

The Celtic Courier

July-August 2025

From the Rector

I've always wanted to make art. But for most of my life, I assumed I wasn't any good at it—and I was too intimidated to try, afraid I'd only confirm the suspicion. Lately, though, I've decided that whether or not I have any talent, I want to learn. So I've started attending some workshops at the Channel Islands Art Studio.

In one of my regular classes, the teacher has been encouraging me to draw with what she calls a "searching line." She means the kind of line that doesn't aim for precision right away, but instead feels its way across the page—exploring the shape of a thing rather than declaring it outright. It's not about getting it right on the first try. It's about discovering the form as you go.

I find this surprisingly difficult. The inner critic pipes up quickly, and more often than not, the drawing gets stalled before it really begins. But as I've spent time with this idea of the searching line, I've come to see that it has something to teach us about the spiritual life—about how we seek, and fumble, and slowly find our way.

We draw not because we already know, but because we're trying to see. The searching line isn't bold or certain. It wavers, doubles back, tries again. It's not the line of mastery, but of discovery. That's how most of our lives with God feel, if we're honest. Not straight and clean, but uncertain. Not a finished picture, but a sketch in progress.

We're not God. We don't speak and light appears. We fumble our way forward—trusting that something true is there, even if we can't quite name it yet. The searching line is an act of faith. It's humble. It listens. It doesn't demand the answer right away, but keeps moving, keeps asking. That's what prayer can be like. That's what following Jesus can be like. Trying. Failing. Returning. Not because we're lost, but because we're still learning to see. The searching line reminds us: It's okay not to have everything figured out. What matters is the attention, the willingness to look again, to reach out again, to believe that something beautiful might emerge.

In the Gospels, even the disciples didn't see clearly at first. They stumbled. They misunderstood. They drew their lines and redrew them. But Jesus stayed with them. He stays with us, too. In the trying. In the tracing. In every shaky line that says, "I don't know for sure, but I think it might be this way." And maybe that's the holiest thing of all: Not the perfect picture, but the honest attempt to draw near.

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



JULY

- ✓ **Morning Prayer**, 9:00 a.m., *Mondays and Wednesdays*
- ✓ **Thursday Eucharist**, 10:00 a.m., *Thursdays, July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31*
- ✓ **Independence Day Holiday/Church Office Closed**, *Friday, July 4*
- ✓ **Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross**, 7:00 p.m., *Friday, July 11*
- ✓ **Celtic Christmas Faire Planning Meeting**, 10:30 a.m., *Sunday, July 13*
- ✓ **Deanery One Youth Event**, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., *Saturday, July 19*
- ✓ **Vestry Meeting**, 11:45 a.m., *Sunday, July 20*
- ✓ **Pub Theology Around the Campfire**, 7:00 p.m., *Tuesday, July 22*
- ✓ **Lunch Bunch**, 12:00 noon, *Wednesday, June 25*
- ✓ **Adult Forum**, 11:30 a.m., *Sunday, July 27*

AUGUST

- ✓ **Adult Forum**, 11:30 a.m., *Sunday, August 3*
- ✓ **Morning Prayer**, 9:00 a.m., *Mondays and Wednesdays*
- ✓ **Vacation Bible School at Mount Cross**, 9:00 a.m.-Noon, *Monday-Friday, August 4-8*
- ✓ **Stories Around the Campfire**, 7:00 p.m., *Wednesday, August 6, 13, 20, 27*
- ✓ **Thursday Eucharist**, 10:00 a.m., *Thursdays, August 7, 14, 21 and 28*
- ✓ **Project Hope Food Pantry**, 5:00-6:00 p.m., *Thursday, August 7* / 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m., *Thursdays, August 14 and 28*
- ✓ **Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross**, 7:00 p.m., *Friday, August 15 (3rd Friday this month)*
- ✓ **Vestry Meeting**, 11:45 a.m., *Sunday, August 17*
- ✓ **Guided Labyrinth Walk**, 10:00 a.m., *Saturday, August 23*
- ✓ **All Parish Picnic & Concert**, 6:00 / 7:00 p.m., *Saturday, August 23*
- ✓ **Dodger Night**, 7:00 p.m., *Friday, August 29*

The deadline for articles for the September *Celtic Courier* is August 15. (There is no separate August newsletter.)



July / August Birthdays

July

Francina Anderson	4
Kelly Kavanaugh	5
Lynn Varon	12
Ann Radzienda	23
Bill Hillbrant	24
Tim Helton	26

August

Jarrel Fuller	1
Carlos Barraza	3
Sharon Hillbrant	5
Nancy Miller	19
Eileen Ely	29
Darlene Pickering	29

Annual Meeting Minutes?

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 26 of this year, and we need to find out who took the Minutes of that meeting. If you were one who did so, please contact the office, office.manager@stcolumbaca.com. Thank you!

Free Concerts in the Park

Camarillo Community Band
July 10, 17, 24 and 31 – 7:00 p.m.
Constitution Park (Carmen Dr & Paseo Camarillo)



The parish office will be closed on Friday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday.



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



“One ought, every day at least,
to hear a little song, read a good poem,
see a fine picture and, if it were possible,
to speak a few reasonable words.”
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
(from *ChurchArt.com*)

THE CELTIC COURIER
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
1251 Las Posas Road
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ISSUE 7/8

From the Treasurer

May, for the month and year-to-date, we have more expenses than income. Our expenses are where we budgeted them to be; our income is a little low because we haven't created any income from fundraisers and we're a little behind on pledges. We're still not concerned. We're projected to need to use about \$19,000 of the \$100,000 we have in Reserves this year. We have plenty of funds in the bank so things are not urgent.

You are all amazingly generous. Please continue to give what you can and what you pledged. We are truly blessed!

The Buildings & Grounds Committee is still busy. The termite tenting was completed! The \$16,000 expense came out of the 2024 Endowment Grant so there was no problem paying for the work.

The parking lot repaving seems to be the next large project planned. We will be asking for extra funds for this specific project. The Committee, led by Fr. Michael, is hard at work planning and getting bids for the parking lot and some of the other work needed on our campus.

The septic tank at the rectory was pumped out again and inspected; further work will be required on it. The Committee is working on other projects that need to be done. Thus far, all the funds for these projects are coming from Designated Funds, not the budget that we use to pay salaries and normal operating expenses.

I'm repeating this because it's still true: 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 \$8,000 from the 2023/2024 grant of \$59,000 to spend on repairs and improvements. 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.

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, Diane Off, Sarah Monroe-Allen)



LUNCH BUNCH

*Lunch Bunch is on a
Summer Break and will
return in September!*

Mark Your Calendars

On **Sundays, July 27 and August 3**, Dr. Kevin O'Farrell will offer Adult Forums at **11:30 a.m.**



Pub Theology – Around the Campfire

We have enjoyed our Pub Theology conversations at Institution Ale, but the noise level makes it difficult for everyone to participate. On Tuesday, **July 22**, all are welcome to gather around the campfire by our labyrinth (behind the church) for Pub Theology, at **7:00 p.m.** Bring a chair and a beverage of your choice.

PUB THEOLOGY
Beer, Conversation, and God



St. Columba's Book Club



Looking to grow in faith and fellowship through great books? Join our Church Reading Group—a warm, welcoming space where we dive into inspiring reads and share meaningful conversations rooted in our Christian Walk.

If you are interested in participating in the group, contact Fr. Michael: michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com.

Stories Around the



Campfire

Stories Around the Campfire will be back this summer for the 4 **Wednesday evenings in August** from **7:00 - 8:30**, beginning August 6 and ending August 27. Come join us for Bible study, fellowship, and S'mores! The firepit is located behind the church next to the labyrinth. Several benches are available, or bring a chair if you have one. The S'mores fixings will be provided.



Join us for a **Guided Labyrinth Walk** on **Saturday, August 23**, at **10:00 a.m.**, led by labyrinth facilitator Linda Drevenstedt. All are welcome. The labyrinth is located behind the church and preschool.

Parish Concert — August 23

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 23, 7:00 p.m.**, at St. Columba's for the annual **All Parish Music Concert**. Come at 6:00 p.m., bring some food and libations for a "Hollywood Bowl"-style gathering on the courtyard patio and enjoy a meet-and-greet with the musicians. This is a St. Columba's Music Ministry fundraiser and there will be a freewill offering. From Classic to Jazz, with some of the top talent in our parish performing music for a night to remember, invite friends and family; they won't want to miss this concert.

If you have any questions, please call Brett Hanley at 805-377-3211 or email at brettwhanley@hotmail.com. Look forward to seeing you there.



Poem of the Month:

“Martha Considers the Lilies”

by Rhina Espaillat

Dancing above the field, they play the field,
unmindful of dark stems whose one desire
anchors them to the earth. Roots’ work concealed
by summer green, they levitate, on fire
with nothing but the sun, as if to say,
‘We need not spin the glory that we wear
unearned; it’s spins – it sings – itself.’ And they
rebuke us in the prison of our care.
But they are not the field; the field is hard
and angular with stones, and yields no bloom
unless desire burrows past earth’s guard
while each seed labors to prepare a room.
Labor’s the truth that makes us more than free:
dancing above the field is fantasy.



The termites are gone and Summer Camp sessions have begun! The joyous sound of little children at play in the sunshine fill the air. As always, our wonderful staff and fearless director have amazing themes and activities planned that will delight and expand the children's learning and experiences. We also want to welcome two alumni who are helping as “junior counselors”, as well as two visiting teachers from Santa Paula. It certainly promises to be summer to remember for all involved. We hope each of you have a summer filled with joy, blessings, and adventure as well!

Sarah Wigert for the CLC Board

Vacation Bible School at Mount Cross

St. Columba's is joining with Mount Cross Lutheran Church for **Vacation Bible School** at Mount Cross (102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo 93010). VBS 2025 will be **August 4-8**, from **9:00 a.m.-Noon** each day. The theme is “God’s Good Creation,” and children ages 4-11 will be learning about God’s wonderful and good creation through Bible stories, crafts, games, and music throughout the week.

Our St. Columba's youth will be helping each day. Registration is now full, but please email vbs@mountcross.com to be added to the waitlist if you're interested in attending.

Episcopal Dodger Night – August 29



Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium will be **August 29**, for the Dodgers vs. Diamondbacks game, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Dodgers have raised ticket prices this year, so the cost will be \$42. A drone show will follow the game. Paul Amendt is coordinating the tickets for St. Columba's. **Sign up in the narthex.**



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, July 11, and August 15 (the 3rd Friday)**. Taizé is an international, ecumenical community in France, dedicated to peace and reconciliation, whose prayer includes meditative singing, scripture, silence, and spoken prayer.

The Deanery One Youth invite all youth and children
to participate with their families at

"A Celebration of Our Baptism"

Saturday, July 19, at St. Columba's from **9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Families will visit interactive prayer stations, and we will end the day with informal prayers and a cookout-style luncheon.

RSVP to attend to

Francina Anderson, francina.anderson@stcolumbaca.com.

Celtic Christmas Faire - Save Books to Sell

Our annual fundraiser, the Celtic Christmas Faire, will be November 8-9. It's never too early to start setting aside books that you might like to pass on to fellow readers. We will once again be having a book sale to raise money. So, find a spot on a shelf or wherever, and tuck that book you just finished away. Thanks so very much!

Support the Food Ministry!

SAVE THE DATES : Sunday, July 13 – Thursday, July 17

Bring in your donated Groceries for Project Hope

Details Coming!

Forum on Black Christianity

At 7:00 p.m. on July 15, the Ventura County Interfaith Community will gather at Bethel African American Episcopal Church (855 S. F St, Oxnard, CA 93030). There, Bethel's pastor, Rev. Benjamin Thomas will discuss the ways that the African American experience has differentiated Black Christianity from other branches of Christianity.



I think I'm a healthy person. I take two or three hour-long brisk walks a week. However, I spend a lot of time on the computer and a lot of time watching TV.

A brisk walk (about 3mph) for at least 150 minutes per week improves your health. Do you know that 150 minutes per week is just 2% to 3% of your waking hours?

The Journal of the American College of Cardiology followed 90,000 people, average age of 62, for a year. The study kept detailed records of everyone's health history. The published results confirmed that moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 150 minutes per week does improve your health, particularly your heart health. Those folks who were the most sedentary the rest of the time had a greater risk of developing heart failure when compared to those who were less sedentary.

We have changed our lives. Farmers and people doing manual labor until about 1700 made up 80% of the population. That changed to 40% by 1900. Today, it's less than 2%.

Scientists at Harvard have been discovering health-promoting molecules that are produced by our bodies when we exercise. Dr. Komaroff says, "After reading this study, I've decided to get up every hour and climb the stairs. I think being active through the day will improve my health."





The Parish Nurses

Re: www.health.harvard.edu, "Ask the Doctor" by Anthony L. Komaroff, M.D., Editor-in-Chief



JULY 2025








Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 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 	4 Independence Day Holiday/Church Ofc. Closed	5 DOK 10:00 (Ofc.)
6 Pentecost 4C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30	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 	11 Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross 7:00 	12
13 Pentecost 5C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Celtic Christmas Faire Planning Meeting 10:30	14 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	15 Staff Meeting 10:00	16 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	17 Holy Eucharist 10:00	18	19 Deanery One Youth Event 9:00-1:00
20 Pentecost 6C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Vestry 11:45 PH Boy Scouts 4:00 PH	21 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	22 Staff Meeting 10:00 Pub Theology Around the Campfire 7:00	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 	25	26
27 Pentecost 7C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Forum 11:30	28 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	29 Staff Meeting 10:00	30 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	31 Holy Eucharist 10:00	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. No distribution on the 5th Thursday.	



AUGUST 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 DOK 10:00 (Ofc.)
3 Pentecost 8C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Forum 11:30	4 Vacation Bible School at Mount Cross Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	5 Vacation Bible School at Mount Cross Staff Meeting 10:00	6 Vacation Bible School at Mount Cross Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 5:45-6:45 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH Stories Around the Campfire 7:00	7 Vacation Bible School at Mount Cross Holy Eucharist 10:00 Project Hope: 5:00-6:00 PH 	8 Vacation Bible School at Mount Cross	9
10 Pentecost 9C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30	11 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	12 Staff Meeting 10:00	13 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH School Board 4:00 Women's AA 7:00 PH Stories Around the Campfire 7:00	14 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH Holy Eucharist 10:00 	15 Courier Deadline Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross 7:00 	16
17 Pentecost 10C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Vestry 11:45 PH	18 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	19 Staff Meeting 10:00	20 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH Stories Around the Campfire 7:00	21 Holy Eucharist 10:00	22	23 Guided Labyrinth Walk 10:00 Picnic on the Patio 6:00 Parish Concert 7:00
24 Pentecost 11C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30	25 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	26 Staff Meeting 10:00	27 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH Stories Around the Campfire 7:00	28 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH Holy Eucharist 10:00 	29 CLC Carpet Cleaning PH Dodger Night 7:00 	30
31 Pentecost 12C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30				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.		

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ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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E-mail: office.manager@stcolumbaca.com

Holy Ground

For me, there's nothing quite like taking off my sandals in the summer and walking through the grass. But when our sons were infants, neither shared that love of going barefoot. When we'd attempt to lower them to play outside, they'd raise their legs, trying not to touch the tickly, prickly, green ground.

"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned Moses through the burning bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In God's presence, Moses faced a turning point: either resist God's instructions or obey, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Maybe taking off my sandals this summer can remind me that I'm standing in God's presence. I may not hear a booming voice, and I might just be standing at the kitchen sink doing chores. Or I might be at a barbecue, with the opportunity to truly listen to my neighbors. God's presence permeates life's big moments as well as the mundane.

How can you "take off your sandals" and enter what God has for you?

—Janna Firestone
(from *ChurchArt.com*)