



FAITHWAY – Pentecost 2026

The Church of the Holy Faith

welcomes all people into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

We believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Sacraments, and the Authority of Scripture.

We honor our Anglican heritage and praise God with Solemn liturgy, traditional Prayer Book worship, and music to exalt the spirit.

We strive to live as a community with compassion for one another and the world around us.

We worship together in peace to praise and thank God, to transcend division, and to celebrate the mystery of faith.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Faithful and Friends of Holy Faith,

One of my favorite hymns, especially in the summer, is “Morning has broken” (Hymnal 1982, Hymn #8). During the summer when the sun rises so early, I feel I can sing with conviction, “Morning has broken, like the first morning.” I remember years ago when I was at a youth summer camp and had to lead morning worship, I chose that hymn to begin the service. When we sang the last stanza, “Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s re-creation of the new day,” as people pronounced the word differently, it dawned on me (pun intended) that “recreation” and “re-creation” are interconnected. God’s recreation may very well be in re-creation.



“Take time to pray.”

God is making all things new. That is God’s re-creation. We, who are created in the image of God and are given dominion and stewardship over so many things, are co-creators with God. We have a hand in God’s re-creation. We too can help make all things new.

During the summer we have the opportunity to make ourselves new – to get the rest and relaxation and, yes, recreation that we don’t seem to fit into our busy schedules the rest of the year. With more daylight hours, we seem to have more energy. We can exercise more to renew our physical well-being. We can read more to renew our mental well-being. But in tending to your physical and mental well-being, don’t neglect your spiritual well-being!

Take time to pray. You will be amazed at how relaxing, restorative, and re-creational prayer can be! As co-creators with God, re-connect with all that nature has to offer and refresh your life with God’s Spirit that is evident in so many places! And *take time to worship.* When you are on vacation, worship at the local church and see how God is making all things new! Bring back service bulletins from churches you have visited, and let me know what you liked about them. When you

are in town, worship at Holy Faith. We will still be here for you. And we will be ministering to those who are on vacation here in Santa Fe and discovering how God is making all things new!

As for me, I will be re-creating, as usual, on the coast of Maine. For the month of August, I will be taking Sunday services at the summer chapel of St. Mary’s-by-the Sea in Northeast Harbor. If you are on Mount Desert Island or visiting Acadia National Park, please stop in. Have a restful, relaxed, and re-creative summer! And may the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Robin+
Rector



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A WALKING REFLECTION ON SPAIN'S CAMINO DEL NORTE

STORY BY JAMES L. OVERTON AND PICTURES BY JAMES L. OVERTON, BEN AND NEWLYN ALLISON



“For us the spiritual significance of the pilgrimage was not the relics of St. James but something different.”

Recently returned from a trek along Spain’s Camino del Norte, parishioners Newlyn and Ben Allison learned that one’s journey in faith calls for more than spiritual awareness: “It takes great shoes.”

For five weeks they traveled the 500-mile route through weather fair and foul to celebrate 35 years of marriage on an empty-nester adventure. Historically the Camino journey has been a metaphor of the Christian life – conquering challenges to reach a holy place.

Their ultimate destination was the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain, where for 1200 years pilgrims have venerated the relics of Saint James the Greater, one of the twelve apostles of Christ. The pilgrimage is also an homage to Christian evangelism in Europe.

Modern Christians use Camino’s physical hardships like steep hills and unpredictable coastal rains as a form of bodily penance and self-denial drawing pilgrims closer to God.

The Allisons considered themselves active trail runners; hikers, not so much. “But we thought if we could run trails, we could walk them,” Ben said during an interview after returning home. “We hoped that would count for something,” Newlyn said. “There’s a lot to do to prepare and preparing physically. We didn’t do a lot.”

Early in the spring, they made Holy Faith’s Lenten pilgrimage from the Nambe Church to Chimayo. “We got our packs and loaded them up and took a hike in the mountains for a day during the fall,” Newlyn said.

But whenever they saw stairs, they climbed them. “Well, this is training for the Camino,” she said after taking the stairs to their daughter Judith’s fifth-floor walkup in Barcelona.

With that kind of preparation, the subject of whether the trip was a pilgrimage or a lark did come up: “Both,” Allison said.

They began their adventure by visiting daughter, Judith, in Barcelona. Then they hooked up with son, Christian, living in Salamanca for the last five years. He ultimately joined them for the last three days of the Camino.

Along the way, they stopped at numerous open churches and other religious monuments and locations, worshiping with locals and enjoying their communion of faith even though unable to speak the language. Ben and Newlyn decided against camping out, carrying a change of clothing and other essentials in their backpacks, while otherwise taking their chances at pilgrim-oriented hostels and other accommodations for overnighting. They did manage to secure daily showers – a shared commitment to domestic harmony.

“There’s a huge element of the unknown, and we expected to have trouble – we didn’t know what we didn’t know –and we did. Yet, we were great adventure partners.”



"It is what it is," Ben continued. "The northern route is very challenging. But there's the simplicity of being in remote areas, so there is a lot of time for contemplation and thinking and talking and praying." Something Ben accepted after experiencing leg pain and other repetitive-use injuries. "You know, when I was in agony, she was there. There was no pressure to do anything. We adapted to and flexed and did what we needed to do. That was a great feeling," Ben said.

"We are firm believers in healing prayer. We both learned that and experienced it. It's a regular part of our life, but we associate healing with prayer and the Holy Spirit, not so much with relics."

Little did they know that each Sunday morning before service, Mark Childers led the Holy Faith choir (of which they are members) in prayer for their safe travels and good health. Ben had been updating Mark weekly with pictures of their journey.

"For us, the spiritual significance of the pilgrimage was not so much the relics of St. James but something different," Ben said.

Traveling "alone" became a revelation of their time together, reliving dormant memories, picking up conversations lost in time, becoming a good takeaway from their adventure: "I am grateful for her (Newlyn). I'm grateful that we're still best friends and partners and that we've marked a milestone in our life being together and finding out that we like each other a lot. She's God's gift to me."

"Everything he said," Newlyn said.



APRIL'S LIBRARY TALK FEATURED FATHER SIMON

in
"The Mystical Meaning of Hebrew Letters"
 or
"How the Hebrew Alphabet is like the Periodic Table"
 or
"Guys, this is gonna be really cool!"

STORY AND PICTURES BY LORA MORTON



On Tuesday, April 21st, Holy Faith's own Father Simon Carian gave his first library talk. All "verbivores, lexophiles and logomaniacs" were invited, but no special knowledge was required for this introduction to the ancient tradition describing the spiritual meanings of the Hebrew letters. In his own inimitable style, Fr. Simon became a whirlwind of education, enthusiasm and scholarly background on the subject, with an appreciation of Hebrew as a holy language, or "lashon hakodesh," through which God created the universe.

To get the audience in the right mindset, Fr. Simon handed out copies of the Periodic Table of the Elements. From chemistry class, we know that each symbol stands for a name and has a number, with some elements more stable than others, and bonding with others in predictable ways. In the same manner, a Hebrew letter has a symbol or

form, has a name that stands for something, like house or door or hook, and is also associated with a numerical amount. That is, each letter is also a number and the letters bond together in meaningful and amazing ways. Fortunately, the audience was given a sheet with the Hebrew alphabet on it, complete with symbols, sounds, definitions, and numerical values, to refer to. The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, aleph or א, stands for God, is silent, and has a value of one. The second is beit, ב, which stands for house, with a value of two. Together, they form aleph-bet, from which we get “alphabet.”

Thus, the letters in every word add up to a number. Fr. Simon wrote Hebrew forms/letters on a big pad of paper resting on an easel and the audience provided their numerical values. For example, if you add up the values of the letters in the word Messiah, 358, you get the same sum, 358, as the word for serpent. Coincidence? Or does this illustrate that the task of the Messiah will be to neutralize the serpent? The letters in the word for pregnancy add up to 271, which happens to be the approximate number of days of a woman’s pregnancy, or 9 months x 30 days + 1 for the day of delivery. Could this also be an accident? Or is this more of the mystical? Fr. Simon gave many other examples as well.

“Hebrew is an incredible language that shows forth and proclaims the wonders of God,” he said, “with no end to its spiritual depths.”



It seems like a lot for a Jewish child to learn, but fortunately they have an alphabet song, like we do, to help them remember. And if you ask nicely, Fr. Simon will sing it for you.

A reception with refreshments, put on by the Library Committee, followed with more time to ask the speaker questions.

WITHIN REACH OF A JUAREZ HOUSE BUILD

STORY AND PICTURES BY ANNIE-LAURIE COOGAN

Holy Faith is embarking on a new faith sharing opportunity through our Mission and Outreach committee. Before Mother Lynn Finnegan’s departure to Colorado, she asked our committee to consider building a house in Juarez Mexico thorough an organization called Mission Ministries. The link shows all of the projects that Mission Ministries sponsors: (www.missionministries.org) Mother Lynn participated in these house builds over 20 times with our sister parishes Trinity on the Hill in Los Alamos and St. Bede’s. She believed that our parish should build a home. We have been fundraising since last summer and are within \$5,000 of our goal of \$19,000.

The homes are three rooms (2 bedrooms) with electric outlets, wall and roof insulation, a metal roof, screened windows, painted inside and out, and costs \$15,300 The appliances and furnishings such as propane stove, refrigerator, water tank, beds, rugs and kitchen table and chairs cost an additional \$4,000.



The family for whom we build the house is vetted by a local pastor in a poor area of Juarez. The family purchases the land in Las Colonias (no running water, sewers, paved roads and minimal electricity). On the last day of the build (which

lasts only 4 days) we present the keys to a jubilant and very grateful family who have moved from a pallet house covered in plastic to a beautiful small safe home.

My experience of participating in the build has been one of deep gratitude for what my family has been given and a visceral reminder of what many of Gods people live like. The families we serve are truly our neighbors born on the south side of the border that has condemned them to a poverty and hopelessness we rarely see here.



I have participated in several builds with both parishes and found the experience joyful and rewarding. We partner with a 501(c)(3) organization, Mission Ministries in Colorado that has built hundreds of times of houses in Juarez. They send over 40 faith groups annually. We stay in a secure compound and enjoy great rooms and wonderful food. The whole experience is safe and organized and a Mexican construction crew builds the house with our volunteer help.

Please see the pictures of our last build. Thank you for supporting and praying for the success of this outreach in any way you are able.



FROM CALCUTTA WITH LOVE

STORY BY LORA MORTON AND PICTURE BY BONNIE HARDWICK

The Library Committee was pleased to host longtime parishioner Elaine Pinkerton Coleman (pictured right) in a June talk that helped her celebrate the reissue of her book *From Calcutta with Love*. It's a compilation of hundreds of moving letters her parents wrote to each other during World War II. Elaine read several of them and the audience asked questions as she went along.

Reva Beard, Elaine's mother-to-be, stayed at home with her parents, teaching school and "making do," writing to her husband about life back home in Findlay, Ohio, while Elaine's father-to-be, Richard, was stationed in the China-Burma-India theater, as a U.S. Army psychologist at the 142nd General Hospital in Calcutta. Separated by 6,000 miles and for 18 months, they wrote letters to each other virtually every day.



As the months passed, Richard admits to his wife that regularly writing the letters was therapeutic for him, as they felt like "a chat" with her. His letter to her about the dropping of the atomic bomb was prescient in how it would affect powers around the world. But the bomb did not bring him home as quickly as he and Reva imagined, and Richard ended up writing "how much I hate the Army." After a year and half, the psychological burdens of the war had put him in an emotional jungle, and letter-writing was how he kept his sanity, never losing his ability to be eloquent or poetic.

Finally, in April of 1946, Richard arrived back in San Francisco, and wrote to Reva of the fairly new Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, WAC musicians serenading them, and "women with shoes."

An interesting side (and personal) note is that Reva and Richard had learned before he left that they could not have children of their own, but a woman alone (because her husband was away fighting the War) could not adopt until there was a man in the house again. So, Reva and Richard had to be reunited before they could hold a child in their arms, and they ended up holding two: Elaine and her brother, ages five and two.



Elaine said her father was a real bibliophile, and both parents encouraged her, proving that nurture was as important, if not more so, than nature for the future author.

Theirs was a beautiful love story in letters which were meticulously preserved and edited by their daughter. And, of course, the audience was stunned that mail could arrive so regularly during a war!

There was a reception afterward with refreshments, as well as an opportunity to buy the latest, revised (40th anniversary) edition of Elaine's *Santa Fe on Foot*, the proceeds from which she donated to the library along with a copy. She also gifted us with a copy of *From Calcutta with Love*. Thank you, Elaine!

WOMEN'S QUIET DAY - FEBRUARY 2026

STORY BY MOTHER MADELYNN JOHNSTON AND PICTURE BY BONNIE HARDWICK



The 11th Annual Women's Quiet Day was once again a well-attended success with a total of 70 women attending. Participants included women from Albuquerque, Espanola, Taos, and Santa Fe. The speaker, Megan McKenna presented on the topic, "Women Rising: First Witnesses and Preachers of the Resurrection." Her presentation was thought-provoking, insightful, and challenging.

Fr. Robin introduced Megan McKenna, an internationally known author, theologian, storyteller, and lecturer. She has graduate degrees in Scripture, Adult Education and Literacy from the Graduate Theological Union and University of California, Berkeley, and a Masters in Systematic Theology from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. and has taught at several colleges, and parish missions.

As is her well-known method of presentation, she related the gospel to us in vivid story-telling form, then told us what the gospel message speaks to her in terms of meaning and action. She then asked us to hear and discuss what each of us heard and what it means in our personal life. It was dynamic. It resulted in much discussion and sharing among us. Those present enjoyed a light continental breakfast and a satisfying lunch prepared by members of the Women's Spirituality Group.

The day closed with Evening Prayer in the church.

ANN RANDOLPH TRANSFORMS IN LIBRARY TALK

STORY BY LORA MORTON AND PICTURES BY LORA MORTON AND BONNIE HARDWICK

“What Can I Get You Honey?”

In a nutshell, you shoulda been there.

The Holy Faith library had never seen anything quite like the performance put on by parishioner Ann Randolph in her library talk, entitled *Inappropriate in All the Right Ways*, on January 20th. Ann gave the audience a taste of the new material she’s creating as well as about ten minutes of her one-person show (*Inappropriate...*), plus a guided journaling exercise designed to free one’s own voice.

Ann is an award-winning playwright, national and international performer, and lifelong lover of stories. Her solo show *Loveland* won Best Solo Performer and Best Solo Show in Los Angeles and San Francisco. She previously received the LA Ovation Award for *Squeeze Box*, which debuted off-Broadway and was produced by Mel Brooks. Because Ann is also deeply committed to helping others write and share their stories, she teaches storytelling and memoir-writing at such places as Esalen and Kripalu Center, and leads her daily online writing program *Unmute: Your Story Matters*.



As Ann began her library talk (the first one ever labeled “for mature audiences”), she told us she’s used to being in a theater, not a library, “and I’m LOUD!” Then she proceeded to peel off her outer layer of clothes to reveal a waitress’s uniform, put on a red wig, and add makeup, explaining this new character “always wears her lipstick a little crooked.” And voilà, we met Velveeta Dibbs who works at the Waffle Wagon and who says, “I know America because I serve America.” But Velveeta is more than a waitress; she’s working undercover for God, preaching the gospel of the waffle (instead of the wafer) in which “every square deserves sweetness.” She pours out grace and comfort along with coffee, waiting on people at the counter who are hungry for food and for filling the empty spot inside. Did you share with her that something “triggers” you? She’ll tell you, “That’s just God’s showing you the place where God says your healing ain’t finished.”



Justifying using “Honey” to an HR person who tells her it’s not inclusive, Velveeta explains that the word is an opening. “It’s holy to say ‘honey’ because it cracks the heart wide open.” The counter (like a bar) can become a confessional. And the swivel stools, which allow customers to easily turn toward a neighbor, will save America.

At this point the talk shifted to a writing exercise of “Yea” and “Boo,” designed to help us free our own voice. We spent five minutes jotting down episodes in our life that deserved a “Yea!” such as getting a job, then a “Boo,” for disliking the boss. As we heard a few examples from audience members, we realized that we can feel community and connection in sharing, and everyone’s story matters.

Next, Ann gave us a taste of her acclaimed autobiographical solo show *Inappropriate in All the Right Ways*. We heard about her college years working at the Athens State Mental Hospital in Ohio where she felt a kinship to the inmates, plus got free room. "I have never seen anyone so passionate about living in an insane asylum," her boss told her. She was allowed to drive the Hospital van anywhere she wanted "as long as you take the schizophrenics with you."

As a final writing exercise, we wrote a personal prayer, after which Father Robin reminded us that although we had just heard some racy material, "the Bible is full of R-rated stories." He invited the audience to enjoy refreshments in the Kinsolving Room, supplied by the Holy Faith Library Committee who will tell you that our library is full of stories!

But you shoulda been there.

AND HOW COULD WE FORGET HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY 2026?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK CHILDERS, CATHY GRONQUIST, DORA HORN
AND JAMES L. OVERTON





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For more information, please visit our new website at www.holyfaithchurchsf.org.

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