From Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

There is a word that just won't leave me alone as I ponder our upcoming Fall financial season. This will be our *seventeenth* time to tread these sometimes-uncomfortable waters, but we have done well together over the years in this regard. This time around, a word from the deep South; specifically, from my beloved Louisiana.

The word is *lagniappe* – pronounced LAN-y-app, and is one of those odd social constructs that can yield so much fun when it is embraced. This fall, I want us all to embrace this notion of *lagniappe*. Anywhere there are historic links to French Creole culture – our Southern Gulf Coast, Trinidad, Tobago, but especially in Louisiana - you will find *lagniappe*, which basically means 'a little extra'.

You've heard of a baker's dozen? *Lagniappe*. Sweetening the pot? *Lagniappe.* When we go and buy Christina's beloved oysters by the dozen, but always get 15 instead of twelve, you guessed it. *Lagniappe.* It is a way of bonding a culture through *voluntary generosity*, not required, but an enhancement of the transaction. And interestingly, the places where this flourishes are not posh, spendy places. They are usually poor folks helping other poor folks, sharing the fun of sharing.

Even the esteemed Mark Twain writes about the word in a chapter on New Orleans in *Life on the Mississippi* (1883). *We picked up one excellent word—a word worth travelling to New Orleans to get; a nice limber, expressive, handy word—"lagniappe". They pronounce it lanny-yap. It is Spanish—so they said. It has a specific meaning, but I think the people spread it out a little when they choose. It is something thrown in,* gratis*, for good measure. The custom originated in the Spanish quarter of the city. When a child or a servant buys something in a shop—or even the mayor or the governor, for aught I know—he finishes the operation by saying—"Give me something for lagniappe." The shopman always responds; gives the child a bit of licorice-root, gives the servant a cheap cigar or a spool of thread, gives the governor—I don't know what he gives the governor; support, likely.*

Which brings us 'round to our Fall financial efforts, as we try to ensure the continuity of God's family here in Chico. We give our support of the Church in many ways, and the concept of *lagniappe* is quite familiar to us even if the word is not. We

give a little extra, not because we *have* to, but because we *want* to. Old-time fundraisers were always squalling about *digging deep* and *giving till it hurts,* BUT this is not our way here at Trinity. Give because it feels good; give because you believe in our ministry; give because the joy we create together deserves to be shared in the world. I truly think we are a *lagniappe* church…always a little better, a little more interesting, a little more heart-warming than others around town. And yes, I know I am biased.

The other thing I am, and I will pause here with this, is non-manipulative. The lack of guilt, arm-twisting, and coercion has been the gold standard since we have been together. We share data, we express needs; sometimes we even encourage one another to participate with added vigor, but we never lose sight of the *voluntary* nature of our giving, whatever form of giving is under discussion. God really does love a cheerful giver, and cultivating that kind of expression will *never* be brought about by non-cheerful means.

I will be talking about *lagniappe* a lot in the next several weeks, and I plan to make it fun and wholesome and uplifting. A little extra, more than just the basic level. I am absolutely committed to that!

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, NOVEMBER 1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

We gather again for our annual celebration of those we have loved and lost, those we warmly and colloquially call 'the saints'. Those we hope to meet again at the great heavenly banquet, those kinds of folks. Psalm 34:1-10,22 will guide us into the mindset of a saint, and we will explore the ideas we find in the message, "Letting Go of Lack". We will proclaim the names, ring the bells, light the candles, and gather at our earthly Communion table in reverence and gentle joy. After all of that, we will adjourn to the parking lot to enjoy our annual Trick or Trunk!

Sunday, NOVEMBER 8 LAGNIAPPE SUNDAY #1

We will indulge in a foray this morning into the apocryphal book of Wisdom, chapter 6, vs. 12–16. The sermon will be called "Worthy of Wisdom?", and we will begin exploring the lovely concept of *lagniappe* as our Fall financial campaign commences.

Sunday, NOVEMBER 15 LAGNIAPPE SUNDAY #2

We return to the Gospel of Matthew (25:14-30) for one last teaching before the liturgical year transplants us into Mark. And Jesus gives us a parable that is pretty personally challenging for most of us. The homily will be entitled "Trusted to Thrive", and we will continue our thoughts about *lagniappe* as our Fall financial campaign continues.

Sunday, NOVEMBER 22 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY AND LAGNIAPPE #3

A perfect text for a Thanksgiving Sunday from the Second Letter to the Corinthians (9:6-15) is ours to enjoy this morning, with its talk of sowing and reaping, and how we prepare for the various harvests in our lives. It is also the *absolutely perfect* text to wrap up our thoughts about *lagniappe* as our Fall financial campaign concludes. The ebullient and encouraging message will be called "Enriching, Rendering, and Overflowing". And the music will be fantastic today!

Sunday, NOVEMBER 29 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We enter another liturgical cycle today and return to the first-written of the Gospels, the one penned by Mark. And as Advent always begins, our focus is on the end of our current realities and the inauguration of god's new idea for Creation. Mark 13:24-37 is our guiding text; the message will be "Perpetual Wakefulness", and Caroline Fairchild will help us open the season with her amazing and beautiful violin skills.

United Women in Faith (UWF)

The Christmas Bazaar is coming!! We will soon have sign-up sheets for contributing baked goods, etc., and for helping out. We will also have flyers to hand out soon – we need to advertise this wonderful event as much as possible!!

We have an exciting new twist to the Bazaar this year…the ladies at **Aldersgate UMC** will be helping out! They are planning to help supply baked goods, etc. and will also come help with the physical work. We are looking forward to getting to know these ladies better, and share in the efforts to support the nonprofits in our community!



Also – if any of you men have woodworking or other hobbies that could provide goods to sell, we'd love to have you join in!! If not this year, maybe next year!!

There will be a Bazaar Planning Meeting on November 8th at 1 pm.

The next UWF meeting will be November 18th at 10 am in Hadley Hall.

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

T-shirts for Trinity?

I am wondering whether there might be any interest out there in designing and procuring Trinity UMC T-shirts. If so, my idea is to ask anyone interested to propose a design, the only criteria that the shirt slogan focus on LOVE, and that the design mention Trinity UMC. I don't think a contest is appropriate, but once the designs are all in, members can choose the design they would like for their T-shirt. We will find the most appropriate printshop to do the work, and members can pay for their custom T-shirt. To kick things off, below is the design I came up with. Let me know if this interests you!

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich



HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR COFFEE?

Here's another reason to enjoy Equal Exchange coffee on Sunday mornings with friends after 10:30am church service.

Trinity serves **Organic French Roast Decaf Coffee** that eliminates 99% of caffeine using the Swiss Water Decaf process, **not** harmful chemicals. Some farmers use local (Mexico) volcanic mountain water to process for decaf. Even better than Swiss.

Equal Exchange is a cooperative of small-scale farmers and fair traded from many countries and returns more profit to the farmers without the middle man.

At Trinity UMC our Church and Society Committee sells coffee to the church for our Sunday morning coffee hour. And, Gary & Julie Estep have a display of Equal Exchange products you can buy for home and gifts: coffee, tea, chocolate bars, chocolate mini bars. More products are available online.

Our profit is passed on to community groups and individuals as needed. Note all the organizational brochures displayed on the table.

For more information, talk to Gary, Julie, Suellen and/or www.equalexchange.coop.

Thanks to those who buy and donate extra and bring produce from their home gardens to share.

Submitted by Suellen Rowlison