



DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of April 13, 2021

From The Wider Episcopal Church

A Year in the Life is a new web series from The Episcopal Church that documents how Episcopal churches, schools, and ministries have navigated a very contentious and difficult year. New episodes of *A Year in the Life* will be released every two weeks beginning on April 20.



Filmed using COVID-safe protocols, *A Year in the Life* covers topics like food insecurity, education, worship through restrictions, clergy calls, and more. Each episode will include reflection materials to help the viewer consider how the last year or so has affected them and their neighbors.

A Year in the Life is a project from The Episcopal Church Office of Communication. [Click here for more information.](#)

Around the Diocese

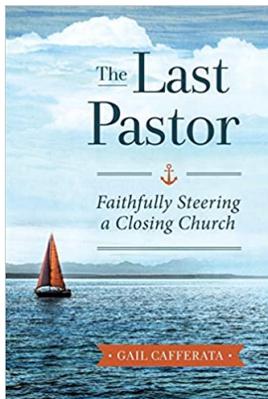


“Flying” Bishop Blesses Solar Panels

Bishop Megan blessed the solar panels at the Episcopal Church of St Martin’s in Davis on Sunday, April 11. The blessing involved sprinkling holy water on the panels, in full vestments, from the top of a scissor lift!

This blessing celebrated the Davis church reducing their carbon emissions to zero by replacing all gas appliances with electric on their campus, and installing solar panels to cover all energy needs. It was part of a month of events dedicated to ‘Care for God’s Creation’ at St Martin’s, a month in which Earth Day is also celebrated worldwide.

[Click here](#) for the full story and media coverage.



The Last Pastor wins a Silver Medal from the Illuminations Book Awards in the area of Mission/Ministry.

Rev. Gail Cafferata was heartbroken when the church she pastored, Holy Family Episcopal Church in Rohnert Park, voted to close its doors. It may have been the right decision, but it led to a million questions in her mind about her call, leadership, and future.

She began to think that other pastors who close churches perhaps go through this same experience. This led her to conduct a sociological study of over 130 pastors in five historically established denominations (Episcopal, Lutheran, United Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ) who were called to serve churches that closed. The research was supported by a grant from our diocese.

Her book tells the results of that study, which consisted of many interviews, and the hard-won lessons learned by these courageous pastors. Congratulations Rev. Gail!

The Playground at St. Stephen's, Sebastopol is getting ready to build the mound for the play area. The Playground will be a place where community is gathered and formed at a playground-café-beer garden, where neighbors from a wide variety of spiritual backgrounds come together to play, to be nourished, to have deep conversations, share their journeys, and, in the midst of their diversity, journey deeper together.



It is a vision of a new way of “doing” church. Believing that we do not need be on the same spiritual journey in order to journey together and to help one another dig deeper, St. Stephen's in Sebastopol is creating this space on their land to foster deep conversation and connection with neighbors in a particularly unchurched/post-Christian community.

Visit [The Playground website](#).

From the Office of the Bishop

Phishing Alert!

There have recently been another round of fraudulent emails from "Bishop Megan." When it comes to church communities, fraudsters are most eager to take advantage of the benevolence and trusting nature of those involved.



Spear phishing is especially difficult because the perpetrator has the name of the sender (with an email address that has the Bishop's name in it) and the email of the recipient and uses this to gain trust. Remember, our emails are only from norcalepiscopal.org.

If you receive an email or text (yes they are getting quite creative) from the Bishop or a trusted church personnel asking for assistance, confirm by calling that person and do NOT respond to the email or text.

[How to recognize and avoid Phishing scams](#)

Best Skills - Best Churches



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ASU Lodestar Center
for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
Arizona State University

nmi nonprofit
management
institute

The first class of the innovative program **Best Skills - Best Churches**, designed to help our diocese grow and strengthen our churches, graduate on April 24th.

The 65 participants have engaged in learning a broad range of new skills and will receive a **Certificate in Non-Profit Management** from Arizona State University, Lodestar Center.

Save the dates for the 2021/2022 class!

- September 24-25, 2021 - Volunteers in Service
- October 22-23, 2021 - Legal Aspects of Governance
- November 12-13 2021 - Effective Communications & Handling Conflict
- January 14-15, 2022 - Marketing and Community Presence
- February 11-12, 2022 - Financial Management for Effective Service
- March 11-12, 2022 - Fundraising Aspects of Stewardship & Graduation

Watch for more information and registration. You will not want to miss this program.

Diocesan Ministry Opportunity

The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California is seeking new Board Members!

The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California is looking for a few good persons to be considered for a position on the board of directors. The Board is made up of clergy and lay members of this Diocese who are interested in realizing the Foundation's mission of enhancing and complementing philanthropy in this Diocese.



Please click [here](#) to read more about the Foundation's goals, and [here](#) for an application.

To submit applications, or if you have questions, please email [Michelle Karimi](#)

Diocesan-wide Sacred Ground Circle



New Sacred Ground Circle forming in May

Sacred Ground is a 10-part discussion about race, grounded in faith. Participants are invited to view selected videos and read books and articles about Indigenous, Black, Latino and Asian/Pacific American histories and how they intersect with European-American accounts.

The materials also examine the church's evolving teachings on race relations. Participants come together in small groups, aka dialogue circles, to reflect on what they have learned and how it fits with their own family stories, identities, and experiences.

Hosted online by social justice advocate Bob Wohlsen and Spiritual Director/educator Sharron Simpson, both of Santa Rosa, the circle will meet weekly from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursdays starting May 13.

If you are interested in joining, email [Bob Wohlsen](#) or [Sharron Simpson](#).

Trinity Cathedral - Small Group Studies for all

The Life, Death & Afterlife of Jesus, as told by those who loved Him

Thursdays, April 8 thru May 20, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Morey Lloyd

Zoom with the Cathedral for a seven week class during this Holy Season of reflection as they share the testimonies of some faithful witnesses to the risen Lord. The group will hear from St Peter, St Paul, and of course the four Gospel witnesses: Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, not to forget Jesus. The depth of the story is eternal. The impact of the drama is life changing. The encounter is world-shattering. Arise and shine, the Lord has given us light and life!

[Email](#) or text Morey Lloyd (916) 726-6739 for the Zoomlink. Drop ins are welcome!

The Black Church

Thursdays, April 15 thru May 20, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

Facilitators: Canon Kathy Hopner and Susan Hotchkiss

Explore the history of the Black church in America using the recent PBS documentary **The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song** Each week the group will watch a brief video from the show and discuss the content.

The book of the same name by Dr. Henry Louis Gates is not required but might be a welcome companion to the study. There will be a 20 participant cap on this small group gathering. Register by emailing the [Cathedral here](#).

Grant Opportunities



The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California has joyfully committed to award \$100,000 in grants to churches and missions throughout our Diocese in 2021!

Supporting the Diocesan mission of making disciples, raising up saints, and transforming communities for Christ, the Foundation will endeavor to enhance ministry and outreach in the Diocese in five general categories:

- Evangelism
- Education
- Technology
- Homelessness Relief
- Food Insecurity

The application period is from April 1, 2021 – June 1, 2021. Click [here](#) to download an application.

To submit an application, or if you have questions, please [email Michelle Karimi](#).

California is continuing the **Mustard Seed grant program** for 2021!

Mustard Seed grants
"moving mountains"

Mustard Seed grants are grants of \$500 to promote and support grass-roots ministries at the congregation level in our Diocese.

- Available to parishes, missions, and other Episcopal organizations in the Diocese
- Linking small, creative ministries to resources: a little help in the right place at the right time in the right hands can eventually move mountains

The application period is from April 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021; grants will be awarded throughout the year. Click [here](#) to download an application.

To submit an application, or if you have questions, please email [Michelle Karimi](#).

Episcopal Community Services of Northern California will be administering five innovative outreach grants this year:

- The Ministry Development Grant
- Social Justice Grant
- The Barry L. Beisner Grant
- The Lamb Grant
- The Anita Weaver Grant



Letters of Interest due **April 15, 2021**.

To find out more about these grants visit the [NorCal ECS website](#).

Additional Resources and Links

Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored



Virtual Ecumenical Advocacy Days taking place on April 18 - 21, 2021

Visit the Advocacy Days [website here for more](#) information.

In addition to the ongoing financial aid program the **Fund for the Diaconate** has been assisting deacons -- working, retired, or disabled -- who have

insufficient funds for their needs. The Fund is unique in its mission of service to deacons by deacons. The Fund for the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church has created a special Emergency Grant Program, to aid deacons affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



For more information visit the [website here](#).



Project Resources - Spring 2021 Training

Six consecutive Sundays, April 18 to May 23
2:00 to 3:30 pm PT, via Zoom

Project Resource teaches culture and systems change around financial development in the worldwide Episcopal Church. Providing teaching, focus, and adaptable resources to equip clergy and lay leaders to develop their year-round annual stewardship campaigns and to plan, ask for, and receive major gifts.

Spring 2021 Training will:

- Help your team gather the best resources to transform all areas of stewardship and explore internal narratives of money while addressing societal shifts, organizational change, and leadership challenges.
- Assist your team in interpreting the training curriculum, session by session, relative to their cultural and regional context.
- Empower participants to leave the conference with a working plan and measurable objectives tailored specifically for their own congregation.

For more information visit the [Project Resource website here](#).

Episcopal Relief & Development offers a [new digital prayer tool](#), bringing together prayers from many sources and the opportunity to share prayers with others.



[Online resources for people in recovery](#)

To submit news/events, please email communications@norcalepiscopal.org. The submission deadline is the Wednesday before the Tuesday publication.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ

www.norcalepiscopal.org

