, including *Text and Story*, *Exploring the Old Testament in the New*, *The Scribes*, and *The Sign of the Dolphin*. He holds degrees from Hobart College, General Theological Seminary and Oxford University. Before coming to Northern California, he was Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, New Haven Ct. Peter and his wife Kathy live in Carmichael, CA. He has six children and seven grandchildren. He is an award-winning watercolor painter.

Trinity Cathedral

Difficult Words of Jesus: An Advent Study

Bud Swank will lead a conversational Zoom class on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm during Advent. We'll prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ Child by thinking together about some of the hard-to-understand teachings of the grown-up Jesus.

Each session will launch with some thoughts from *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A beginner's guide to his most perplexing teachings* by Amy-Jill Levine; from there we'll go wherever the discussion leads us.

- **December 7** | *Who may we look down upon?*
- **December 14** | *What did Jesus mean about Hell?*
- **December 21** | *Did Jesus teach us to hate "the Jews"?*

Please email shotchkiss@trinitycathedral.org to register.

Thursday Night at the Cathedral - Advent 2021 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

- **December 9** – An Advent Craft-We will gather on zoom to do a craft together. Packets will be available for pickup on Sunday or mailed to you on request.
 - **December 16** – Join a Trinity Cathedral tradition for all ages *in person*. Singing of carols and viewing of "A Christmas Carol" in the Assembly Area with popcorn, hot chocolate and other treats.
-

Job Opportunities Around the Diocese

St. Patrick's | Kenwood is seeking an organist/pianist. Click [here](#) for more

information.

St. Paul's | Sacramento is seeking a **Music Director**.

Read the job announcement [here](#).

St. Paul's | Benicia is seeking a **Contemporary Music Leader**

For more information, click [here](#).

Commission for Intercultural Ministries

Afghan Resettlement Update

Refugees are arriving continuously in Sacramento and surrounding communities. Thousands more will be arriving in 2022. **International Rescue Committee** and **World Relief**, our agency partners, are focused on securing housing (temporary and permanent), cold weather gear, and job related equipment and supplies for our new neighbors. Most arrive with one suitcase and really need our help.

In the Diocese, churches and individuals are donating money and needed goods. Several churches have designated Afghan Resettlement for their Advent giving. **St John's, Petaluma** and **Incarnation, Santa Rosa** have embraced Afghan families who have settled in their cities and are helping them with housing, food, ESL courses, and all the tasks necessary to get settled in a new country. St John's hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner for all 8 families.

Everyone can help. Check out the [Ways to Help](#) flyer for details.

Episcopal Relief and Development

Double the impact of donations made before the end of 2021!

Episcopal Relief & Development has announced that all donations until the end of the year will be doubled, thanks to the generosity of a group of donors. The matching funds will apply to **Gifts for Life** selections and **One Thousand Days of Love** selections. The matching funds will be sent to the global fund.

To donate or learn more, visit:

episcopalrelief.org



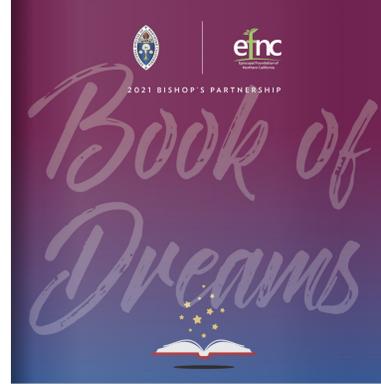
**ONE THOUSAND
DAYS OF LOVE** ❤️

Episcopal Foundation

The 2021 Bishop's Partnership Appeal

***Book of Dreams* is live!**

Click [here](#) to view the book and learn more about how to donate to these projects.



Spiritual Formation

Explorations in the Gospel of Luke | The Rev. Peter Rodgers

Advent 3, December 12, 2021

Luke 3:11. *Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.*

Social justice has been an essential part of the Christian gospel from the beginning, and it has its roots in the Old Testament, especially the prophets. John's address to specific groups of people spoke to the inequalities in the society of Israel (income inequality, for example) and these are still with us in contemporary society. The good news John preached, and Jesus embodied, included Social Justice. In the long quotation from Isaiah 40 (see last week's Gospel reading) the reference to valleys, hills, crooked and rough places have a social application, since many people find all kinds of barriers to getting ahead in today's world (or even breaking even). The mountains are too high, the valleys too deep, the crooked and rough places people face on every side are debilitating. This is especially true for the poor. Jesus came to bring justice to the oppressed. Two passages that were at the very heart of his mission were Isaiah 42:1-9. (note the double reference to justice!) and Isaiah 61:1-4. (good tidings to the poor). We shall encounter these two passages again in our explorations of Luke. I have found it an uplifting spiritual discipline to read Isaiah 40-66 during Advent. These chapters especially prefigure Jesus, the Servant of the Lord, whose coming promises liberty and justice for all.

Diocesan Commissions | Committees | Ministries

[Commission for Intercultural Ministries](#)

[Commission on Ministry](#)

[Christian Formation Committee](#)

[Episcopal Community Services](#)

[Ministries of Health Committee](#)

[Investment Fund Committee](#)

[Disaster Preparedness](#)

[Recovery Ministries](#)

[Episcopal Foundation of Northern California](#)

[Center for Bible Study](#)

The *ENews* is published weekly on Tuesdays.
To submit news/events, please email
communications@norcalepiscopal.org by Wednesday
of the prior week

[Submit a Calendar Event](#)

The Episcopal Diocese *of Northern California*

Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ

www.norcalepiscopal.org

