

The Celtic Courier

October 2024

From the Rector

From Guest Writer, Dr Daniel Rodriguez*:

One of my favorite bands is Counting Crows. The lead singer, Adam Duritz, is a famous guy who has written many hit songs. After their first album, he saw that he was paid lots more money in royalties than his bandmates because he was the principal songwriter. When time for touring came around, some of the band members couldn't go because they had to work to support their families. So, from there on out, Adam decided to name each member of the band as a writer on every Counting Crows song. Now, all the band members can tour together, give great shows, and support their families while on the road. When asked why he would share income on songs that he wrote by himself, Adam said, "It's how you keep the band together." Tithing in church is like that. It's how you keep the band together.

Tithe means tenth. Whether in Hebrew or Greek or English, it's just a number designation for a tenth of something. It doesn't mean "required" or "necessary for membership." In fact, most tithes talked about in the Bible have no strings attached to them. For example, when Abraham met Melchizedek in Genesis 14, he gave the mysterious priest a tithe from the spoils he won in battle. There was no requirement. It was a voluntary gift that Abraham wanted to give after being blessed by Melchizedek.

The idea of giving a tenth of something to a priest grew from there. In Leviticus and Deuteronomy, tithes were used for the community. Some people made a lot of stuff and had a lot of stuff, while others did not. Some people grew food and raised cattle. Other people served at the sanctuary, whether as a priest or a guard or some kind of worker. Everyone's role in the community was important so the tithe became a way to take care of everyone. People who produced in the economy would tithe from their food crops or livestock. This would feed Levites and priests who served in the sanctuary.

Tithing was also a spiritual formation practice for the one giving. When Moses taught the people how to tithe in Deuteronomy 14, he told them to set aside grain, wine, olive oil, and meat so that they could have a party. Tithing in this case meant for you, your family, and guests (who included foreigners and Levites) to go to a specific sanctuary, present your gift, then eat it and drink it there yourselves in that special place. This was not a gift given to someone else. It was a gift set aside for the giver's spiritual discipline of giving. Then the giver would enjoy it at a party with the rest of the community. In this way, tithing is a gift that God gives us.

Be like the Counting Crows. Produce a lot and give a lot. Include others in your economy of producing and giving. You can't do community alone, so give to your community. Your giving supports others who do vital work, and it's an opportunity for you to celebrate. Giving is not at a distance in church. When you give, you give to your own experience and the experience of your family. If you are able, giving ten percent of your income is a wonderful tradition. If you are not able, you can give service in a variety of ways. If you are more than able, give big gifts, especially when income does not come from work, as Abraham's spoils did not come from work.

** Dr Daniel Rodriguez is a seminarian in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. He has a PhD in Biblical Languages from the University of Stellenbosch. He currently works in Biblical Translation.*

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

Wendie Roberts, Director of Family Ministry

Brett Hanley, Director of Music

Dates to Remember



- ✓ **Morning Prayer**, 9:00 a.m., *Mondays and Wednesdays*
- ✓ **Project Hope Food Pantry**, 5:00-6:00 p.m., *Thursday, October 3* / 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m., *Thursdays, October 10 and 24*
- ✓ **Thursday Eucharist**, 10:00 a.m., *Thursdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31*
- ✓ **Blessing of the Animals**, 9:30 a.m., *Sunday, October 6*
- ✓ **Adult Forum – Health Ministry**, 11:30 a.m., *Sunday, October 6 and 13*
- ✓ **Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross**, 7:00 p.m., *Friday, October 11*
- ✓ **Oktoberfest**, 4:00 p.m., *Saturday, October 12*
- ✓ **Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day**, *Monday, October 14*
- ✓ **Vestry Meeting**, 11:45 a.m., *Sunday, October 20*
- ✓ **Pub Theology (at Institution Ale)**, 7:00 p.m., *Monday, October 21*
- ✓ **Lunch Bunch**, 12:00 noon, *Wednesday, October 30*
- ✓ **All Hallows' Eve**, *Thursday, October 31*

October Birthdays

Jerry Gillespie	4
Richard Stone	7
Jim Cecil	11
Barbara Amick	17
Marty Cervo	18
Ed Miller	20
Gail Zehmer	28



Our annual fundraiser, the Celtic Christmas Faire, will be November 2-3. We are collecting book and puzzle donations to sell at the Faire, and these items can be dropped off in the parish hall.

PUB THEOLOGY

Beer, Conversation, and God



A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into a bar. The bartender asks the rabbit, "What'll you have?" The rabbit says, "I don't know, I'm just here because of autocorrect."

Come join us at Institution Ale Co. on Monday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome. The address is 3841 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo, CA 93012.

The Mess of Mercy

The reformer Martin Luther once dreamed that he saw Jesus approaching his door. Luther panicked, seeing that his home was an absolute disaster inside. "How am I going to let the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ, come into a mess like this?" he wondered.

Luther raced to clean up, but the mess only increased. As Jesus knocked, Luther was resigned. "Come on in, if you think you can come into a place like this," he told Jesus ... only to turn around and see that everything was now in order. All Luther had to do was let Jesus enter.

"Mercy is always a messy business," writes pastor Daniel Emery Price at 1517.org. That's true of the Reformation, just as it was when Jesus cleared moneychangers out of the temple. "There will always be those who condemn the mercy because of the mess," notes Price. "Reformation is always about clearing the path to God's radical grace."

(from ChurchArt.com)



The deadline for articles for the November *Celtic Courier* is October 15.

Rector: Our rector is the Rev. Dr. Michael Anderson. His email address is: michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com.



“The fullness of joy is to behold God in all.”
—Julian of Norwich
(from *ChurchArt.com*)

THE CELTIC COURIER
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
1251 Las Posas Road
Camarillo, CA 93010
ISSUE 10

From the Treasurer

We have a negative balance for the month and the year, but we continue to be right on budget, with income and expenses exactly as we projected. As you may remember, the 2024 budget deficit was projected to be \$58,000, because of the increase in expenses from having a full-time Rector. The Children's Learning Center has graciously given us excess money to help bridge part of this budget gap!! We are still planning to use reserves, including the excess funds from 2023 and past years, and fundraising to cover the remaining deficit. You all are very generous, giving extra gifts when you can!

The Vestry, under Fr. Michael's leadership, is working on fundraising ideas and events. The Celtic Christmas Faire planning has already begun. And if you haven't heard, there's an Oktoberfest event coming! Please bring your family and friends to join us for these events!!

The Buildings & Grounds Committee has been busy! There's a plan to tent the church and all of the buildings for termites. They're still working to get a bid to repair the damage from the hives of bees above the sacristy and on that roof. The Committee is also working on other projects that need to be done. All the funds for these projects are coming from Designated Funds, not the budget that we use to pay salaries and normal operating expenses. And the CLC has also donated funds for some projects near their entrance in the rear of the church. We thank them profusely for those funds!

Part of these Designated Funds are grants from the Endowment Fund that can be spent on ministries or Buildings & Grounds projects. We have a total of \$59,000 we can spend on repairs and improvements! This is a good start on what we need to get done.

It's not scary to us; it's an exciting time in our life as a parish! Everyone paying your pledge enables us to stay afloat, plan for the future, and support the work of our parish here in Camarillo! This can never be repeated enough: We continue to bless each of you as we count your pledge on Sundays or receive it via PayPal. You are all helping to support our efforts as we continue the work that God intends for us.

If anyone would like to join us on the Budget & Finance Committee or see what we're doing in more detail, you are more than welcome. We can truly use more help, thoughts, and ideas. We want to be transparent with expenses and income. If you would like to see the most recent Financial Report, please just ask. We don't take anyone and their contributions for granted. Thank you all!

Gail Hill, Treasurer
On Behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee
(Bev Pearson, Doug Miller, Maria Fernandez & Sarah Monroe-Allen)



LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch returns on **Wednesday, October 30**. Come and enjoy lunch and fellowship, hosted by Michele Hauser, Diane Off, Beanie MacLaurie, and Jarrel Fuller, at **Noon** in the parish hall. **Sign up** on the bulletin board in the narthex.

From the Senior Warden

My dear friends,

Looking back one year ago at St. Columba's, we were deep into our quest for a new rector, having spent the previous fifteen months discerning the needs and our dreams for the future of the parish. Today, we are so very blessed to be addressing those needs and realizing those dreams under the vibrant leadership of Fr. Michael Anderson. He and his family—Francina, Lea, William, Lily, and Elanor—have brought new ideas, energy and youth, and through them, God has renewed our spirit of enthusiasm and optimism. Thanks be to God!

A number of events and activities are being planned. We especially look forward to the Blessing of the Animals, October 6 (and 9, CLC); Adult Forum continuing series on End-of-Life Planning, October 6 and 13; Oktoberfest, October 12, 4:00-7:00 p.m.; and our Celtic Christmas Faire, November 2 and 3. You can learn more about these events and others in the pages of this *Celtic Courier*.

Remember, as always, those who have entrusted us to pray for their needs, as found on our parish prayer list.

May you be blessed today and every day.

In Christ's love,
Susan Doswell

Morning Prayer – Mondays and Wednesdays

Fr. Michael Anderson invites you to join him in the Chapel to start your day with Morning Prayer at **9:00 a.m.**, on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. All are welcome.

People in all kinds of religious traditions, including Judaism and Christianity, have been marking time with prayer for almost as long as we've had hours. "Praying the hours," as it's called, has always reminded us that God walks with us throughout each day; "praying the hours" is also a way that the community of faith comes together, whether we're all in one place or scattered like raindrops. Praying at set hours links us, both to God and to all God's people. We know this, and we are comforted. In The Episcopal Church, our *Book of Common Prayer* offers beautiful services for morning, noon, evening, and nighttime in a section called "The Daily Office." (https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/daily_prayer_all_seasons_eng_final_pages_0.pdf)

Walk in Love: Fall Pledge Campaign



Sundays in October and November	Look for the weekly <i>Walk in Love</i> reflection published in each Sunday bulletin for your reading and prayerful consideration.
Sunday, November 3 <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	Stewardship Sermon; 2025 pledge packets available.
Sunday, December 1	Please return your 2025 pledge card by today. Fr. Michael will bless all the pledge cards received to date.
	Periodically, parishioners will be sharing about Stewardship. Also, we will hear about St. Columba's Narrative Budget.

Poem of the Month: "The Jacob's Ladder" by Denise Levertov

The stairway is not
a thing of gleaming strands
a radiant evanescence
for angels' feet that only glance in their tread, and need not
touch the stone.

It is of stone.
A rosy stone that takes
a glowing tone of softness
only because behind it the sky is a doubtful, a doubting
night gray.

A stairway of sharp
angles, solidly built.
One sees that the angels must spring
down from one step to the next, giving a little
lift of the wings:
and a man climbing
must scrape his knees, and bring
the grip of his hands into play. The cut stone
consoles his groping feet. Wings brush past him.
The poem ascends.

Adult Forums
Health Ministry

- **October 6:** What is the difference in a POLST and Advance Health Care directive. While everyone 18 and over should have an Advance Health Care directive, not everyone should have a POLST. Come and learn the difference.
- **October 13:** Home Health, Palliative Care, or Hospice? We'll discuss the differences and rules associated with each program. This is good knowledge for you or the one you may care for.



The new school year has begun, and is off to an amazing start. First Day pictures have been taken, and the children are settling in for learning and fun. The playground has sprouted an apple "orchard " to enhance learning about Johnny Appleseed , and tasting a wide variety of apples. Rumor has it that the "orchard" might sprout pumpkins in October! October also brings the annual Harvest Festival and Trunk or Treat. You just never know what amazing tricks and treats Ms Bec has up her sleeve! A number of you have asked how we are handling the advent of public (free) pre school. I am happy to report that our Pre-K class (Butterflies) is full with a waiting list. It seems that we have a very desirable program thanks to the innovative hard work of our Director and her dedicated staff. I am pleased to let you know that we are doing so well that we have been able to make an additional \$8,000.00 gift to the Parish Budget.

Sarah Wigert for the CLC Board

Three Congregations Taizé



If you're interested in a contemplative, meditative type of worship, the Three Congregations (Camarillo United Methodist, Mount Cross Lutheran, and St. Columba's Episcopal Churches) are offering in-person Taizé-style prayer, held in the intimate setting of the Mount Cross sanctuary (102 Camino Esplendido, 93010) on the 2nd Friday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.—**Friday, October 11** this month. For those unfamiliar with this type of prayer, Taizé is an international, ecumenical community in France, dedicated to peace and reconciliation, whose prayer includes meditative singing, scripture, silence, and spoken prayer. The meditative singing of simple refrains repeated many times allows the words—often as simple as "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"—to truly settle into our hearts.

If you are interested in participating as a musician, lector, or intercessor, please contact the Mount Cross office (office@mountcross.com or 805-482-3847).



Celtic Christmas Faire



Saturday, November 2, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 3, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars—our annual fundraiser, the Celtic Christmas Faire, will be **November 2-3**. Come and do your Christmas shopping from the many vendors who will be exhibiting. If you would like to help with planning and putting on this event, please contact Carol Rocco.



Like eating healthy foods and exercising, vaccines play a vital role in keeping you healthy. Vaccines are one of the safest preventative measures available.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the best time to get the updated COVID immunization is September and October. This vaccine offers several months of protection. You are less likely to be hospitalized and less likely to die with this protection. Has it been longer than 6 months since your last booster shot? It is wise to get this coverage if you are at risk (as with heart or lung problems) or over age 65.

Dr. Elizabeth Hudson, regional chief of infectious disease for Kaiser Permanente Southern California, suggests people get the vaccine as soon as they can. Dr. Eric Topol, director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute of San Diego, asks the question: “Are you getting vaccinated to reduce your chance of long COVID? Studies suggest up to a 50% reduction of long COVID after vaccination,” he said.

People over age 75 or age 60 who are at increased risk for Respiratory Syncytial Virus should be vaccinated. RSV is the third leg of the “tripledeemic” that strained hospitals in recent years. Remember also this is the season to get your annual flu shot. The CDC figures for the 2022-2023 flu season caused 9 million flu illnesses or more that the population of New York City, nearly 300 hospitalizations per day over the course of a year, and 5,000 flu deaths.

The CDC said that the RSV, flu, and COVID shots can all be administered during the same doctor’s visit. Shots are available at CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Albertsons, Ralphs, Vons, Pavilions, and Safeway stores.






The Parish Nurses

Re: *Los Angeles Times*, Saturday, August 31, 2024 – “Get the new COVID vaccine now, or wait closer to Halloween?”

CDC, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - www.cdc.gov/flu



OCTOBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		7 Staff Meeting 10:00	2 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 5:45-6:45 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	3 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Project Hope: 5:00-6:00 PH Choir 6:00 	4	5 DOK 10:00 (Ofc.) Scouts 9:00-4:00 PH
6 Pentecost 20B Holy Eucharist 9:30— Blessing of the Animals Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Forum 11:30	7 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	8 Staff Meeting 10:00	9 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH School Board 4:00 Women's AA 7:00 PH	10 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00 	11 Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross 7:00 	12 Oktoberfest 4:00-7:00 
13 Pentecost 21B Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Forum 11:30	14 Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples' Day Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	15 Courier Deadline Staff Meeting 10:00 VCIC Forum 7:00	16 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	17 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00	18 Scouts Lock-in 6:00- 7:00	19 Scouts Lock-in until 7:00am
20 Pentecost 22B Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Vespy 11:45 Scouts 4:00-6:00 PH	21 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH Pub Theology 7:00 (off- site)	22 Staff Meeting 10:00	23 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	24 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00 	25	26
27 Pentecost 23B Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30	28 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	29 Staff Meeting 10:00	30 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Lunch Bunch 12:00 Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	31 All Hallows' Eve Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00		

Visit us on the web!
www.stcolumbaca.com

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit 49
Oxnard, CA 93030

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1251 Las Posas Road
Camarillo, CA 93010

Phone: (805) 482-8831
E-mail: office.manager@stcolumbaca.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Blessing of the
Animals



**Sunday, October 6
9:30 a.m.**

**Bring your pets of all shapes and sizes
(or a photo of them,
even stuffed animals) for a blessing
during our worship on the patio.**

Oktoberfest



**Saturday, October 12
4:00-7:00 p.m.**

Come celebrate **Oktoberfest** at St. Columba's on Saturday, October 12, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. We'll enjoy traditional German food, drink, music, and fun and usher in the fall season together.

Tickets are \$20/adults and \$10/kids and can be purchased after church. Please get your tickets soon to help us know how many to plan for.