



# DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of October 20, 2020

## Best Skills - Best Churches



Bishop Megan Traquair is proud to announce a special opportunity for all clergy and laymembers for the first time in our diocese. We are partnering with Arizona State University, Lodestar Center to present Best Skills - Best Churches, an innovative program designed to help you grow and strengthen your church.

The program is for six months, one weekend a month on Friday night and Saturday morning. The first class begins on November 13.

The cost is \$100 per student, a very special discounted price. **Registration is now open and more information is available on our [website here.](#)**

## Sing in our Virtual Choir for Diocesan Convention

### Help us worship together in song!

Everyone in our diocese is invited to participate in a "virtual choir" to prepare music for our worship at Diocesan Convention. You simply record yourself singing your own part, using a smartphone or computer microphone, while listening to the accompaniment through headphones.



We will sing two hymns plus a choral anthem, and you're welcome to submit recordings for one, two, or all three pieces. The Rev. Stephen R. Shaver, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa will be our conductor and producer for the choir. [For more information and to participate, visit here.](#)

Please submit all recordings by **Friday, October 30.**

## National Service for Healing and Wholeness November 1



### Holding onto Hope

As the United States struggles through a time of turbulence and tension, [Washington National Cathedral](#) will host a national interfaith prayer service on Sunday, Nov. 1 – two days before Election Day – featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and other spiritual leaders. The service, titled “Holding Onto

Hope: A national service for healing and wholeness,” will be [livestreamed on The Episcopal Church’s Facebook page](#) in English and Spanish from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time. [For more information click here.](#)

## Trinity Cathedral - With Malice Toward None and Special Service

Trinity Cathedral is participating in a Braver Angels program called *With Malice Toward None*. Braver Angels is an organization committed to bringing people with diverse political opinions together to find common values and foster peace in our polarized political environment.

*With Malice Toward None* takes its title from Lincoln’s second inaugural address, when he sought to heal the nation after the trauma of the Civil War. The heart of the program will be a prayer service on the Cathedral live-stream the day after the election.

This program is open to members of the Cathedral community and the Diocese of Northern California. For more information and to register, [click here.](#)

### Praying for Peace in our Civic Life

Trinity Cathedral will host a special service on November 4 from 7 to 8:00 p.m.

Join the Cathedral Facebook live-stream for a service of music and reflections inviting a prayerful response to the election. Everyone is welcome.

## Dia de Los Muertos Toolkit

All congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California are warmly invited to join in observing El Día de Los Muertos on All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2020.

In this year of extraordinary loss and

grief, the Day of the Dead offers us all a moment to mark our mourning, to remember our loved ones, and to affirm the life that we cherish in community.

To download the toolkit, [please visit](#).

Share your congregation's journey to El Día de Los Muertos with the whole diocese! Send your photos, videos, and announcements to [EDNC](#)

[Communications](#) or [Commission on Intercultural Ministries](#)



## Administration & Finance

### The Episcopal Church Medical Trust 2021 Open Enrollment Process is Coming Soon!

#### **2021 Active Employee Open Enrollment**

October 28 - November 18, 2020

#### **2021 Pre-65 Retiree Open Enrollment**

October 28 - November 18, 2020

#### **2021 Post-65 Retiree Open Enrollment**

October 15 - December 7, 2020

### **Save the Date!**

#### **Church Pension Group Employee Benefits Member Education Webinar**

This year, the Church Pension Group will hold an Employee Benefits Member Education Webinar on the two dates listed below. We encourage all Medical Trust Members to mark their calendars for this webinar to learn about the 2021 Annual Enrollment. Details on how to join the webinar will be shared soon.

**Monday, October 26, 2020**

5:00pm – 7:00pm PDT

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

9:00am - 11:00am PDT

If you have any questions, please email [benefits@norcalepiscopal.org](mailto:benefits@norcalepiscopal.org)

## Disaster Relief Assistance

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

**Isaiah 43:2**

*Please give to help  
Disaster Relief*

In our diocese there are six main fires that have burned over 1,700,000 acres. These fires have impacted 38 churches and many families have lost their homes. In addition to prayer, if you would like to reach out a helping hand, here is how to donate to disaster relief:

**Bishop's Discretionary Fund: Disaster Relief**

100% of your donation will go directly to assist victims in the first stage of the disaster and later during long term recovery.

To donate to disaster relief, click [here](#) now.

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=159790&f=6&a=20.00>

Please make checks out to EDNC put "Disaster Relief" in the memo line.

Mail checks to:

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California  
350 University Avenue, Suite 280  
Sacramento, CA 95825

## Resources and Links

These are anxious times as our nation confronts a deadly pandemic, a troubled economy, racial injustice and a bitter election season. It's a lot to take in, and it's easy to get overwhelmed.



That's why prayer is needed now more than ever.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Cathedral Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage, we hope these 25 prayers will help calm your soul and

lift your spirit as we head into Election Day and the months to come. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let's pray together with the National Cathedral and Country



**Get Prepared** - Whether it's an earthquake, wildfire, flood, or COVID-19, Listos California wants everyone to get ready and stay safe. Working with you to establish resilient communities and build a new culture of disaster preparedness for all Californians. Listos California offers resources for you and your family. Visit their website [here](#).

### Need help navigating insurance after the fires?

This Roadmap to Recovery™ workshop series is presented by United Policyholders, a non-profit consumer organization helping improve disaster recovery for over 29 years. [For more information click here.](#)

[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.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
*Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ*  
[www.norcalepiscopal.org](http://www.norcalepiscopal.org)

