



Pre-convention deanery meetings set for November

As the fall season begins, preparations are under way for Diocesan Convention. Delegates, clergy and all other interested church members should mark their calendars for the pre-convention deanery assemblies, which will take place during the first three weekends of November.

One or more members of a team including the bishops, canon to the ordinary, chief financial officer and treasurer will attend each meeting.

Gatherings are scheduled as follows:

Deanery 1

Saturday, November 10, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
St. Paul's Church
3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura

Deanery 2

Saturday November 17, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
St. Stephen's Church
24901 Orchard Village Road, Santa Clarita

Deanery 3

Saturday November 10, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle Church
7501 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles

Deanery 4

Saturday November 3, 10 a.m.
La Magdalena Church
1003 S. Verdugo Road, Glendale

Deaneries 5 & 6

Sunday November 18, 3 p.m.
Church of the Ascension
25 East Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre

Deanery 7

Saturday November 3, 10 a.m.
Trinity Church
419 South 4th Street, Redlands

Deanery 8

Sunday November 11, 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Christ Church
408 South Broadway, Redondo Beach

Deaneries 9 & 10

Saturday November 17, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Trinity Church
2400 North Canal Street, Orange. †



Blessing of the backpacks begins school year at Grace Church, Glendora

Schools and congregations of the diocese are launching their program year as the summer ends. Grace Church, Glendora, invited teachers, students of all ages and others connected with education to bring their backpacks, bookbags and lunch boxes for a blessing as they prepared to return to school. At top: Susan Scranton, rector, leads a prayer with the congregation's youngest students at a Blessing of the Backpacks on Aug. 26. Above left: A prayer with about 25 elementary, middle school and high school students followed. Above right: Scranton offers a blessing to Kim Boyd, one of many educators who attend the church.

Bishop's Guild Tea returns Oct. 13 in Palos Verdes

The Bishop's Guild Tea, an autumn tradition in the Diocese of Los Angeles, will return on Saturday, Oct. 13, 3 - 5 p.m. at St. Francis' Episcopal Church, 2200 Via Rosa, Palos Verdes Estates.

The tea is the annual fundraiser for the Bishop's Guild, a century-old organization that offers scholar-

ship support to seminarians of the diocese.

Advance tickets are \$25 each, and may be bought in advance at ecw-losangeles.org/the-bishops-guild. At the door, tickets will be \$30.



Afternoon tea will be served. Several gift baskets will be raffled; tickets at \$5 each or 5 for \$20 will be sold at the event. †

— SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 —

8 p.m. **Concert: Golden Bridge**

All Saints' Episcopal Church
504 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills 90210
Information: www.allsaintsbh.org

8 p.m. **Godspell Concert**

Zipper Hall, The Colburn School
200 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012
Tickets/Information: www.bishopsconcert.org

— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 —

6 p.m. **Godspell Concert**

Trinity Episcopal Church
1500 State Street, Santa Barbara 93101
Tickets/Information: www.bishopsconcert.org

— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 —

5 p.m. **Recital: Stephen Manes, piano**

All Saints' Episcopal Church
504 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills 90210
Information: www.allsaintsbh.org

— SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 —

5 p.m. **Choral Evensong**

All Saints' Episcopal Church
504 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills 90210
Information: www.allsaintsbh.org

— FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 —

8 p.m. **Beethoven Extravaganza**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
1031 Bienveneda Avenue, Pacific Palisades
Information: www.musicguildonline.org

— SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 —

4:30 p.m. **Solemn Evensong**

St. James in-the-City Episcopal Church
3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010
Information: 213.388.3015 or STJLA.org

6 p.m. **Organ Series: Oliver Brett**

St. James in-the-City Episcopal Church
3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010
Information: 213.388.3015 or STJLA.org

For more listings visit www.ladiocese.org, click
"Calendars" and select Events Calendar or
Arts/Music/Liturgy.

THE VOLUME 7, NUMBER 29

Episcopal News Weekly

Editor: Canon Janet Kawamoto, editor@ladiocese.org
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Pondering 'true' religion

By Diane Jardine Bruce, bishop suffragan

*Lord of all power and might, the author
Land giver of all good things: Graft in our
hearts the love of your Name; increase in us
true religion; nourish us with all goodness;
and bring forth in us the fruit of good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The collect for today always makes me think a little bit — what is "true" religion? I ask myself. I took notes in the margins of my prayer book in pencil so that when I prayed this collect (or whichever collect or service I was reading), I'd have the correct background information in order to help center me in prayer. But why *true* religion?

Thank goodness for seminary and my penchant to read everything that was assigned — suggested as well as required. I was happy that I did because Marion J. Hatchett noted in his book *Commentary on the American Prayerbook* (1995, p. 181) that this collect was originally found in the Gelasian Sacramentary, and that Thomas Cramner insisted that the word *true* be added to this collect for the first Book of Common Prayer in light of religious controversies of the time. We've kept it all this time.

I understand the theological, liturgical and political problems Cramner and others were facing at that time. Their words, their actions were important in the development of the church in which I currently serve. Yet, as we use this very old collect this Sunday, how are we understanding *true* religion?

For me, true religion is not one that is stagnant. It is through the ongoing revelation of God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit that we understand where God is calling us — that, for me, is true religion. Our world is changing, and while we have the

practices we hold dear in the form of scripture, reason and tradition, it is in the balancing of the three that we find our strength. Leaning too hard on one leg tips the three-legged stool on which we Episcopalians stand.

Hatchett says of this collect that it "is an extended metaphor of the farmer or gardener: the fruit of good works is brought forth by the grace of God who plants, nourishes, and continues to care for His own."

As we pray this collect this Labor Day weekend, may we also pray for those who work, that they may receive just wages and benefits. May we pray for the working poor, who do not receive enough money to sustain themselves and their families. May we pray for those who do not have work. May we pray for those who are chronically homeless and without work and for all who work with and for them. And may we continue to plant and harvest, living out our true religion, so that we can become more and more the people God is calling us to be — especially this Labor Day weekend calling to task systems that oppress the poor and keep those who are most needy from finding just wages and adequate benefits for their labor. †

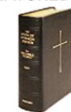


The 2018 Bishop's Concert

Saturday, September 8, 8 p.m.
Zipper Hall, The Colburn School, L.A.

Sunday, September 9, 6 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church, Santa Barbara
Tickets/Info: www.bishopsconcert.org

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