



# DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of March 30, 2021

## Around the Diocese



Bishop Megan celebrates Palm Sunday at St. Michael's, Carmichael.

The Rev. Mary Claugus, Deacon Cindy Long and team welcomed the Bishop on this special day.

Thank you St. Michael's for a wonderful way to begin Holy Week.

Musicians, clergy, and lay ministers from seven congregations of the **Russian River Deanery** are uniting to celebrate a virtual Great Vigil of Easter, to take place live on **Saturday, April 3 at 8 p.m**

Participating churches are: **St. Michael and All Angels**, Fort Bragg; **St. Paul's**, Healdsburg; **The Chapel of St. George** at The Bishop's Ranch; **Incarnation**, Santa Rosa; **St. Stephen's**, Sebastopol; **St. Patrick's**, Kenwood; and **St. John's**, Petaluma.



The diverse gifts of these communities will lend freshness and variety to this ancient liturgy, which begins in darkness with the lighting of a new fire, recounts powerful stories of God's creating and liberating love for humankind, passes through the waters of our own baptismal renewal, and culminates in the joyful proclamation of Christ's resurrection.

The Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa is hosting the [Livestream](#) of the service. If your church is not observing the Great Vigil on Easter Eve and you wish to join the Russian River Deanery for this special celebration, you are warmly invited to do so.

**Best Skills - Best Churches**



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ASU Lodestar Center  
for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Education  
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.**

## From the Office of the Bishop

**Please Note:** Our office will be closed Friday, April 2 for Good Friday and will re-open on Monday, April 5.

### Open Position: Digital Evangelist

The Office of the Bishop is pleased to announce a new position, Digital Evangelist. This is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time salaried position with benefits. We are accepting applications until **March 31, 2021**.

The job description can be downloaded as a PDF [here](#). We encourage you to spread the word by sharing this with anyone you feel may be a potential candidate.

To apply: Email [Jacqi Seppi](#) with a cover letter and resume.

## Day of Discernment - Registration Ends Soon



The next **Day of Discernment** will be on **Saturday, April 17**. The format will be on Zoom, beginning at 9:00 am and ending at about 12:30 pm.

Attendance at the Day of Discernment is required for

sponsoring clergy and those seeking ordination. It is intended to help all members of the Episcopal Church deepen their understanding of the work of

the Holy Spirit and the many ways one can be called to serve in the Church.

During the Day of Discernment, there will be presentations on the priesthood and the diaconate. There will also be an overview of the ordination process (including access to an application packet and copy of The Manual and Guide for Ordination.)

In order to make sure we can accommodate everyone who wants to participate, it is necessary to register in advance so we can plan accordingly.

**Please fill out the registration form prior to April 5**

[Aspirants click here to register](#)

[Sponsoring Clergy and COM members click here to register](#)

If you have questions you may email [ordinations@norcalepiscopal.org](mailto:ordinations@norcalepiscopal.org) or call the Office of the Bishop at 916-442-6918

## 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](mailto:Michelle.Karimi@norcalepiscopal.org)

## 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 Wohlson 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](#).

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The Episcopal Foundation of Northern 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](#).

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**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](#).

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## 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.

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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](mailto:communications@norcalepiscopal.org). The submission deadline is the Wednesday before the Tuesday publication.

