



FROM THE RECTOR



Dear Transfiguration friends and family,

Happy back to school time of the year for so many of us! It has been a very full summer and we are excited for this upcoming program year!

The staff has shared a retreat together to get to know one another better and to plan for liturgical seasons. This was a very helpful time together since Jim jumped in feet first during one of the busiest times of the church year, Holy Week.

The Altar Guild recently shared a lunch to discuss how to best support one another and to support our worship experiences. This behind-the-scenes ministry is essential to our gathering!

Mike and Rebecca Robinson met with me for children's and youth planning and we are looking forward to some new approaches!

We have some wonderful fall fellowship plans for Oktoberfest on Sept 30 (see page 3) and the Gala on Nov 4 (see page 10) !

We are hoping for more small group options for fellowship, as well as adult education. Here's where you come in: are you feeling called to lead, or co-lead, something with me? If so please do reach out be email: jennifer@transfig-sm.org or phone: 415-830-1717.

I am so excited to see the places we will go and the people we will meet!



Jennifer H.



WELCOME BACK, CAREY PRESCHOOL!

We are excited to welcome back the Carey Preschool for the new school year. Preschool Director, Meagan Vincent and the preschool staff have been busy preparing the classrooms and readying for the first day of school on Wednesday, August 30!



COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE



The community life committee is working hard to create some opportunities for fellowship, food, and fun in the fall.

September 3 we have our First Sunday: Fall Fun Day!

A vestry led festive coffee hour out on the front patio with food and fun activities for all ages.

Turning to service in September, we would like to send a group of volunteers to the **Coastal Clean-Up on September 23.**

COASTAL CLEAN-UP!

Join Transfiguration friends as we participate in the countywide Coastal Clean Up Day. We are signed up as a group to help at **Dunes Beach in Half Moon Bay from 9-12 on September 23.** Please meet in the parking lot and look for Kristen Kearns. Gardening gloves are useful, and please download the Clean Swell App before you come to be able to record trash collected. There is an end of summer music festival on Main Street in downtown HMB starting at 12 the same day in case anyone wants to make a afternoon of it!



Once fall is in full swing, we look forward to hosting an **Oktoberfest Celebration on Saturday, September 30, doors open at 5:00pm** in the Redwood Room. \$10 per plate*, at the door.

We'll be serving Bratwurst, Sprussen, Pretzels, Himmel und Erde... Traditional German fare. There will be frankfurt sausages (hotdogs) and kaese spaetzle (OK.. mac & cheese) for the kids. Beverages of every kind for all.

**ten dollars is a requested donation but we will accept any amount, and suggest no families pay more than \$25*

Closing out 2023, Community Life would like to lead into the new liturgical year with **a return of**

Snow Day!

We hear there's a forecast for flurries and a pile of snow very locally – in fact, just on our own church front lawn – **on Saturday, December 9.**

Save the date for this chance to welcome the Carey School and our neighbors for sledding, snowball fights, cookies, spiced cider, and caroling.



We are looking for a few more “**Snow Angels**” willing to help fund the pallet of snow and a team of “**Shovel Heroes**” willing to move snow into the sledding route.

Please reserve the date now (December weekends can really fill up!) and talk to Kristen Kearns or Tim Fox about how you can help make some California winter dreams come true.



[see Vestry Update on Page 10 for more about the November 4th Gala!]



ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH!

We are so excited for this upcoming program year and excited for some changes, as well as building upon strong foundations and relationships!

We are pleased that Rebecca Robinson will be continuing with us! She has done a phenomenal job with Community of Wonder and the Parish Retreat.

Mike, Rebecca, and I are coordinating Youth and Children's programs so that they build upon each other! We have a few goals for the 2023/2024 programs:

- *building a strong sense of community and care for one another
- *showing what it means to live our baptismal vow to "do all in our power to support one another in our lives in Christ.
- *making our programs more accessible
- *creating physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual safe spaces
- *establishing group agreements for how we care for one another and our spaces.

Community of Wonder

Sunday mornings will begin in the Redwood Room at 10:30, unless otherwise advised. It will require an adult volunteer signed up to assist Rebecca.

Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4DAF22A13-cowvolunteer#/>

If an adult volunteer is not signed up by the previous Wednesday, Rebecca and the children will join us in the sanctuary for worship!

Community of Wonder will be for 4 year olds - 6th graders. If an older child or teen would like to volunteer, they can request to do so with Rebecca.



Youth Group

Our youth program is evolving. As with many activities, attaining a critical mass is an ongoing opportunity. With that in mind, we will be doing **monthly adventures together on the 2nd Sundays**. Youth Group is for grades 6-12. The times and adventures will vary.

Our first youth adventure will be a scavenger hunt! Sunday, September 10, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. meeting at the church!

If you have questions please reach out to us!

Jennifer jennifer@transfig-sm.org

Mike miker47@gmail.com

Rebecca rhr942@gmail.com



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. AT CHURCH?

You've heard that we play Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) at church, and you've probably thought "Wait, what?" I'm as surprised as you are. When I started playing D&D in middle school in the 80's, it certainly wasn't cool then. Some adults feared this thing they didn't know, and thought it was one of the many, many things that would corrupt our impressionable youth (like me). It is a fantasy-based setting so it involves stories that included killing, witches, devils and demons, priests casting spells, and a pantheon of gods, so it didn't seem to contribute to a healthy Christian lifestyle.

I think it very much contributes to a healthy lifestyle. I've been playing D&D with the same group of friends for well over 40 years. Our D&D sessions have always been a mix of gaming and socializing. For some of us introverts, it's great to have an activity as a focus for us to come together.

You may ask, "OK, but what exactly is D&D?" When we play D&D, we make a story together. The dungeon master (the DM) defines the world where the story takes place and sets up opportunities for narratives. Everybody else roleplays their own medieval fantasy character. Typically, the players all come together as a group of heroes who find a wrong that needs righting. As the players roleplay their characters, they make choices and they make a story. And the players often take the story in unpredictable directions.

D&D is enjoying a moment in the limelight. The game hasn't changed in all these years, but thanks to Stranger Things, a series of celebrities playing D&D, and the pandemic where we were desperate for ways to connect, people got interested.

I think D&D is a great opportunity for youth at Transfig. First, it's a way to get together in person in a way that's fun, enjoyable, and something we look forward to coming to church to play. When we come together, we talk, create, play, and build community. That's a win.

But there's more than just that. Each character the players create has its own backstory, goals, view of the world that is different than the player themselves. Just like learning a foreign language helps you learn English better, roleplaying a different character can help you learn more about yourself, by emphasizing the differences. I'm still working on adding ethical problems like the trolley problem. Don't get me wrong, there's still a lot of sword fighting and magic, but the story introduces challenges that that brings real risks to the characters. That's an emotional hook that's fun in D&D.

When I run the game as the DM, I work hard to make sure everyone is included, and everyone has a chance to play their part of the story. I keep guardrails in place regarding choices players make to keep it fun for everyone.

That's why we play D&D at church, even if the whole concept seems weird. If you have any questions about it, I'm happy to answer them. Right now we're playing with youths from 6th grade to 12th grade. I'd like to cap each session at 6-8 players so everyone can be involved in the story, but if more come, we'll figure something out!

We play the 3rd Sunday of each month from 12:30-2:30. If you want to play, email/text me so I can prepare for you. No D&D experience is necessary; we can walk you through the rules while we play. What's most important is to be willing to roleplay a character and respond to what happens in this imaginary world we're all creating together.

-Mike Robinson

miker47@gmail.com



MUSIC MINISTRY & ADULT FORMATION



MUSIC MINISTRY

ADULT CHOIR

Do you love to sing? Consider joining our wonderful Transfiguration Adult Choir. No previous experience necessary. The ability to read music is a plus but not a requirement. We will teach you everything you need to know as we go. Rehearsals are on **Thursdays from 7:00 pm till 8:30 pm in the church beginning September 7**. For our **first rehearsal** we will have **a potluck dinner at 6pm** in the Redwood Room followed by our rehearsal at 7:00.

We sing at the 10:30 service September through early June and special Holy Days such as Christmas and Easter. What a beautiful way to give your gift of time and talent to the Church.

YOUTH CHOIR

Beginning September 10, we are starting a youth choir.

Rehearsals begin directly after the 10:30 service in the church and will last for approximately 30 minutes. We sing once a month for the 10:30 service. During rehearsal, parents are welcome to stay or enjoy the coffee hour in the Redwood Room. We will bring your child/children back to the Redwood Room after rehearsal. School age youth are encouraged to join. Bring a friend!



INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

Do you play an instrument? Guitar, Drums, Violin, Trumpet or something else? Instrumentalists enhance the liturgy in so many ways.

Let us know what gifts you would like to share with us.

Contact Jim Dahlstrom, Director of Music with any questions Jim@transfig-sm.com

ADULT FORMATION

We have had various programs over the years, such as weekday morning Gospel Preview and seasonal Wednesday evening offerings. This Fall is a time for us to reflect on how we might meet adult parishioners' needs for spiritual nourishment.

Are you feeling called to lead, or co-lead, something with me? If so please do reach out by email: jennifer@transfig-sm.org or phone: 415-830-1717. --Jennifer+

CONTINUING WEEKDAY MORNING OFFERINGS

MORNING MEDITATION - WEEKDAYS AT 8:30AM

This lay-led group gathers for meditation at 8:30am every Monday thru Friday on zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88547949492?pwd=S3ZwUkIteG15YjJsMEtMSnJXRzU3UT09>

All are welcome! Those who have participated have found it to be a wonderful way to begin the day. Questions? email: mmaia456@gmail.com

MORNING PRAYER - WEDNESDAYS AT 9AM

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00, a group gathers for Morning Prayer via the Transfig zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89761032046?pwd=Y1NoYTl2MGx3WUgwZk9lYU5yU1ptZz09>

All are welcome! Questions? email: garipatton@astound.net

PARISH RETREAT@BISHOP'S RANCH





TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND



THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Michael Barham

9:00am - Joyful Noise Eucharist (in-person)

10:30am - Musical Eucharist (in-person & via livestream)

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom

6:30pm - Masterworks Chorale Rehearsal (church)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom

7-9pm - NMCO Chamber Group rehearsal (church)

7:00pm - AA Meeting (Redwood Room)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom

9:00am - Morning Prayer via zoom

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00am - Joyful Noise Eucharist (in-person)

10:30am - Musical Eucharist (in-person & via livestream)

FIRST SUNDAY: Fall Fun Day! Vestry led special coffee hour out on the front patio with fun activities for all ages!

FIRST SUNDAYS

On the first Sunday of each month we will have an opportunity for fellowship and building community. We invite anyone interested in helping to plan First Sundays to email office@transfig-sm.org.

• SEPTEMBER 3 - PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF INCLUDING FALL FUN DAY WITH FESTIVE COFFEE HOUR ON THE FRONT PATIO

• OCTOBER 1 - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SUNDAY with blessing of the animals

SUNDAY NOV 5 - ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 3 - FALL PROGRAM KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 23 - COASTAL CLEANUP (see page 3)

SEPTEMBER 30 - OKTOBERFEST (see page 3)

OCTOBER 1 - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SUNDAY with blessing of the animals

MEES TIELENS TO PRESIDE & PREACH AT TRANSFIGURATION - OCTOBER 1

Mees Tielens was ordained in June and we now have **Sunday, October 1st** slated for him to be at Transfiguration to preside and preach. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the Transfig community to welcome him back for a visit and to celebrate his ordination.



OCTOBER 29 - DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

SATURDAY NOV 4 - CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GALA (see page 4)

SUNDAY NOV 5 - ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

VESTRY UPDATES

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

I never know what to write to everyone on behalf of the Vestry!

Our work often seems mundane – checking on bank accounts, paying down our loans from the Capital Campaign project, hiring folks to maintain our gardens and repair our fences, supporting our small staff. Basically protecting, preserving and intentionally utilizing the precious gifts you and many others have shared, and continue to share with this community to keep it thriving.

At our Vestry retreat in May we planned a calendar including opportunities for both worship and fellowship, learning and outreach. We hope you will join in whatever interests you. Whether we see you every Sunday or we haven't seen you in a while, you



are welcome.

The Vestry spent their retreat afternoon volunteering at the Fight Hunger meal packing event at Hillsdale High School.

We enjoy celebrations with you – like those past, Transfig Sunday, the Parish Retreat, etc. And those we are looking forward to – Oktoberfest, the Gala and more.

We try to represent everyone's needs and desires for our community, so please let us know if you have any thoughts or concerns.

We hope that Transfiguration is a source of inspiration, support and growth for all, as it is for us. As school starts and we begin a new program year, we are looking forward to a time of vibrant activity and spiritual enrichment.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. I look forward to seeing you soon.

-Jennifer Robinson, Sr. Warden

FROM THE COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE

Transfig Gala November 4 Save the date!

We are beginning plans for a *50s themed cocktail party* to celebrate “**Transfiguration Then and Now**” and especially the successful completion of our Capital Campaign and Parish Hall renovation. This is a chance to say a big thank you to our generous donors and those who put in countless hours managing the project. The evening will include cocktails, catered hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and a silent auction to help ensure that Transfiguration is on stable financial ground for the next fifty years also!

Do you love planning parties? There are lots of ways to help make this event a success.

Please talk to Kristen Kearns or Rev. Jennifer if any of these jobs interest you!

- Silent Auction Chair
- Auction Back End Technical Support
- Video Production
- Food/Catering Coordinator
- Decoration
- Invites/Publicity
- Bartending
- Youth Server or Babysitting Volunteer (14+)

Have a special talent, a passion for cooking, or tickets or vacation property to share? We are looking for silent auction donations, with an emphasis on items that can bring people together – past favorites include:

- hosting a BBQ or a fancy dinner for 8
- organizing a local pub crawl
- hosting a spa night
- hosting a kid's movie night or birthday party
- offering a cookie of the month or homemade ice cream delivery service
- offering weekly fresh produce from a backyard garden
- surf or sport lessons
- voice lessons
- knitting or sewing lessons
- tickets to a sporting event or concert
- tutoring services
- interior design advising
- kayak tour of Foster City lagoons
- weekend at a vacation house

Email Kristen.kearns@gmail.com with donation offers. Thanks!

LAY LEADERSHIP AT TRANSFIGURATION

VESTRY CLASS OF 2024



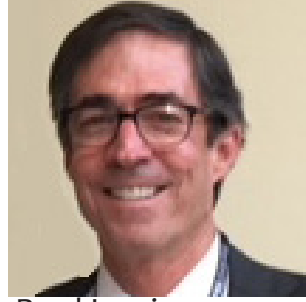
Tim Fox

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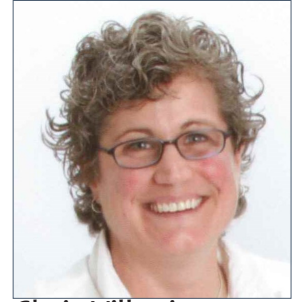
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Chris Villanis
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Greg Spurrier

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DEANERY / CONVENTION DELEGATES



Skip Howie
Deanery Delegate



Keith Jobe
Deanery Delegate



Aidan Jobe Sea
¹¹Deanery Delegate



PARISH DIRECTORY

STAFF

Rector: The Rev. Jennifer Hornbeck
415 830-1717 jennifer@transfig-sm.org

Community of Wonder Director: Rebecca Robinson
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Director of Music: Jim Dahlstrom
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Operations Manager: Noreen Huey
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Bookkeeper: Christine Semenza
Contact via the parish office

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VESTRY LEADERSHIP

Senior Warden: Jennifer Robinson

Junior Warden: Cheryl Blalock

Clerk to the Vestry: Kristen Kearns

Treasurer: Christine Villanis

VESTRY MEMBERS

Class of 2024

Tim Fox
Kristen Kearns
Brad Lewis
Chris Villanis

Class of 2025

Cheryl Blalock
Amanda Duquette
Eric Manning
Jennifer Robinson

Class of 2026

Cathy Apsley
Bob Shields
Hillary Smith
Greg Spurrier

DEANERY/CONVENTION DELEGATES

Skip Howie
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