

THE GOOD NEWS

The Official Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church



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A World Both Broken and Beautiful

by Mother Kelli Grace Kurtz

I write this in the middle of February while the staff and I breathe a bit of slowed-down air. January saw three funerals for All Saints (plus a fourth for me, filling in at another congregation), BSA Sunday, a concert, and the Annual Meeting. There was not much of a breather between Christmas and the end of January. Add to that the complications we're facing with the solar project and the intense interest around the sermon Bishop Budde preached at the post-Inauguration interfaith prayer service at the National Cathedral, and it's been busier than most start of the new year for this priest and staff. So, we're thankful for a couple of weeks of relative calm.

I find myself repeating a mantra fitting of these days: it matters not how you voted or whether you are supportive of a more conservative approach to governance or a more progressive approach, or a more libertarian or a more liberal, as followers of Jesus, what unites us is the priority justice, mercy, humility, and compassion must take in whatever programs-secular, religious, or otherwise, are put into action. And those programs must be based on the truth and solid data.

The staff is glad for a bit of a respite from programming and receptions, worship planning and arranging for musicians and memorial plaques, annual reports, and all the many details that go into being a vibrant and vital community. The vestry with its new class- Bob Powers, Luke López, Phil DeBrier, and Luke Hilland- is ready to be the Lay Leadership Team and advisory board to the rector in 2025. The vestry's first meeting on February 17 will have happened by the time you read this article, and we will have sorted out which vestry members will take the lead on which ministry development teams. We are also looking at practical and theological ways we can be a part of Sacred Resistance when confronted with actions and programs that adversely impact the dignity of human people.

The solar project team, led by the ever-faithful and committed Steve Slaten, will have acquired the four necessary permits, and we'll begin seeing progress on the project. Please keep praying for the solar project; the new federal administration has frozen the Inflation Reduction Act funding, which means a hit of about 40% grant funding for our project. We're still hopeful the funding will be restored, and we'll be able to get the paperwork filed. But it's a big hurdle. We're still hopeful. That's it, isn't it?

We are a people of hope. We're a people who hear God call us to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). It's our uniting call to action, our call to be in community with one another, our call to stand tall and insist justice, mercy, and hope are a part of projects-secular and religious-active in our community, our country, God's world. We see and experience the world's brokenness, even as we know it is a beautiful and sacred place. Sacred hope keeps us moving forward. Healing people of injustice and pain. Healing creation of harm and deterioration. Healing community of division and destruction. These are the mighty high calls of God to those who follow God's plan. And with God's help, we will navigate these deep waters.

Ash Wednesday is March 5 and begins our penitential season of Lent. Our liturgy changes focus, the Lent stones will be out, and we'll have two Lent studies. It'll be time for Lent Madness- www.lentmadness.org (see Senior Warden Liz Atkinson for details!). Beginning on Ash Wednesday, you can take a purple stone to carry with you in Lent. Bring it back on Good Friday. Our alleluias will be set aside for a more somber liturgical tone; instead of the Gloria, we'll chant the Kyrie Elieson (Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy). And all crosses in the church will be veiled in purple. Together, we move through Lent towards Easter.



I am especially looking forward to the two Lent studies I'll be leading:

A Holy Death- will meet on Tuesdays, March 18, March 25, April 1, and April 8, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the church library. We'll review the Episcopal Church's approach to death and dying, the liturgical significance of an Episcopal church funeral or memorial service (and, what's the difference?), and details everyone should be aware of as they plan their own memorial service or the service of a loved one. We'll look at appropriate biblical readings and hymns, options for the committal, and how it all gets put together. You'll have an opportunity to fill out a "funeral plan" unique to All Saints, and there will be copies of "Five Wishes" for you to fill out. At the end of the four Tuesdays, I hope we'll have a clearer and frankly less fearful understanding of death and of celebrating your own life and witness.

Inquirers Group- will meet each Thursday beginning March 6 through May 1, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the church library. This group is designed to give an overview of the Episcopal Church- its history, The Book of Common Prayer, its traditions and theology, its structure, and its worship. What are sacraments? Why do people make the sign of the cross at certain points of the service? How does the Episcopal Church approach social concerns? Who can be an acolyte, Eucharistic minister, lector? What is our approach to interfaith dialogue? At the end of the series, one may choose to be confirmed, received, or renew their baptismal vows in front of the Bishop on Sunday, May 4. Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments and is an adult rite of initiation. One is baptized as a Christian (or other faith tradition). One is confirmed into the Episcopal Church (or other Christian church that upholds the sacrament). You can also simply participate in the series as a refresher course or as an interested bystander or curious doubter. There's room for all.

The staff, vestry, and I hope the rest of February stays calm and uneventful so we're refreshed for March and beyond. I'm looking forward to it all—the restful February, the vibrant March, the celebratory April, and the hopeful May.

That said, I'm especially excited for June and early July. Mark and I are expecting a grandchild in early June, I'm leading a group of pilgrims to Scotland later that month, and July brings Vacation Bible School and Camp Stevens. Then, perhaps, a bit of vacation in August.

Life moves forward. And so do we.

All Saints
Episcopal Church
Lent 2025

The season of Lent begins March 5th



Lenten Series: Holy Death

"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors"

Join Mother Kelli Grace as she walks us through planning end of life services.

Tuesday, 3/18-4/8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.

2025 Inquirer's Class

Seekers, Skeptics, Doubters, Refreshers... All Welcome

What does it mean to be an Episcopalian?
Led by Mother Kelli Grace

May 4, 2025 Bishop John H Taylor will be at All Saints for confirmations/receptions.

Thursdays, 3/6-5/1 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.

www.AllSaintsRiverside.org

UPCOMING EVENTS @ All Saints

March

- 4** Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper 6 p.m.
- 5** Ash Wednesday
- 6** First evening, Inquirer's Class, 6 p.m.
- 10** Taizé at All Saints 7:00 p.m.
- 18** First evening, Lenten Series: Holy Death 6 p.m.
- 23** Crop Walk



Shrove Tuesday: March 4, Pancake Dinner 6:00 p.m. Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, whatever you call the day before the start of Lent, the tradition is to come to church for a pancake dinner and fun celebration. The ancient tradition was to “shriven” the kitchen of all that would be given up during Lent: lard, butter, sugar, eggs, and meat by making pancakes and having breakfast for dinner. We don’t necessarily give up those things today, but we still enjoy the tradition. Fun fact: it’s my Mark’s favorite church meal.

Ash Wednesday: March 5, 7:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 7:00 p.m. We are reminded that we are formed of the earth and to earth we shall return, which leads to a season of “self-examination, repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” (BCP page 265). Come, get your ash in church 😊 and your lent stone too.

Evening Prayer happens online every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. The Zoom link is published every week in the Wednesday afternoon email. It’s a small, midweek gathering of dear people who stop to pray, listen to God’s word, and listen to the prayerful hopes and concerns of each who shares. It’s a 20–30-minute service in the middle of the week that centers the soul and uplifts the spirit. This might be a good Lenten discipline for you this year. My guess is it will become a treasured ongoing spiritual practice for you. I strongly encourage you to try it out or come back if you’ve been away for a while.

-KGK+

HOLY at WEEK

All Saints Episcopal Church

April
13

Palm Sunday

8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

April
15

Holy Tuesday

The People of the Passion
Reader's Theater

7:00 p.m.

April
17

Mediterranean Potluck &
Maundy Thursday

Followed by Stripping the Altar

6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

April
17-18

The Holy Watch

8:00 p.m.
to 8:00 a.m.

April
18

Good Friday

Liturgy of Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
Liturgy of Good Friday

12 Noon
5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

April
19

Holy Saturday

9:00 a.m.

April
20

Easter Sunday

8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Holy Week Preparations

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 13.

To prepare the Sanctuary, we'll gather on Saturday, April 12, at 9:00 a.m. and invite members of the congregation to join us. If you're comfortable with ladders and handling large palm fronds, your help will be especially valuable. For those who prefer to keep both feet on the ground, we'll also be making palm crosses in the library, with mentors available to guide you.

On Holy Saturday, April 19, we'll begin the day at 9:00 a.m. with Morning Prayer before decorating the Sanctuary for Easter. We'll have a list of tasks ready, and with enough hands, we should finish within two hours. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We hope to see many of you there!

— Penny Ellien and Elaine Crabtree





Music Notes From Abe

Focus on Women Composers

March 8 is International Women's Day, a day to celebrate the cause of gender equality and reproductive rights, and the fight against violence against women. We also focus our attention on outstanding and accomplished women in society, science and technology, and in culture and arts.

Women composers, in particular, have been championed in recent years. For example, the renaissance of the music of 20th-century African-American composer, Florence Price (1887-1953), the first African-American female composer to have a symphonic work performed by a major American orchestra, has been spurred by pianist Lara Downes, one of her ardent devotees. Performing arts organizations throughout the world continue to program works by underrepresented composers from the past such as Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn and Amy Beach, as well as commission contemporary composers such as Jennifer Higdon, Caroline Shaw and Reena Esmail.

Last year, All Saints' Choir sang Gwyneth Walker's "A Hymn of Resurrection" on Easter Sunday. This year, our choir will be offering Stephanie Martin's anthem "Now the Queen of Seasons." The lyrics of that anthem are as follows:

*Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.*

*Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold thee as a mortal:
but today amidst the twelve
thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore
passeth human knowing.*

*Alleluia now we cry
yet again, Alleluia!*



Stephanie Martin





I encourage you to explore the breadth and beauty of music written by women, most of which is written within the past 100 years. Here are a ten of my favorites, all of which you can find on YouTube:

Favorite compositions by Women Composers

In the City at Night
Jenni Brandon

Shades for cello
Daijana Wallace

Soul of Remembrance
Mary Watkins

Alleluia in the Form of a Toccata
Louise Talma

Musical Toys
Sofia Gubaidulina

Trio for Flute, Oboe, and Piano
Madeleine Dring

Dreaming
Amy Beach

String Quartet
Ruth Crawford Seeger

Pie Jesu
Lili Boulanger

"Baltimore" and "Alto's Lament"
Goldrich and Heisler



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"Baltimore" and "Alto's Lament"
Goldrich and Heisler

Getting to Know Your All Saints Choir



Name: Brett Umlauf Arjomand

Favorite Hymn: Take my life, and let it be (Hymnal 1982, #707)

Favorite Musical Artist: I love Anohni. Her voice has a powerful, etching quality that carries a beautiful mission. A favorite performance is her piece "Rapture," which she ends with a reference to the Lord's Prayer.

Favorite Musical Genre: I find the creative output of nun composers through time, from 9th-century East Roman abbess Kassia of Byzantium's hymns to Hildegard's 12th-century works, totally compelling. I love how the question of what their works sounded like in their own time invites deep research, inspires invention and creativity and spurs long conversations with bearers of early musical traditions. I also enjoy the flurry of works by nuns in Northern Italy of the late 16th century and throughout the 17th century.

My most memorable musical experience is...chanting the Monday evening prayer services with the St Anysia Byzantine Chant Choir in St. Demetrios Cathedral in Thessaloniki, Greece during my year of research there. Singing from Byzantine notation feels so different from singing from Western staff notation. You navigate to your destination without a bird's eye view of the map. Instead, you are following "directions" step-by-step (think Google maps, audio only), as the symbols indicate, in relation to the tone you just chanted. Meanwhile the icons are glimmering, the thurible chains are jingling, the priest is chanting and worshippers are venerating at their own pace on their own paths all around the vast nave of the church during the service. Each week was overwhelming to my senses and inspiring to my soul as I got to participate alongside this group of devoted women lifting their voices in chant.



Name: Luke Hilland

Favorite Anthem: One of my favorites that we've sung at All Saints is O Love by Elaine Hagenberg

Favorite Piece or Song: Check out Archie Fisher's album "Man With a Rhyme"

Favorite Composer: Bach or Strauss

Favorite Vacation Spot: The United Kingdom

Besides singing, I also enjoy: Arts and crafts with my kids

A Little Known Fact About Me: I'm a big heavy metal fan!

My most memorable musical experience is... hearing Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey, London.



Name: Bob Powers

Favorite Hymn: Praise my soul the King of heaven (Hymnal 1982, #410)

Favorite Anthem: "God So Loved the World" by John Stainer

Favorite Composer: Edward Elgar

Favorite Author: Garrison Keillor

Favorite Bible Passage: Ephesians 3:14-21

Favorite Vacation Spot: Anywhere in Northern Arizona

My most memorable musical experience is... Singing in a 1000-voice choir at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles



Civil Rights Walk, Main Street Mall

We probably think of the Riverside Public Works Department as the people who pave streets and pick up our trash. In addition, the department has some truly creative people who have devised a way to make use of grant monies allocated for pedestrian safety to — at the same time — upgrade and expand the Civil Rights Walk on the downtown Main Street walking mall.

The walk, also known as the Peace Walk, currently focuses on six statues erected between 6th Street and 9th Street, to Eliza Tibbets, Mahatma Gandhi, Dosan Ahn Chang-Ho, César Chávez, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ysmael Villegas. The upgraded version will incorporate a number of additional points of interest such as the Harada House and the site of the original Chinatown, as well as the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties and the Civil Rights Institute which offer continuous educational exhibits on all aspects of civil rights. There will also be a site recognizing “Las Adelitas,” a title which refers to the two Riverside women who in 1911 walked from their homes in Casa Blanca to downtown Riverside to present a petition to the Riverside City School District Board of Education, asking for an elementary school in their neighborhood. Farther out from downtown, the new version will include the Peace Tower on Mt. Rubidoux, the Chinatown historic site at Brockton Avenue and Tequesquite Avenue, and the grave sites of John W. North and Eliza Tibbetts, both in Evergreen Cemetery. (P.S. If you don’t recognize all these names, maybe it’s time to do a little reading about your city. Here’s a place to start <https://www.riversideca.gov/visiting-aboutriv.asp>.)

Conversations

ABOUT RACE

A recurring feature contributed by Andrea Briggs

Currently in the design phase, the upgraded Civil Rights Walk will have more accessible ramps, crosswalks and sidewalks. It will also have improved signage and more educational material and storytelling etched into six-foot-tall metal pillars placed at each site. One theme will be to demonstrate the importance of walking to the Civil Rights movement.

There will be a public meeting in May on this project. Groundbreaking is scheduled for next May 2026.





Riverside CROP Walk, March 23

A Letter from Amir Khan, Community Engagement Specialist, Church World Services (CWS), February 4, 2025

Hello Riverside CROP Hunger Walk Team,

I'm reaching out with heartbreaking news—CWS and the people we serve are facing an urgent crisis. Recent policy and funding changes from the current administration have severely impacted our programs. While the situation is evolving rapidly, I wanted to let you know a bit more and also stress to you how extremely important your CROP Hunger Walk is for vulnerable people right now. In the past two weeks, our access to federal reimbursements for critical costs has been drastically reduced, and Executive Orders affecting refugee admissions and foreign assistance have further limited our ability to serve vulnerable communities. Notices of suspension and stop-work orders have disrupted several large CWS programs.

As a result, we now face a massive funding gap for essential needs like food, shelter, clothing, and transportation. Families fleeing war and persecution, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied children, and communities battling hunger and poverty are at risk of hunger and homelessness. They need your CROP Hunger Walk to bridge the gap.

On Friday, CWS was forced to furlough over half of our U.S.-based staff, including several of my direct teammates. We are prioritizing essential staff to continue serving our most vulnerable clients and hope to bring furloughed employees back as soon as possible.

I know this news is devastating, as it is for me. But now more than ever, we need you to stand with us. Your CROP Hunger Walk can keep hope alive. By raising funds and advocating against these harmful policies, you can help ensure we continue serving those who need us most.

How You Can Help:

1. **Ramp Up Recruitment** – Call every past team and get them registered online.
2. **Fundraising Coaching** – Encourage team captains to recruit walkers, send emails, and use best fundraising practices.
3. **Communicate & Motivate** – Inspire your walkers to raise as much as possible, as quickly as possible.
4. **Expand Your Reach** – Ask business sponsors, schools, and local organizations to form teams.
5. **Promote Online Giving** – Digital donations provide immediate relief, ensuring food, water, and shelter reach those in crisis.

CROP Hunger Walks are at the heart of our mission at CWS. They reflect our shared values and faith, inspiring us to serve with hope and compassion—we need that now more than ever. Please register and invite your friends and family to support by clicking here [Riverside CROP Hunger Walk](#) as we raise funds and continue our mission!

With endless gratitude,
Amir



Amir Khan, MBA | Community Engagement Specialist
[Church World Service](#) | akhan@cwsglobal.org | (323) 394-3711

Laundry Love Riverside (LLR) is thriving! The fall and winter were very productive

Here are our results from our events:

Month	Cost	# of Laundry Loads	# of Families Served	Give Aways
October	\$273.00	165	24	Socks
November	\$472.50	191	35	Children's Books
December	\$369.00	153	27	Small Gifts
January	\$435.25	170	32	Socks

Here are our plans for the spring:

Month	Give Aways
February	Pizza
March	Hygiene Products
April	Small Gifts for Easter Baskets

Our clients are already waiting in line when we arrive at the laundromat each month. We have a faithful servant, Curtis, who helps us unload our vehicles, set up our tables and make sure we're all organized. Curtis gets his laundry done by Laundry Love and he stays for the entire event to make sure everything runs smoothly. We're blessed to have a friend in Curtis!

The owner of Rachel's Lavandería has requested a second event per month. He's thrilled with the support Laundry Love Riverside provides to the community and is aware of how great the need is to serve the community. Before we can commit to a second event per month, we need the input/feedback from our congregation. It costs approximately \$400 per month to hold an event. Can we double our financial donations to accomplish this request? Please prayerfully consider donating to Laundry Love. There are white GIFTS envelopes in the pew racks for Laundry Love donations. You can also send your donation online at our website, use the Text to Give phone number, Pay Pal or give your donation at the All Saints main office.

Laundry Love Riverside has applied for a Community Support Grant from the Human Relations Commission in the City of Riverside. The Community Support Grant will provide up to \$1,000 to two eligible Riverside non-profit organizations who advocate for equal opportunity, justice, and community well-being.

Please prayerfully consider donating, volunteering, or praying for Laundry Love Riverside!

If you can volunteer, please contact me at cleanclothesriverside@gmail.com.

For more information about Laundry Love, please visit our Facebook page at [Laundry Love Riverside \(LLR\) is thriving!](#)

Love never ends... neither does laundry!

Liz Atkinson
lizatkinson@att.net



A Heartfelt Thank You to All Saints!

In January, we held our annual meeting, and we continue to be blessed with our spiritual life, ministries, and outreach. Jane Carney, treasurer, presented our financial report and our approved budget for 2025. Thank you for your continued support of our ministries and for your willingness to meet the 3% COLA.

Francie Johnson, Junior Warden, presented all the hard work and dedication that has been our solar project. We are closer to breaking ground on the project, and we're extremely grateful to Steve Slaten for his tenacity and determination to bring renewable energy to our campus.

Congratulations to our Diocesan delegates and alternates! Congratulations to the Vestry class of 2028! Welcome to Phil DeBrier, Luke Hilland, Luke López, and Bob Powers to the Vestry!

As I mentioned in my Senior Warden's address, we have the opportunity for growth in 2025 with Laundry Love. The owner of Rachel's Lavandería has requested that Laundry Love add a second day per month to their outreach efforts. The owner is thrilled with the support we provide to the community and knows that the need is great. We want to hear from you! Can we do this? Are we financially able to take on a second monthly event for Laundry Love Riverside? Each event costs approximately \$400. We rely on the donations of our congregation. If we have the financial commitment of All Saints, we may be able to meet this need.

Please find a white GIFTS envelope in the pew racks and mark Laundry Love with your donation. You may also donate to LLR on our website, through the Text-to-Give phone number, or through the All Saints main office.

In 2025, I will be leading the effort with the Vestry to create an asset inventory for our church. We will be organizing and prioritizing needs for buildings/grounds, ministries, and our campus. We'll be asking the congregation to help us prioritize repairing/replacing our assets as the need arises. We receive a disbursement from the Endowment Committee each year, and knowing the church's priorities will help us in our decision-making process.

If you have any questions, please reach out to any Vestry member or the wardens. We are here to help!

Faithfully submitted,
Liz Atkinson
Senior Warden



We swapped one Luke on vestry for two! Luke Polling (#2) completed his three-year term, while Luke Lopez (#4) and Luke Hilland (#3) were elected. As for the other Lukes? Luke Kurtz (#1) is only nine and lives in Virginia—plus, the rector's grandson probably isn't eligible. And Luke Algrim (#5) will have to wait until it's time to replace Lukes #3 and #4. It seems a vestry isn't complete without at least one Luke!

Junior Warden's Report

Good News is being your Junior Warden is never boring!

The "to do" list is constant and provides opportunities for all of us who enjoy being hands-on as we care for our beautiful church. New Vestry member Phil DeBrier is helping to coordinate work days for two areas needing attention.

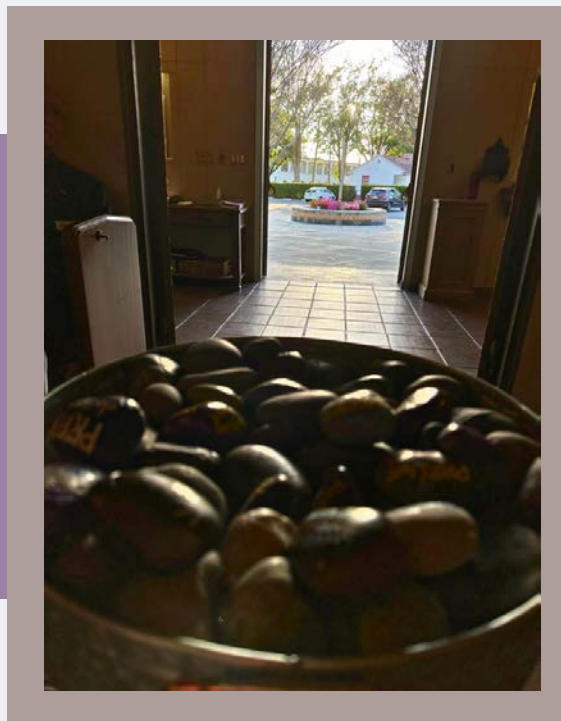
- Inspire house needs gutter clean out, landscaping cut back and ivy removed from the back of the garage
- Lower parking lot walls need painting and landscape clearing.

Solar Update (See full update on next page)

I am happy to say we are taking steps towards preparing the site for our solar structure. To save costs we will be removing the existing trellis/bougainvillea and grass. The labyrinth needs to be dismantled and stored during construction. There are two empty raised beds in the playground that will hold the stored rocks, anytime you are at church and feel like getting a workout please help us move rocks!

Please reach out to Phil or me if wish to join a workday or have any questions/suggestions.

**Sincerely,
Francie**



Solar Project



UPDATE

We are pleased to share a significant milestone in our church's solar project. We have received the fourth and final approval—the interconnection permit from the City—allowing us to move forward with site preparations for the solar structure. This initiative will enhance our church's sustainability, reduce energy costs, and support our commitment to environmental stewardship.

Project Status

Completing this project required approvals from five different city departments. Below is a summary of the approval process:

- Planning Department Conceptual Development Review – Approved 06/26/24
- Cultural Heritage Board Review (Certificate of Appropriateness) – Issued 08/21/24
- Building & Safety Shade Structure Plan Review – Approved 01/02/25 after several revisions
- Building & Safety Solar Power Plan – Submitted 08/07/24; multiple revisions submitted, final approval pending
- Riverside Public Utilities Interconnection Permit – Re-submitted 01/06/25; approved

Next Steps

With approvals in place, we are now preparing the site for construction. Given deadlines for federal funding and anticipated supply chain pressures due to the LA fires and shifting political climate, we aim to start construction as soon as possible.

- The contractor will pull the necessary permits, and excavation will begin shortly.
- To save costs, we will be removing the existing trellis, bougainvillea, and grass.
- The labyrinth will be dismantled and stored during construction. The two empty raised beds in the playground will hold the stored rocks—if you're at church and up for a workout, feel free to help move rocks!

Bids for Solar Structure & Installation

We are currently reviewing bids for both the solar structure and solar panel installation:

Solar Structure Bids:

- Stilwell Construction – Pending
- Riverside Construction – Pending
- Chastain Building Group – Pending

Solar Panel Installation Bids:

- SolarCo – Pending
- Ecoforce Solar – Received
- Tenco Solar – Pending
- Chastain Building Group – Pending

Thank You for Your Support:

We are grateful for the ongoing generosity and support of our congregation in making this project a reality. If you have any questions or would like to contribute further, please reach out to our solar project team: Steve Slaten, Francie Johnson, or Mother Kelli Grace Kurtz.

Thank you for being part of this important step toward sustainability!

