

# THE VAYA CON DIOS

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM EPISCOPAL CHURCH | RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CA

*a nurturing, open and affirming community where all are welcome*

## VBS 2019 Roared Into Kids' Lives!



**THE VAYA**

The Newsletter of St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church  
30382 Via Con Dios • Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-1518

# VBS 2019 Roared Into Kids' Lives!

A tribe of 200 kids, and youth and adult volunteers surged onto St. John's campus in mid-June. Lives were changed during the five days of VBS 2019: "Roar: Life is Wild • God is Good"!

More than 140 kids signed up for VBS, and an additional 50 Youth Leader volunteers, and five adult volunteers completed the tribe. The kids learned songs, hand gestures and dances; heard stories about God's goodness; made cool crafts; and got small-group attention at separate teaching stations, led by youth volunteers.



Have a look at VBS videos on our Facebook page showing VBS kids singing and dancing!

• <http://bit.ly/VBSVideo1>

• <http://bit.ly/VBSVideo2>



And here's more about those youth volunteers, from Patti Peebles, VBS worship leader and one of the adult directors, "VBS could not work, could not happen without the amazing youth volunteers. They were current and graduated St. John's students, and we even have some youth volunteers who've never attended St. John's but signed up because they heard about how amazing it is from their friends." She added, "Even at the end of an intensive week, all the youth volunteers had the huge set broken down in an hour and on the curb for the next church to pick it up for its VBS. We are so grateful for them always signing up. Even when they go off to

college they come back to help lead VBS."

Mrs. Patti told the story of how one life was changed this year at VBS: "St. John School's Director of Facilities Jesse Greenhalgh said his oldest daughter, Alex, a rising sixth grader, is now taking more of a leadership role at home, including helping more with her younger sister. She learned the responsibility from her week as a crew leader."



Thank you to this year's adult leaders: Brytnee Grogan, executive director; Brooke Grogan, director; Lorraine Kamholz, director; Sheryll Grogan, director; Patti Peebles, worship leader and director; and Corey Gonsalves, kitchen supervisor.

See you at VBS 2020 for "Rocky Railway, Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through"!



# ST. JOHN'S AT JOYOUS PRIDE IN SANTA ANA



St. John's was represented at PRIDE/OC Saturday, June 22 by Sara and Margaret Campbell, Eleanor Salvanera, Mike DeVries, Rev. Karen Maurer, BJ Sullivan, Jon and Kelly Achée, and Angela Epp. Nearly a dozen Episcopal churches attended Pride. Preceding the parade to the Pride festival was a poignant and beautiful worship service at Church of the Messiah. Though you may not have been present at PRIDE, you were represented!

The Rev. David Milligan, Associate Pastor, St. Paul's, Tustin, preached, and said, in part, "Religiously motivated culture wars have left legions of the population marginalized by racism, sexism, patriarchy, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, economic oppression, and the list goes on. Religious walls have been erected to keep the undesirable

out. Many of us here today have been on the receiving end of this shaming and exclusion.

"But here is the good news, "Jesus is a wall jumper!" He will go to the shadow wildernesses created by our fears and projections and liberate our scapegoated sisters and brothers from their abysmal exclusion. Having done this, we are commanded to continue this work in his name. Here is more good news, we, the Episcopal Church, are followers of Jesus the "wall jumper."

Then David offered a 'small meditation':

Be still and know that I am God  
Be still and know  
Be still  
Be

~

See you at St. John's!

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...AND A BIT MORE NEWS THROUGHOUT

# Meet Our New Director of Music Ministries

**DR. JOHANNES MÜLLER STOSCH** is our new Director of Music Ministries at St. John's. He currently serves as Director of Orchestral Studies and conductor of the Bob Cole Conservatory Symphony Orchestra at CSU Long Beach. He was also appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Orange County Youth Symphony. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester NY and earned two Master of Music degrees in organ performance and orchestral conducting from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

**JOHANNES** began studying piano at age seven and moved to the organ at 12 and started to sub for church services right away. He was offered his first official organ position at age 15 at the Christuskirche in his native Wittenberg (town of Martin Luther's reformation in 1517). He continued studying organ and conducting and organized his first choral concerts at age 16. After coming to the U.S. as an exchange student he won a high school piano competition in Georgia and was offered a full scholarship at the prestigious Schwob School of Music in Georgia. He completed his Bachelors in Voice and Organ and moved on to graduate study in Cincinnati.

**CONCERT TOURS** as conductor, soloist and collaborative artist have taken Johannes throughout Korea, Germany, Italy, Chile, and Japan. He has several commercial recordings to his credit. He recorded several CDs of Jewish Choral Music for Bonia Shur at Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati that received critical acclaim. His CD celebrating the renovation of Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church's Casavant Frères organ (Rochester, NY) has been featured on NPR's With Heart and Voice. His principal conducting teachers were Neil Varon (Eastman School) and Mark Gibson (College-Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati). He studied organ with Hans Davidsson (Eastman School), Roberta Gary (Cincinnati) and Klaus-Dieter Mücksch (Germany). Previous positions include Music Director/Organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach, Organist at First Presbyterian Church in San Pedro and Music Director at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY, Grace Lutheran in Cincinnati and Rose Hill Baptist Church in Columbus, GA. He begins at St. John's July 1. Please give Johannes a warm St. John's welcome.



## Many Thanks to Our Search Committee...

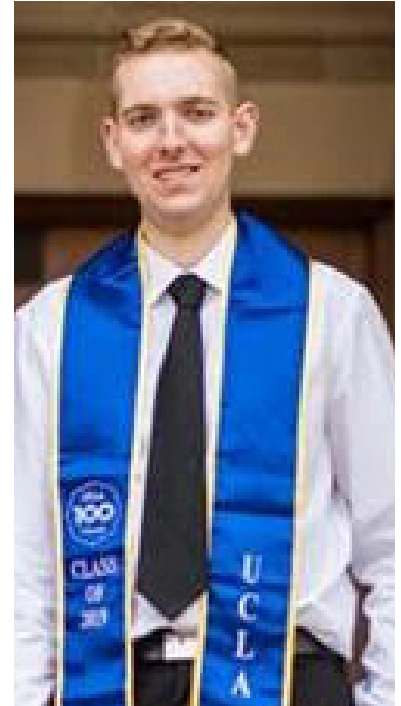
by the Rev. Christopher Potter, Vicar

We owe an enormous amount of gratitude and thanks to the five members of the Search Committee for their stellar work in spearheading our choirmaster/director search — especially for the hard work of Brian Skeith, the chair of the Committee. He was a strong advocate for the choir, for good liturgical music, for professionalism, and for the congregation as a whole. Thanks also for the hard work of Carolyn Van Velzer, Jason Francisco, Linda Stones and Diana Farrell. As you know, search committee members serve in their roles as volunteers, and dedicate countless hours to preparing a job description, publicizing the position opening, reading completed applications, winnowing the applications submitted, listening to music submissions, further narrowing the candidate list, arranging for final interviews, and then making a hiring recommendation to me.

To search committee members: know that you have my deepest appreciation for your contribution to the search process. The selection of Johannes Stosch was only possible through your commitment of time and effort, which is especially notable given your other responsibilities of work, family, and volunteering. Again, thank you for your continued commitment to the values and mission of St. John's Church.

# This Year's Grads!

Daniel Achée, son of Jon and Kelly Achée has graduated with a B.S. Computer Science from UCLA. He'll spend this summer in an internship at Viasat Inc. located in Carlsbad, CA, a provider of high-speed satellite broadband services and secure networking systems covering military and commercial markets. In the fall, Daniel returns to UCLA to earn his M.S. in Computer Science.



David Pearson, son of Dave and Maria Pearson, graduated from Santa Margarita Catholic High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the California Scholastic Federation. David was also honored for achieving the “Coeur a Coeur” or Heart to Heart award by completing 120+ additional service hours beyond those required by the school.

David was on the water polo and swim teams all four years. He was recently chosen by the coaches of his varsity team as the “Jessie Reese Most Inspirational Swimmer” for his performance, work ethic, and upbeat attitude while helping his team achieve the Trinity League Championship and second place at CIF.

David will be attending Santa Clara University in the fall and plans to major in Accounting and Information Systems, with a minor in Economics. In addition to enjoying his summer before heading off to college, he and his family will be taking a two-week trip to Japan to celebrate his graduation.

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**Haley Brooke Kamholz is the daughter of Paul and Lorraine Kamholz, and graduated from Mission Viejo High School and will attend Colorado State University in the Fall to study Business. She was recognized and accepted into CSU's Leadership Program.**



**Cameron Sefton, son of Gloria and John Sefton, graduated with Doctor of Optometry (OD) and Master of Science in Vision Science (MS) degrees from the New England College of Optometry (NECO) in Boston. Cameron had the distinction of being one of three Masters graduates in the optometry program, a member of the Beta Sigma Kappa Honors Society, and a Vision Service Plan Scholarship winner. Cameron spent his fourth year of optometry school in clinical rotations at the Veteran's Administration optometric clinic in Vancouver, Washington, private practice in Silicon Valley, and the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam in Honolulu, Hawaii. Cameron had the special distinction at graduation of being hooded by his sister, Francesca Sefton, OD, a 2017 alumna of NECO. Cameron is currently considering clinical practice and eye care industry options on the west coast to begin his new career. Cameron is an alumnus of the University of California, Santa Cruz (B.S. Human Biology), Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and St. John's Episcopal School.**

# Meet St. John's New Head of School!

by Patty Cyr, Succession Committee Chair

**I AM BEYOND THRILLED** to announce that Patrick McHonett has enthusiastically accepted our invitation to be the next Head of School at St. John's.

Mr. McHonett will be joining us after twelve years' experience at Phoenix Country Day School, where he was the Associate Head of School and served in a variety of roles, including Admissions, Marketing, Communications, Fundraising, Counseling, and Program Development. He was one of fifty rising stars nationwide selected to participate in the National Association of Independent Schools' Fellowship for Aspiring Heads and has been preparing for his new role since.

After his visit to campus, our community found Mr. McHonett to be "very personable while still demonstrating vast knowledge and expertise in all school aspects." We were impressed by his "creative and innovative approach to learning," and value that "he has the right past experience, current energy and vision to take our school to tremendous heights, future growth and innovation." It also is important to St. John's that he is dedicated to merging "the spiritual along with the academic areas of our school."

Mr. McHonett has a bachelor's degree in Literature and Legal Studies from Claremont McKenna College and a master's degree in Education, Leadership and Supervision from Arizona State. He enjoys reading, photography, yoga, and coaching, particularly middle school flag football and volleyball. Patrick and his wife Jessica are looking forward to joining our community, and their two children, Charlotte and Jack, are excited to become Cardinals starting the 2019-2020 school year. Patrick begins his position Monday, July 1.



# On Deck at St. John's...

don't blink, or you'll miss it!

## St. John's and the Angels!

It's baseball season and time to head to Angel Stadium! St. John's Church and School has secured a block of tickets on the terrace level for the Angels vs. Baltimore Orioles game Saturday, July 27 at 6:07 p.m. This event is open to adults and children of all ages. What a great opportunity for our church and school families to fellowship together this summer! Tickets are \$23 per person.



Angels baseball game with St. John's Church!

Saturday, Jul 27 · 6:10–9:10 PM

1 week before  
1 day before

Sign up by sending an email to [church@stjohns-es.org](mailto:church@stjohns-es.org), letting us know how many tickets you need! Once you've signed up, purchase tickets at [stjohnsrsm.org](http://stjohnsrsm.org) under "donate", or drop a check at the church office. Tickets will be distributed in July.

## Youth Summer News

We had to get a bigger bus! We're still taking signups for the Allnighter on **Friday, July 12 at 4 p.m.** 'til **Saturday, July 13 at 7 a.m.** Cost of the event is \$100. Email



Mrs. Patti to sign up: [sjecyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:sjecyouthgroup@gmail.com). Invite a friend to come along! **We have waiver forms, so signing up sooner rather than later is best. Sign up and we'll do a bulk email of waiver forms to all.**

~

Remember we're dark on Wednesdays for the summer, but still at church every Sunday; come sit with us in the balcony!



On retreat day the sky was a bit gray to start, but **Carol Atkins' and Dee Germond's** warm smiles greeted us, and we noshed on delicious wagon wheels (French's Bakery breakfast pizzas) along with Bagels & Brew's multi-colored, unicorn bagels. We introduced ourselves and added up that collectively the retreat's 30 women have more than 350 years of being a part of St. John's!

**Linda Stones** led us in a hymn following a series of vocal exercises to open up our "pipes" which brought out some serious giggles. Luckily **Lisa Naulls** was on hand to demo what it should sound like! **Rev. Karen Maurer** focused us with prayer and a moving discussion of growing in love as it relates to the Parable of the Mustard Seed. **Linda Allport** moderated an inspirational group discussion of St. John's women who started small in serving the external community: **Emily Salvanera, Gloria Sefton and BJ Sullivan**.

After small group reflection on the Parable, we moved to the sunny meadow in the Bishop's Room, decorated with yellow tablecloths and sunflowers, to dine on Luna Grill kabobs and salad. Raffle winners were revealed: **Tedda Duhey** snagged a \$25 movie gift card; **Barbara Walker** won two prizes (we decided to trust her when she said she remembered her sequence of numbers!).

## What happens at Women's Retreat doesn't stay at Women's Retreat!

by Tracy Daly

Our second inspirational group discussion, moderated by **DJ Gomer**, focused on starting small inside our church community and featured **Lisa Naulls and Margaret Campbell**.

We took a few moments to recognize **DJ**, our Women's Ministry Leader from 2010-2018. She received a special t-shirt, coordinating sunglasses and gift certificate. She has a new mantra: Keep Calm, I am Episcopalian.

I know I speak for all of us in thanking the seven women who opened their hearts to us about their journey of

starting small. You inspired us with your enthusiasm, commitment, knowledge, patience and deep and abiding compassion, love and faith.

Immediately following an emergency buntini break in the sunshine, we made our way to the chapel, where the retreat capped with a moving discussion of transformation and the Parable of the Yeast. **Rev. Karen** surprised us all by pulling out her guitar and enlisting **Lisa** to join her in song (is **Lisa** always prepared for spontaneous opportunities?). Eucharist was next followed by lots of hugs as we scattered to the weekend's winds.

**SPECIAL, SUPER DUPER THANKS:** **Cynthia Michaelson** was so awesome behind the scenes in setting up all our wonderful meals, materials, and overall set-up and tear-down!!! **Donna Varner** was awesome, and we have her to thank for coordinating lunch and the yummy wagon wheels, prepping swag bags for each participant, retreat prep and planning! There are three more people who really, really helped with set up and/or tear down: **Brooklyn Moore, Patricia Zehner and Jeff Allport**.

It must be acknowledged that **Linda and DJ** helped get everything all set up and put in an extra dose of love in coordinating their truly inspirational group discussions.

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