

# St. John's Chapel Newsletter

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June 2025

## Summer Sabbath

Was life simpler in Jesus' ministry days than now? Were the demands of life lighter or their solutions easier to address? Were the people of that time so different from us today? I don't think so. In the Gospel According to Matthew, as Jesus begins his ministry, he travels and teaches from one village or city to the next. Everywhere, Jesus keeps running into people who "were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matt. 9:36 NRSV).

Fast forward twenty centuries and imagine Jesus beginning his public ministry in Downtown San Francisco, or Monterey/Sand City/Carmel for that matter. He could just as easily say that the harried folks racing around here look more than a little stressed and a lot harassed. We would have to agree.

Oh, there are some differences, at least on the surface of things. In the first century, lacking cell phones and all the trappings of our own age, Jesus was referring primarily to the burdens placed on people by their religious culture. The detailed requirements of religious law extended to every aspect of daily life. As St. Paul later articulated, fulfilling those requirements was not only burdensome, but a recipe for failure no matter how hard one tried. The spirit of the law was superseded by the letter of the law. The crowds needed liberation. They needed to hear the good news that God invites all who



will hear to an expansive embrace of life that goes way beyond compulsive adherence to the law. But these differences are not different in substance.

Back here on Mark Thomas Drive we have to admit that we are burdened by the "social law," that is, the customs and expectations valued by our culture. For most of us, these expectations have little to do with the religious law of our time. Instead, they are linked to our culture's hyper-individualism valued above community, obsessive overwork valued above friendship and family, and the striving for power and control valued above service. Even advances meant to usher in more freedom, like email, cell phones, and social pages, can also be instruments of oppression, insisting that we be available every minute, filling all our thought and attention with every instantaneously delivered distraction. Our culture relentlessly asserts that our worth is dependent on what we have, what we do, and what we accomplish.

Like Jesus' first-century followers, we need liberation. We too need to hear the good news that we are loved and precious in God's sight. Like them, we need the good news that God invites all of us to an expansive embrace of life that goes way beyond compulsive adherence to the enslaving expectations of our culture.

So how can we come to experience such liberation? By taking the spirit of Sabbath seriously. In the opening chapters of the Bible we're given a gift, indeed a commandment, that grounds us in the love of God and counterbalances the frenzy and stress that mark our lives. This gift is called Sabbath. Sabbath is a time to put aside all the distractions so that we might simply be: be in the presence of God, the creation, and the community.

Episcopal priest Matthew Fox writes, "We have lost a sense of Sabbath in our lives, a sense of joy and delight, a sense of what we do when we

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come face-to-face with the mystery of existence itself.” Theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether adds, “The demands to [be available and responsive to everything] all the time as the measure of one’s worth have grown so endemic that one needs to make little vows and rules for oneself to resist them.”

So, here’s my suggestion: Now that summer is upon us, take a Summer Sabbath. Summer is a perfect time to make room in our lives for a restorative sabbath rest. Given the demands on our time and the culture’s capacity to make us feel guilty if we’re not always available, it does take effort to carve out Sabbath time. But just as wise people block out time for exercise, blocking out some time on your calendar each day just to “be” will be life renewing and liberating. Groups can create Sabbath time too. Time spent together, apart from the demands and tasks that take up so much of life, can help build stronger relationships, and enable a greater experience of the love of God in those relationships. Also, maybe take up a book that’s all about just “being”, instead of having to be about something. For instance, so much of what I read is for learning something: something that I

can use or apply and preach about. That’s a demand of my job as a priest that even takes over my “off” time. That means I have to let go of that sabbath denying demand and give myself “permission” to read some things when they don’t immediately appear to meet such demands. (A current Sabbath read for me is Savannah Guthrie’s MOSTLY WHAT GOD DOES, Reflections on Seeking and Finding His Love Everywhere. I heartily recommend it for just feeling good.)

Of course, we also have Sunday, the traditional Sabbath, too. Obviously, I don’t recommend taking a Summer Sabbath from the Sabbath. The Sabbath will help bring balance, rejuvenation, and nourishment through word, sacrament, rest, and connection with what is most important in life; our relationships with God and with one another.

This Summer, take a Summer Sabbath: It’s just the right time to do some calendar cleaning. May it make room for you and me now, and in the future, for a little Sabbath time in our lives.

Blessings,  
Fr. Rick

### **REPORT: Potluck and Congregational Meeting**

Yesterday’s, Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, potluck and congregational meeting was outstanding. Thank you to all of you who participated. We had excellent food, wonderful fellowship, and a very productive meeting. And a special thank you to everyone who helped with the setup, the program, and the cleanup.

During the meeting we discussed our church cash flow shortage and the immediate need for \$25,000 to pay bills and staff through the end of May. We also discussed ideas for increasing our revenue in the short term and for the long term. The immediate results were that we received checks totaling \$9,200 toward this shortfall, and many additional revenue ideas were offered. We also received at least one substantially increased yearly pledge.

The Finance Committee will now allocate the new funds received to our most pressing obligations, and the Vestry will begin researching all of the ideas offered at their respective upcoming meetings. But please remember, we are still accepting your donations, both financial and in thought! We still need \$15,800 by the end of May to meet our obligations, and we need your additional ideas to consider.

In the meantime, please keep our congregations’ finances and future ministry in your prayers. Thank you to one and all for actively taking part in this process and helping to keep the ministry of St. John’s alive.

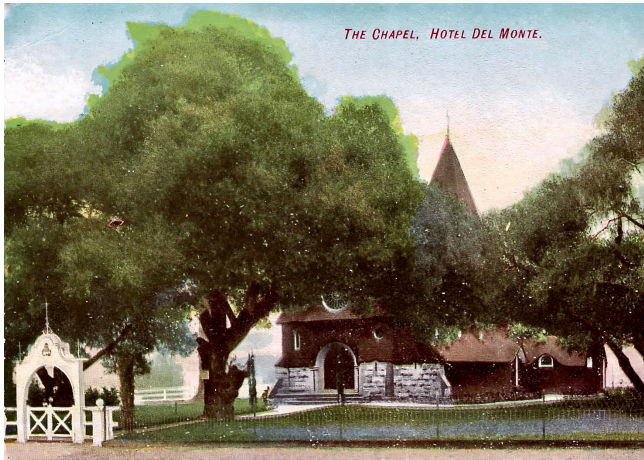
Blessings,  
Fr. Rick





## Growing St. John's Chapel: 1920-1930

By Richard and Elizabeth Barratt, St. John's Historians



*Early postcard view of St. John's Chapel*

Between 1920 and 1930 major events in America included the phenomenon called the Roaring Twenties and the Jazz Age, a period when music and culture flourished, just as the decade's economic boom produced industrial growth and consumerism. The Model T Ford created affordable cars for everyone, and auto transportation became new norm. Social changes gave women new freedoms and styles. Passage of the Eighteenth Amendment during the era banned alcohol, and the Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote. Warren G. Harding was elected president at the start of the new decade and Herbert Hoover brought it to a close. By late 1929, the fun was all gone: the Wall Street Crash would bring the following decade's Great Depression.

In Monterey, the period from 1920 and 1930 saw significant local events as well. Early in the decade, officials met to plan the Coast Road completion, planning to link Monterey to San Luis Obispo. The Associated Oil Company fire, on September 14, 1924, obliterated several canneries and threatened for a time to engulf the City of Monterey. Just one week later, the September 27, 1924, the Hotel Del Monte fire leveled the main building's second rebuilding and resulted in the third and present Spanish Colonial Revival style Hermann Hall. Looking to preserve and protect Monterey's distinct culture, by 1931 the still-active Monterey History & Art Association was founded.

During this time frame St. John's Chapel was fortunate to be served for the entire decade by one priest: the Rev. Griffen Marshall Cutting. He already held the distinction of having been St. John's circuit-riding priest from 1906-1909 while vicar of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea. Missing the Monterey Peninsula, he returned from San Rafael a decade later, and



*The Associated Oil Fire and the destruction of the Hotel Del Monte's main building occurred a week apart in September 1924 and affected the area's economy.*



*Hotel Del Monte, September 27, 1924*

from 1920-1930 he became St. John's first fulltime Rector.

It was a busy decade for the chapel. Early in 1921, several Episcopal churches including St. Paul's, St. James, St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, All Saints and St. John's met to plan an Educational Conference Institute to help and stimulate the church's work in training leaders, especially the youth, in expanding the work of the church. The same year, Fr. Cutting held a special service to

commemorate the third anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended World War I. The entire staff of the Hotel Del Monte as well as local veterans attended. A special evening service was held at St. John's during the Annual Episcopal Summer Conference at Asilomar, conducted by Fr. Cutting and Bishop William Ford Nichols.

One good news outcome for St. John's, if not for the devastated Hotel Del Monte, resulted *Continued on page 4*

**Growing, continued from page 3**

in the iron chandeliers that now grace the chapel nave. These are credited to Fr. Cutting. Following the 1924 Hotel Del Monte fire, he took a walk over to the hotel grounds to see the fire's destruction. After finding the chandeliers among the hotel ruins, he asked if St. John's could have them. The fixtures had originally hung in the hotel bar. Fr. Cutting had them refinished and rehung in St. John's nave, where they remain, over a century later.

Neighboring activities began to crop up near St. John's. By 1925, the new Del Monte Golf Course Clubhouse was being constructed next door to the chapel which brought more foot and auto traffic as well as chapel visitors. For several summers, the National Guard Summer Training Camp was held at the nearby Hotel Del Monte racetrack and polo fields. Occasional services were held at the chapel for the military attendees, sometimes led by their own chaplain. Regular services during the decade, at St. John's were held at 8:00 AM for Holy Communion and 11:00 AM for Morning Prayer and Sermon.



*The onetime Hotel Del Monte's bar chandeliers gracing St. John's nave were salvaged by Fr. Cutting following the hotel's 1924 fire.*

In 1927 the Cuttings took a five-month sabbatical and traveled to Belgium where Fr. Cutting was a delegate to a Rotary International, Convention. They went on to London, where he attended an Anglo-Catholic conference, from there going on to Oxford University to attend an economics course and then to Cambridge to attend the Modern Churchman's Conference on the Church of England. He was also present at York Cathedral to participate in the cathedral's 1300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The decade ended, but not before the next to last week in October 1929, when prices began to fall on Wall Street. Panicked New York bankers began to confer, offering stopgap measures to stem the financial flow. It was too late: by the end of the month, securities were being sold in the millions creating the worst stock market crash in history.

At St. John's Chapel, hopes were high that the crash was temporary and that soon things would right themselves. The chapel at the beginning of the 1930s decade had a flush reserve account. Wealthy members of the congregation were especially generous in helping St. John's to stay afloat during the troublesome period. At least, they hoped so. And soon into the new decade, St. John's would be welcoming a new priest.



## **Opportunity to Serve: Chapel Treasurer**



Here's a great opportunity. As we move into a new phase of St. John's Chapel, Del Monte, we need one of our own, a member of our congregation, to step up to the Treasurer's position. This is not necessarily a Vestry position, although it could be. It is not the "bookkeeper" position, but the individual responsible to keep the vestry informed of the Chapel's financial health. More specifically, the position calls for an individual who can develop a budget and supervise its implementation, keeping the Vestry informed and proposing solutions to issues. Budgeting is the allocation of the Chapel's resources, in accordance with a plan, for the achievement of its objectives and goals. The church budget is one of the most effective tools available for the proper stewardship of the church's assets.

If this is a challenge you'd like to rise to, please contact Senior Warden Geoff Holland or any member of the Vestry - names can be found at the bottom of page 7. Thank you for considering this opportunity.



## Flag Day –June 14, 2025



*Image courtesy wikipedia*

### *Concerning the BCP*

‘And as somebody who was brought up on that prayer book, day after day, year after year, Sunday after Sunday, school worship after school worship, evening prayer, communion; everything, those words do sink into your soul in some extraordinary way.’

– HM Charles III,  
King of the United Kingdom

In an era when patriotism and respect for our flag seems to be waning, it’s a credit to St. John’s Chapel that it’s one of the few remaining churches in the area where the flag is a prominent feature at our worship services (along with the singing of “America”). It’s worth taking a look at this special day, just as a reminder of who we are.

When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, the colonists weren’t fighting united under a single flag. Instead, most regiments participating in the war for independence against the British fought under their own flags. In June of 1775, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to create the Continental Army - a unified colonial fighting force - with the hopes of a more organized battle against its colonial oppressors. This led to the creation of what was, essentially, the first “American” flag, the Continental Colors.

For some, this flag, which was comprised of 13 red and white alternating stripes and a Union Jack in the corner, was too like that of the British. George Washington soon realized that flying a flag that was even remotely close to the British flag was not a great confidence-builder for the revolutionary effort, so he turned his efforts towards creating a new symbol of freedom for the soon-to-be fledgling nation.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress took a break from writing the Articles of Confederation and passed a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white,” and that “the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”

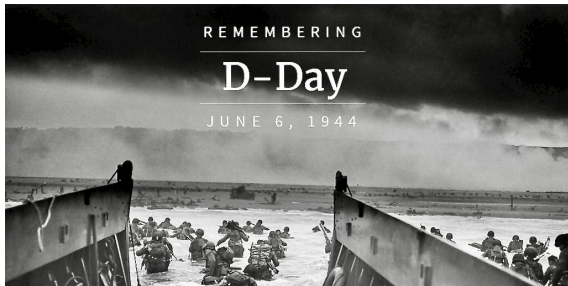
Over 100 years later, in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson marked the anniversary of that decree by officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day.



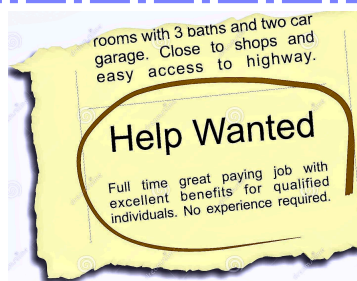
## St. John's Chapel, Del Monte June 2025 Schedule

Date	Activity	Notes
June 1	10:00 AM - Holy Communion	Fr. Rick Miles Presiding
June 8	10:00 AM - Holy Communion 11:30 AM – Vestry Meeting	Fr. Rick Miles Presiding Centennial Hall
June 15 Father's Day	10:00 AM - Holy Communion	Fr. Rick Miles Presiding
June 22	10:00 AM – Morning Prayer	Licensed Lay Reader Conducting
June 29	10:00 AM - Holy Communion	Fr. Rick Miles Presiding

### St. John's Chapel, Del Monte & Our Military Connection



David Jones, longtime member of our congregation, is undertaking the daunting task of chronicling the members of St. John's who have served in the military. Our connection to the military goes back even before the US Navy acquired the Del Monte Hotel. David is asking everyone in the congregation to search their memories and provide him with names and any history you might have. He can be reached at [davediane1@comcast.net](mailto:davediane1@comcast.net), or you're welcome to chat with him during "coffee hour" after service on Sundays.



### Volunteers Needed for All Ministry Areas

We need help in all ministry areas including acolytes, altar guild, lay readers, and ushers. If you're able to assist even one Sunday a month please contact the Church Office at (831) 375-4463

"Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision."  
~Unknown~

### Poem on Child Rearing

Nurturing love in others only becomes possible as we are nurtured in love by Christ and each other. Here is a poem on this nurturing kind of love that I'm sure you have all heard before. It was originally written by Dorothy Law Nolte to guide the rearing of children.

If a child lives with criticism, she learns to condemn.  
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.  
If a child lives with ridicule, she learns to be shy.  
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.  
[But,] If a child lives with tolerance, she learns to be patient.  
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.  
If a child lives with praise, she learns to appreciate.  
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.  
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.  
If a child lives with approval, she learns to like herself.  
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.





## **THE BENEFIT SHOP ACCEPTS**

Clean, gently used clothing  
Clean, working small appliances  
Clean Kitchen items  
Chinaware, Glassware  
CDs and DVDs  
Knick knacks and bric-a-brac  
Small furniture items in good condition  
Art and Art objects  
Holiday items  
Jewelry

## **WE DO NOT ACCEPT**

**ELECTRONICS:** such as MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PRINTERS, COPIERS, LAPTOPS, CELL PHONES, TELEVISIONS, OR COMPUTERS.

Soiled or worn-out clothing or shoes  
Cassettes or VHS videos  
Non-working small appliances  
Broken, chipped, or cracked items  
Worn kitchen ware  
Broken jewelry or watches  
Mattresses

***Please Note:** We do not have the woman-power to dispose of unsaleable items.*

***Please do not leave items at the gate, it is unlawful.***

## **From our Benefit Shop Director**

There will be a Peddler's Fair on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We have room for peddlers, \$25 per space, and if any parishioners are interested in a table inside or a space outside, there'll be no charge (but a donation will be appreciated). Also, the shop will be open and weather permitting, we will have a \$1.00 clothing sale outside, and a furniture department. We'll need volunteers too if anyone is able to spend an hour or the day. We also have lots of art and antique pieces and are looking for a date to hold a special sale.

## **Can You Help St. John's Cut Expenses?**

Dear Parishioners,

We are always in need of extra toilet paper and paper towel supplies. If you're shopping at COSTCO or another big box store, would you please pick up a packet of these items and bring them to church on Sunday? These small donations really add up in helping the Chapel defray extra expenses. Thanks so much for your help!



*"I miss the days when he stared at us."*



**Altar Flowers:** The Flower Chart is in its usual place in the Parish Hall. Reserve those important dates now. Costs are \$30.00 for regular seasonal flowers, greenery and candles, OR \$40.00 for roses.

### Editorial Policy

The *St. John's Chapel Newsletter* is published by St. John's Chapel, Del Monte, 1490 Mark Thomas Drive, Monterey CA 93940, a 501(c)(3) non profit, tax exempt organization. It is published monthly for the benefit and edification of its parishioners and the general public. The advertisements appearing in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by St. John's Chapel, Del Monte.

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