



*Holy Spirit Church*  
Communities of Courage and Compassion

*A Shared Ministry in East Contra Costa County*  
St John's Parish, 5555 Clayton Road, Clayton, CA  
St Michael and all Angels, 2925 Bonifacio, Concord, CA

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## Calendar of Events

### *June*

June 30th  
3rd Sunday after Pentecost  
9 AM at St John's  
11 AM at St Michaels

June 30th  
6 PM Sunday evening  
An Introduction to Cursillo and a  
social time for all!  
Rev. Amanda's  
614 Parkhaven, Pleasant Hill

### **Weekday Service**

10 AM Tuesdays  
Eucharist or Morning Prayer and  
Adult Ed  
St John's Clayton

### *July*

Sunday, July 7th  
4th Sunday after Pentecost  
10 AM at St John's  
One service only

Sunday, July 14th  
5th Sunday after Pentecost  
9 AM and 11 AM at St John's

Sunday, July 21st  
6th Sunday after Pentecost  
9 AM and 11AM at St John's

Sunday, July 28th  
7th Sunday after Pentecost  
9 AM and 11 AM at St John's

Celtic Nights  
Celtic Evening Prayer, music,  
dinner and educational program  
6 PM at St John's

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Dear Family of St. John's and St. Michael's:  
THIS SUNDAY: A reminder service time this Sunday  
(30th) with the usual suspects at the usual locales,  
9:00 Clayton, 11:00 Concord...

But then! On July 7 St. Mike's camps out at St. John's  
for an extended staycation in air-conditioned relief.  
That particular Sunday is a kind of "Americana" salute.  
Jim Wiant from St. Anna's will be on bass, a cadre of  
guitarists from both churches will be on hand, Joyce  
and the St. Mike's singers will join. Gwen has promised  
some fun gospelly/bluegrass choruses and songs  
may be a teensy outside our tradition but fun and  
moving all the way. The Grant Street Players will stuff  
the service with tunes and their own unsettling take on  
the scriptures and the proverbial good time will be had,  
we're sure, by all.

You won't want to miss this one! Our Vicar has hinted she will be there too. And lately we've had as many as \*four\* priests around in the same building for these joint gatherings so you \*know\* this will be one where God will "bless us real good," as Rev. Billy used to say.

Our new friend Father Bill will preside over this conglomerate as Rev. Amanda is still recuperating from surgery. She's doing well, thank you, and has indicated she is hoping to come back in a light schedule to help out before she returns with her usual gusto hopefully sometime in July. She's always just a phone call away--texting and email are something of a challenge so you may have to do something very 20th century and actually \*talk\* to her. We have pastoral care teams in both parishes ready to help out if you need. She's still basically not "at work" at the moment so if you need a house exorcised or demons cast out or something major, see if it can wait or try to grab Father Bill after service.

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**THIS SUNDAY NIGHT** though is bound to be the social event of the season--a chance to hob-nob with your fellow Episcopalians overlooking those pleasant hills as Rev. Amanda is hosting a wine and cheese gathering at her place at 6, aimed at people who have been to Cursillo, are thinking of going, or just want a fun place to mingle and hear more about it! We're not talking the Gallo Brothers and Velveeta either, it's sure to be first class. The Vicar has a very warm inviting place to visit and it's definitely going to be a beautiful night. Eschew 60 Minutes and get all the news at Rev. Amanda's!

**A Wine & Cheese Party for  
St. Michael's, St. John's and friends  
An Introduction to Cursillo - and a social time for  
everyone !!**

When: Sunday, June 30 - 6 pm

Where: Rev. Amanda's house - 613 Parkhaven Court,  
Pleasant Hill



# Grant Street Update



## SINGIN' AND MISSIONARY RAISIN'

Grant Street Players' recent concert raised about \$800 and another \$200 in donations followed the performances and it helped our own **Ethan Dale** travel to Alaska--we haven't heard a word since he arrived in the wilderness but that was after all the whole point. His assessment of the dreary Anchorage airport: "I've never been closer to Russia." He will be back next week, was really thrilled by everyone's generosity and we will expect a full "Missionary's Report" on his return!



Time flies and our trio of GSP performers, seen above at their graduation, and performing at our churches since 2012 - are flung far and wide. Recently

confirmed **Mackenzie Chandler** is thoroughly involved in St. Alban's in Waco TX and at Baylor U she is, shall we say, taking on the conservative tower there as she continues her studies.

**Evie McCollum**, the little girl with the big voice, continues her Performing Arts aspirations at UC Irvine, currently working in the costume department there for the summer Shakespeare Festival.

And the irrepressible **Evan Chin** is back home in our area after a wonderful time living and exploring all over Southern California and Arizona. All of them will probably turn up now and then to lift their voices and they appreciate the love and prayers.

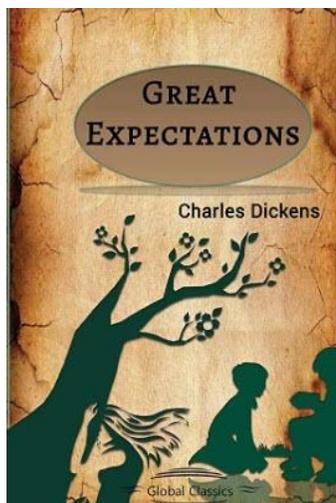
Wild-mannered **Somer Northern** is attending Holy Names University this fall and is busy sorting through class offerings (prayers appreciated, she's a tad nervous). Somer now lives in San Francisco, but frequently hitches a ride out to our churches for service and singing.

**"America" Meneses**, Victor's sis, is studying nursing starting this fall at LMC. All of our GSP members are currently in any number of colleges, local and beyond!

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## St John's Update

**THE DICKENS YOU SAY:** Next up for St John's long running book club is that light summer novel, *Great Expectations*. Their next confab is Sunday, August 11th at 7 pm at the Henshaw's. This is definitely a no-pressure, everyone welcome book club--they get together and discuss and share and if you've read it, fine, if you've haven't finished the book, great (!) but come in at any level. It's kind of innovative--they decide at the gathering what the next book is going to be then everyone has plenty of time to read it. And everyone is really welcome--St. Michael's gang, are you listening? New folks absolutely welcome so come on over to the Henshaw's on August 11.



**SCHOOL DAZE:** Things are humming along nicely in the plans for St. John's new preschool. St. J's volunteers finished the playground - spreading a mountain of chips. The classrooms are being organized and stocked with tables and chairs and toys. Next the Fire Marshall will cast his watchful eye over the place and then notify the licensing board to make their final visit. Banners have been designed and produced which will be posted in front of the church to spread the news as soon as we are approved to begin enrolling students. Lots of excitement in the air!

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## Meet Miss Shonece...



Miss Shonece or Ms. Barney (her "street" name) and her smile have been a familiar sight at St. Mike's Preschool for years now, and she's a favorite among our students. She took a breather the other day from her hectic life to talk with us about her role as a teacher and the exciting new world opening up as Director at St. John's Preschool!

### **Miss Shonece, How did you get into teaching preschool and how long have you been at St. Michael's?**

I come from a big family of five brothers and two, sisters and me being one of the oldest I was in charge of helping out with the younger kids. I've always known I wanted to work with kids I just wasn't sure which avenue I'd take. I started off answering an Ad online for a small family daycare where I feel in love with teaching. I knew then that there was so much more to offer children and their families besides babysitting essentially. I've been at St. Michael's for about seven years now!

### **What's the most challenging part of preschool teaching?**

It's not the teaching but the weather-permitting days. When it's too hot to enjoy the outdoors or when it's too rainy and the kids become antsy!

**Tell us a little about your classroom!**

I am currently the Turtle classroom teacher with a mixed age group. It's new with half wood floors and carpet. I have a sink in the classroom and bathroom access in the classroom as well which helps with potty training. The walls are covered with pictures of the children doing various activities throughout the day. All the art you will see is their own and not one looks the same! It is one of two new classrooms so I am always trying to introduce new activities and toys to enrich our learning environments. It has definitely helped me in setting up the classrooms at St. John's intentionally and making sure everything in the classrooms there promote a healthy learning environment

**What are some events you look forward to every year?**

I look forward to the Father's Day picnic, Mother's Day lunch, end of the year bbq and our Christmas craft night. Story nights are always fun as well.

**Do you ever think about the impact you may have as a teacher in their young lives?**

With my passion being to create an inclusive classroom I am always thinking of what the impact of my thoughts, ideas and activities I introduce to the children will have on them. It all plays a role in intentional teaching, the classroom set up, the conversations, self soothing tools and even problem solving skills.

**What are you looking forward to at the new school at St. John's?**

I am looking forward to becoming the Director at St. John's Preschool this Fall. There are great things we do here at St. Michael's I'd love to take with us but I'd also like to start our own traditions as well.

**Do you ever hear from or run into former students? What's that like?**

I stay in contact with many of our families and it's always good to run into them at the grocery store or Target! It's amazing to know how much you have touched the families lives in a positive way that is still cherished and remembered. I always get a little teary-eyed at how big they've gotten and how they view the world at the age they are now.

**What do you do to unwind from teaching?**

If I'm not working I'm enjoying the outdoors hiking, biking, trips to Napa and eating lots of yummy vegan food!

Thanks Miss Shonece and good luck this fall!

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Please remember Rev. Amanda in your prayers for healing this week as well as those in our churches who are on the road travelling. Hope to see you this Sunday at one or both of our churches and this Sunday night at Rev. Amanda's!