

Rector's Report February 2024

- On Thursday January 25, Pastor Karen Stanley led the first in a series of Bible Studies on the Gospel of Mark in Lewis Hall from 12:30 to 2 PM. Discussion has been rich, and attendance has been encouraging (at least 15 people at each meeting) and I imagine these Bible Study meetings (which have also met on Feb 1, 8, 15) will continue beyond Lent.
- On Saturday February 3, I met online with the other Northern California Deputies and Alternates to General Convention 81, which will take place from June 23 to 28 in Louisville KY. The [Rev. Jim Richardson](#) (of Trinity Cathedral) has been appointed to the “Racial Truth-Telling, Reckoning & Healing” Legislative Committee (as the Assistant Secretary) and Peter Juvé has been appointed to the “Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing” Legislative Committee. I will be attending the meetings of the “Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations” Legislative Committee prior to GC. I received an email from Kati Braak, the Director of Operations at the Office of the Bishop, informing me that the bishop’s office will cover all my travel expenses (hotel, meals, registration) except for airfare. I purchased my roundtrip ticket to Louisville and will be away from June 20 to 29.
- On Sunday February 4, we hosted a joyful, productive, and well-attended Annual Meeting, which included the premiere of the [Joy Mass Video Montage](#) (October 2023 – January 2024), the [“I Am the Bread of Life” Video Montage](#) (January – May 2023), as well as a brief [Fr. Shewmaker memorial video](#). Congratulations to Bob Hines and Steve Preston, whose names are now listed in the august company of other Rector’s Award recipients on the historic Christ Church pew!



- On Saturday February 10, we hosted the Betty Chinn Book Signing Event & Lunar New Year Celebration, which drew in over 260 people. This event was tremendously successful in my opinion, *and* it also seemed to strain the staff and volunteers a bit, as some details fell through the cracks. This was an event that the vestry dreamed about offering over a year ago and the parish leadership should be very proud for pulling it off. Although it would be exciting to offer more events like this in the future, it seems clear to me that we do not currently have the resources to sustain this level of hospitality on a regular basis.



- On Sunday February 11 (Shrove Sunday), Karen Price guest preached, pancakes were tossed at Joy Mass, and about 140 people attended our three Sunday morning services. So, during the weekend of Feb 10 – 11, a total of about 400 people passed through Christ Church.



- On Shrove Tuesday February 13, Christ Church Eurekaans showed up in full force at the Bobby Jo Valentine concert / Pancake Dinner at St. Alban's in Arcata. I was thrilled with the turnout, especially since the attendance would have been quite sparse without us.



- On Saturday February 17, I led a Spiritual Friendship Retreat online with the Pacific Center for Spiritual Formation. The retreat consisted of friends of the Center, Christ Church parishioners, and students in my CALL class. I have already signed a contract with Apocryphile Press for publication of my next book *Spiritual Friendship Distilled*, which I hope will be available by May or June. Since the bulk of the text is a dialogue, I have been in discussion with David Powell about performing and directing performances of portions of the text in a book launch event, tentatively scheduled for July, since July 30 is National Friendship Day.
- On Sunday February 18, the diocesan [Commission for Intercultural Ministries](#) published a special edition of its *Beloved Community Resource Newsletter* that highlights “seven stories about courage from Clergy and Laity who accepted the call to make a difference in their churches and communities.” I wrote about how I have been inspired by the courage of

Betty Kwan Chinn: “Inspired by Betty Kwan Chinn, Rev. Daniel has addressed the role of Christ Church in the Chinese expulsion in Eureka in the late 19th century and engaged in a partnership between Christ Church, Eureka and Humboldt Asian & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (HAPI). Here is his story: *I have been inspired by the courage of Betty Kwan Chinn, a Chinese philanthropist and humanitarian in Humboldt County who suffered unimaginable persecution and torture in China during the Cultural Revolution when she was a seven-year-old girl. After escaping and emigrating to the United States, Betty responded to her own suffering by fearlessly providing food, showers, housing, and job training to thousands of people struggling in northern California, even though local community leaders initially ostracized her. Eventually, thanks to the advocacy and support of other local leaders like Pastor Dan Price, Betty and her work have been embraced and celebrated by the community and beyond, including President Barack Obama who awarded her the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2010. Pastor Dan Price’s wife, Dr. Karen Price, has recently published an outstanding book about Betty titled, [The Gray Bird Sings: The Extraordinary Life of Betty Kwan Chinn](#) (Arcata: The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt, 2023), in which she bravely tells the truth about the horrendous atrocities committed during the Cultural Revolution, a potentially dangerous undertaking since the regime responsible for the Cultural Revolution is still in power. The courage of Betty, Dan, and Karen have inspired me to tell the truth about the troubling history of the Chinese expulsion in Eureka and my own parish’s complicity in the expulsion in the late 19th century. Although some people have responded to this truth-telling with offense and with the frustrated sense that I am trying to make others feel guilty about the sins of past generations, I have felt motivated by Betty’s courage to remain steadfast in telling the truth about our history in order to also proclaim the dream of the beloved community, practice the way of love, and work towards repairing the breach. Ironically, the one person who has done the most to heal the social wounds of Humboldt County is a woman from China and it is her courageous work that has inspired a partnership between my parish (Christ Church Eureka) and the Humboldt Asian & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (HAPI), a partnership that seeks to acknowledge the reality of the Chinese expulsion in Eureka and to start working together, courageously, towards healing and reconciliation.*



Season of Courage - Here I Am, Lord



- On Monday February 19, I met with the Executive Team of the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars. I will be in contact with Dr. Don Moffat, the Sir Paul Reeves Lecturer of Biblical Studies at St. John’s Theological College in Auckland NZ about being a guest speaker at our next international zoom gathering, scheduled for May or June.