

# The Celtic Courier

February 2025

## From the Rector

As a parent, one of the joys I look forward to most is introducing my children to the things I hold dear. Now that my two older kids are at an age where they can appreciate and engage with my favorites, I'm excited to share with them the British science fiction television series *Doctor Who*, Though *Doctor Who* first aired in 1963, my fandom began when it was relaunched in 2005.

At its heart, *Doctor Who* follows the adventures of the Doctor, a rogue Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey. The Doctor isn't just any time-traveler—he is a wanderer of the universe, righting wrongs and helping those in need, often accompanied by a human companion who can only be in awe of the Doctor's many feats. The Doctor travels in a ship called the TARDIS (Time and Relative Dimension in Space), a vessel that can traverse not only space but time itself, allowing the Doctor to step into any period of history, any point in the future, or even alternate realities.

What makes the show so engaging, aside from its imaginative adventures, is the mystery of the TARDIS itself. On the outside, it appears as an ordinary blue British police box, an artifact from 1960s Britain that has malfunctioned and remains stuck in that form. But when you step inside, you are met with the astonishing revelation: the TARDIS is "bigger on the inside." The inside is vast—an endless maze of rooms and corridors, far beyond what the small exterior suggests.

In one particularly striking episode, the soul of the TARDIS is transferred into a human form. This leads to a poignant exchange between the Doctor and this new incarnation, a woman named Idris. As awe-inspiring as the TARDIS is, Idris, possessed by the ship's soul marvels at the complexity and depth of human existence:

**IDRIS:** "Are all people like this?"

**DOCTOR:** "Like what?"

**IDRIS:** "So much bigger on the inside. I'm, oh, what is that word? It's so big, so complicated. It's so sad."

Idris' comment resonates deeply. It captures the paradox of the human condition—our hearts and minds are capable of vastness, complexity, and both joy and sorrow. The human experience, like the TARDIS, is not easily understood from the outside. We are so much more than we appear on the surface.

This idea also speaks to the mystery of God's presence within each of us. We so often look outward for answers or validation, but our true worth and depth are rooted in something far greater, if only we could sit still long enough to experience it. Much like the Doctor's own endless journey, we are invited to explore the dimensions of our own hearts, our relationships, and our connection to the divine. We are invited to delve deeper, to see beyond the surface and recognize the beautiful complexity within.

Faithfully yours,  
*Fr. Michael*

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

Francina Anderson, Director of Family Ministries

Brett Hanley, Director of Music

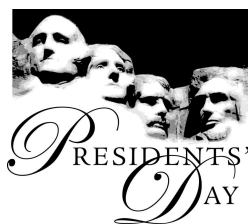
## Dates to Remember



- ✓ **Presentation of Our Lord**, 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday, February 2
- ✓ **Scout Sunday and Pancake Breakfast**, Sunday, February 2
- ✓ **New Member Class**, 11:30 a.m., Sunday, February 2
- ✓ **Morning Prayer**, 9:00 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays (except February 17)
- ✓ **Leisure Village Bible Study**, 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 11, and 25
- ✓ **Thursday Eucharist**, 10:00 a.m., Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27
- ✓ **Project Hope Food Pantry**, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 6 / 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m., Thursdays, February 13 and 27
- ✓ **Health Ministry**, 11:30 a.m., Sunday, February 9
- ✓ **Valentine's Day**, Friday, February 14
- ✓ **Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross**, 7:00 p.m., Friday, February 14
- ✓ **Vestry Meeting**, 11:45 a.m., Sunday, February 16
- ✓ **Presidents' Day Holiday/Parish Office Closed**, Monday, February 17
- ✓ **Lunch Bunch**, 12:00 noon, Wednesday, February 19
- ✓ **Epiphany Adult Forum**, 11:30 a.m., Sunday, February 23
- ✓ **Youth Group Lunch & Bible Study**, 11:30 a.m., Sunday, February 23

### Presidents' Day Holiday

The parish office will be closed on **Monday, February 17.**



## February Birthdays

<b>Al Bianco</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Joanne Davidson</b>	<b>17</b>

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

All are welcome.

Are you new? Newish? Just want to know more? Come find out more about our church on **Sunday, February 2**, after the pancake breakfast. Fill up your plate with pancakes and other "fixin's" and join Fr. Michael in the church office to hear more about the ministry at St Columba's.

### Save the Date

**CROP Walk is Sunday, March 9**

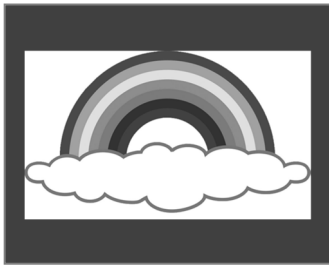


Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice. But for those who love, time is eternity.  
—Henry Van Dyke

**Rector:** Our rector is the Rev. Dr. Michael Anderson. His email address is: [michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com](mailto:michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com).



**The deadline for articles for the March Celtic Courier is February 15.**



“Try to be a rainbow in  
someone’s cloud.”  
—Maya Angelou  
(from *Church.Art.com*)

THE CELTIC COURIER  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
ST. COLUMBA’S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
1251 Las Posas Road  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
ISSUE 2

### From the Treasurer

We ended the year with excess funds!! Due to a couple of parishioners paying their entire pledge at the end of the year, the generous donation from one parishioner, and all the extra donations from many other regular pledgers, the income was much higher than we projected. Expenses ended up lower than budgeted so the combination gave us more income than expenses. Our 2024 budget deficit was projected to be \$58,000 so this was a huge hurdle to overcome. Due to everyone’s generosity, we did it!

You’ll hear about the Budget for 2025 at the Annual Meeting, but, bottom line, our projected deficit is much smaller and there is a good chance we will end up with enough income to cover that deficit in spite of increased costs. We’re planning to give small raises to our employees. And we plan to pay the Diocese the entire 12% Mission Share Fund required. Any deficits that do occur will come from Reserves created by having excess funds at the end of the fiscal year. We currently have over \$100,000 to cover any issues.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee is still busy! The termite tenting was delayed due to the weather and the committee is looking for a time to do the work in the spring. Additional roof repairs will take place on the church building. The committee is 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.

Part of these Designated Funds are grants from the Endowment Fund that can be spent on ministries or Buildings & Grounds projects. We still have about \$40,000 from the 2023/2024 grant of \$59,000 to spend on repairs and improvements! The 2 projects mentioned above will spend about \$32,000 of that grant. And the Endowment can provide another grant of 3-5% per year (equating to \$30,000-\$50,000) for further work. This is a good start to pay for what needs to be done. We are so blessed to have our Endowment Fund and give thanks for everyone who has donated to it.

We continue to bless each of you as we count your pledge on Sundays or receive it via PayPal. We’re doing this together to maintain our church family, grow it to spread God’s love, and continue the work that God intends for us to do. Fr. Michael has lots of wonderful ideas of how to do this and the Vestry is eagerly moving ahead with them.

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, Maria Fernandez, Sarah Monroe-Allen)



### **LUNCH BUNCH**

Lunch Bunch will be **Wednesday, February 19, a week early**. 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.

### **Prayer for Our Vestry**

At the Annual Meeting on January 26, new Vestry members and leaders were elected. We pray for our leadership this year:

Almighty and everliving God,  
source of all wisdom and understanding,  
be present with those who take counsel in leadership  
for the renewal and mission of your Church.  
Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory.  
Guide us to perceive what is right,  
and grant us both the courage to pursue it  
and the grace to accomplish it;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

(from *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 818)



### **Youth Group News—Calling all Middle School and High School Students!**

**Sunday, February 23**, is the first Youth Group meeting. Meet in the parish hall at **11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** for lunch, games, and Bible Study. Francina Anderson and Eleanor Tyas are looking forward to leading this group and are eager to support the young people of the congregation. Email Francina for more info: [francina.anderson@stcolumbaca.com](mailto:francina.anderson@stcolumbaca.com).

### **Children's Ministry 2025:**

Francina Anderson is our Director of Family Ministries.

For our children in worship, students start in the nave with the parish and then walk together to our class space in the Children's Learning Center. They join back at the peace to share in communion with their church family.

Watch for progress on our Children's space within the sanctuary.





**Poem of the Month:**

**The Village Church of St Mary the Virgin, Sherburn**

Richard S. Briggs

No form or majesty that we should marvel at it  
Nothing in its Appearance that we should desire it

Bricks and mortar  
Damp carpets and noisy heaters  
But here it is that God has borne our infirmities  
And carried our diseases.

Pews and hymn books  
Sunday school paintings  
And here it is that God has met us in our needs  
and in each other.

Christmas decorations  
Remembrance Day parades  
As here it is that God walks with us in rhythms of the  
Year.

Churchyard graves  
Stained glass windows  
For here it is that God comforts us in our grief and  
raises us to new life.

Bread and wine.  
Word and song.  
Here it is that God delights to be with us  
In and with and through our joy and fear.

A Church not made with hands  
Inside a church of wood and stone—  
Our God is on the move,  
And rooted here.



We are well into winter up at the CLC. Enrollment for Fall 2025 has taken place and as become usual, the School is full. Many thanks to Rebecca and her amazing team for making us Camarillo's "it" preschool! It almost makes me want to go back to the years when my children were students there. Oh, how they would have loved those outdoor classrooms! February brings sweet Valentine's Day with many different ways of exploring, experiencing, and expressing love, including, of course, God's love for all of his children. Regular Chapel services with Fr. Michael have begun as well, and the children are becoming familiar with being in God's House.

*Sarah Wigert for the CLC Board*

**Food Ministry**

**We need plastic grocery bags—please bring your bags in—we pack them with fresh produce for the families each distribution.** Currently, we are serving about 65 families in need three times a month. A dozen parishioners help in this process—getting groceries and produce, packing bags, taking bags out to family cars, and delivering to those who can't pick up. And, importantly, many of our parishioners have generously donated money for us to buy groceries and produce or brought items in for us to use. *And remember to sign up to walk or sponsor someone for CROP Walk in March.* Our Food Ministry receives a nice donation from CROP each year that we participate. We thank everyone for all you have done and will continue to do in 2025! Please contact Maurice Hill if you are interested in participating in this ministry.



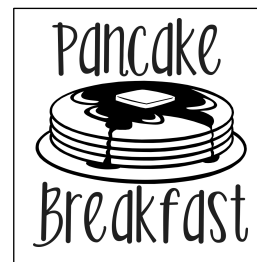
**Three Congregations Taizé**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.—**Friday, February 14**, this month. Taizé is an international, ecumenical community in France, dedicated to peace and reconciliation, whose prayer includes meditative singing, scripture, silence, and spoken prayer.

## **Scout Sunday and Pancake Breakfast**

On **Sunday, February 2**, the Scouts will participate in St. Columba's 9:30 a.m. worship as lectors and intercessors.

A Pancake Breakfast will be served in the parish hall after worship.



### **Coming Next Month**

Join us for a **Lenten Labyrinth Walk** on **Saturday, March 22**, at 10:00 a.m., led by facilitator Linda Drevensted.

### **Together**

In *Bread for the Journey*, theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen calls consolation—from “to be with” (con-) “the lonely one” (solus)—“one of the most important ways to care.” He writes, “Life is so full of pain, sadness and loneliness that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see.”

Although consoling doesn't necessarily remove someone's pain, Nouwen notes that it serves a deeper purpose: To console means “to be there and say, ‘You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don't be afraid. I am here.’ That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it.”

*(from ChurchArt.com)*



### **WHAT?**

Last year, the flu led to 470,000 hospitalizations and 28,000 deaths. “It is clearly the season,” according to Dr. Eduardo-Azziz-Baumgartner, a medical epidemiologist in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Influenza Division.

Young children, people who are pregnant, people with chronic health conditions, and older folks are more at risk for serious complications from the flu.

What to do. Read and learn for your information. Vaccines appear to be largely effective against currently circulating viruses, according to Richard Webby, a virologist at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. The flu virus spreads mainly by droplets released when people cough, sneeze, or talk. A face mask may be in order. Wash your hands **OFTEN**. The hardest thing to do is: **KEEP YOUR FINGERS OFF OF YOUR FACE.**





The Parish Nurses

Re: *The Ventura County Star*, Sunday, January 5, 2025, “Tips to help you stay healthy this season, Fight the Flu”



# FEBRUARY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Our food distribution schedule this month is: The 1st Thursday of the month, 5:00-6:00 p.m.; the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m.</p>						<p>1 DOK 10:00 (Ofc.)</p>
<p><b>2 Presentation of Our Lord/Scout Sunday</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 9:30</b> Pancake Breakfast 10:30 New Member Class 11:15 (Ofc)</p>	<p>3 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>4 Staff Meeting 10:00 Lent/Holy Week Planning Meeting 11:00 Leisure Village Bible Study 2:00</p>	<p>5 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel CLC Chapel 11:15 Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 5:45-6:45 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>6 <b>Holy Eucharist 10:00</b> Project Hope: 5:00-6:00 PH Choir 6:00 </p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p><b>9 Epiphany 5C / Super Bowl Sunday</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 9:30</b> Coffee Hour 10:30 Health Ministry 11:30</p>	<p>10 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>11 Staff Meeting 10:00 Leisure Village Bible Study 2:00</p>	<p>12 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel CLC Chapel 11:15 Craft Group 2:00 PH School Board 4:00 Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>13 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH <b>Holy Eucharist 10:00</b> Choir 6:00 </p>	<p>14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> <b>Three Congregations Tazé at Mount Cross 7:00</b> </p>	<p>15 <b>Courier Deadline</b></p>
<p><b>16 Epiphany 6C</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 9:30</b> Coffee Hour 10:30 Vestry 11:45 PH Boy Scouts 4:00 PH</p>	<p>17 <b>Presidents' Day Holiday/Ofc. Closed</b> Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>18 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>19 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel CLC Chapel 11:15 Lunch Bunch 12:00N PH Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>20 <b>Holy Eucharist 10:00</b> Choir 6:00</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p><b>23 Epiphany 7C</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 9:30</b> Coffee Hour 10:30 Epiphany Adult Forum 11:30 Youth Group Lunch &amp; Bible Study 11:30</p>	<p>24 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>25 Staff Meeting 10:00 Leisure Village Bible Study 2:00</p>	<p>26 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Funeral 11:00 Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>27 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH <b>Holy Eucharist 10:00</b> CLC Chapel 11:15 Choir 6:00 </p>	<p>28</p>	

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Looking ahead—plan to participate in our **Three Congregations**  
**Ash Wednesday** worship on **March 5**

(7:00 a.m., Noon, and 7:00 p.m. here at St. Columba's)

Take part in **Lent Adult Forums**, beginning March 16 after Coffee Hour.

**Lenten Labyrinth Walk** on Saturday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.