

# Issue Highlights



# The Epistle

Celebrating Family, Community, God's Abundant Love For All

February/March 2017

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## St. Paul's Garden



**Thank you  
Elizabeth & Ned Soares  
for your garden  
expertise and photos.**



## *From the Desk of Rev. Audrey*



Dear Good People of St. Paul's,

I have been delighted to spend the past several weeks with you, getting to know who you are as a faithful community of God. I enjoy my nomadic ministry that takes me from parish to parish and I find much comfort in the rhythms of who we are as Episcopalians. I have gained such a wonderful insight into God's work in the world throughout my various assignments and I hope that I am able to give at least as much as I am given.

As I look forward to our months together I am eager to continue to hear from you each. I truly enjoy hearing about what excites you here at St. Paul's and why it is you call this special place your spiritual home. What you bring to the family is unique and your very presence is what makes St. Paul's the blessed community that she is. Though we may be bound by a prayer book and a creed, I can assure you that no two parishes are the same - not by a long shot!

I invite you each to reflect back on the Advent and Christmas season, recall the vividness of the celebrations and the subtleties of the change from one service to the next. I would even ask that you find a place to pause and linger. Take some time to rest where you found refreshment and joy and allow that to hold you in place and carry you forward.

As you ponder those sweet places the challenge is then to turn your attention to the future. It won't be long until we find ourselves in the midst of Lent and a time to really dive deeply into our being and our beliefs and our relationship with God. The big questions and the small ones: who am I, what is my place in God's kingdom, how do I serve God and God's fragile world - the season of Lent gives us an opportunity to contemplate in a new way these questions.

I pray for you each. I ask you to pray for me.

Peace,

Audrey+

## *From the Desk of Rev. Jeff*



Dear St. Paul's,

The other day Lyle Morton told me, "It'd be great for you or Rev. Audrey to preach about why we've switched to the Apostle's Creed rather than the Nicene Creed in the liturgy." I figure this Epistle is a great venue for explaining this choice. Rather than give you a statement, I'll answer it with an invitation, and to ask you some questions that led to this exploration.

Conventional wisdom says our creeds give us the core on which we build our tradition. We have two central creeds we use in our liturgy: The Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. Before reading on, which of our two central sacraments uses which creed?

If you have a copy of the *Book of Common Prayer* handy ([bcponline.org](http://bcponline.org)), turn to pg. 304. You'll see our Baptismal Covenant. Note the first three calls and responses: they make up the Apostle's Creed (found in normal format on pg. 96 in the *BCP*). This is the earliest creed, written to distinguish those who followed Jesus from our sibling tradition, Rabbinical Judaism, and from other religions.

It is permitted to use either creed in the Eucharist; however we typically use the Nicene Creed in our Eucharistic liturgy. Constantine called the council of Nicaea to settle the arguments among bishops as to what would be the correct official theology of the Roman Empire as it adopted Christianity as its official religion. Look at the creed itself on pg. 358 in the *BCP*. Notice the difference in the length and detail between the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. Do you see anything that grabs your attention?

Current wisdom and consensus says that Episcopalians have baptismal identity, making our Baptism the central focus of who we are and what we do. Our Baptismal covenant is made of both credal statements and commitments to actions. If the benchmark sacrament for our membership uses the Apostle's Creed, does it lend itself perhaps to be the primary credal statement from which we find our identity? What do either of these creeds say about how we live our lives or our relationship to God and others? I don't have a complete answer to this, and I think you would bring great insight in this discussion.

How do we translate this identity to the world outside our walls? Is a creed the best way to do so? Which creed is more welcoming to you if you had never read either? Which is a better definition of who we are? Would either creed make you feel welcome or would it turn you off to becoming part of the community if it is the benchmark for membership? Take some time with each question. If these questions intrigue you, join us for the Lenten Series "What Does It Mean To Be An Episcopalian?" We'll use our Baptismal Covenant to address these questions, and it promises to be a very engaging and exploratory experience for anyone age 10 and up, and childcare will be provided! This will unite us in sharing our stories together and grow us deeper in relationship, belief, and identity.

**Rev. Jeffrey A. Dodge**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Dodge".

## Reflections

### Compassionate Communicating

It was the day after the national election and emotions ran high. Our country seemed to be irrevocably divided on so many issues, with each side refusing to even listen to the other. We had a Compassionate Communication study group that morning but how could we focus when we were so anxious?

When we got to the meeting room Rev. Jeff, like all of us there, was questioning what our next steps should be to help our nation heal so that we might work together on the issues. He led us through several exercises using models developed in CMM, (Coordinated Management of Meaning), a specific communication technique developed by Barnett Pearce that we had been studying and practicing for several weeks. Using the hierarchy model of meaning, we tried to determine what was most important to each side. We used the daisy model, putting a group or individual in the center, filling in petals, noting important people, influences, social worlds, beliefs, issues, etc. that affect the subject at the center of the daisy. We practiced conversations, looking at points where what we said or how we reacted could change the course of our communication for better or worse. Finally, we thought about the stories each group has lived-the unknown ones, the untold or untellable ones, the unheard ones. We thought about how those stories were told and by whom. One and a half hours later we all left feeling calmer and more hopeful as we realized that we had the tools to be effective and compassionate communicators.

Are we all experts now? Hardly! But through reading and pondering the exercises in Kimberly Pearce's book *Compassionate Communicating*, making the book's theories relevant to our own issues through discussions led by Rev. Jeff, and practicing mindful and compassionate interactions in every aspect of our lives, we are making a start. Thank you Rev. Jeff for introducing us to CMM.

**Sherry Mattern**

## Aging Well

### Emotional wellbeing is a pillar of health

Wellbeing includes healthy relationships, socialization, and feelings of connectedness. Social isolation and loneliness are health risks. Various factors, such as disability and major life events (e.g., loss of spouse) can put older adults at risk of experiencing social isolation or loneliness. By the time people reach their 80s, the majority live on their own, mostly because of widowhood. Older people's social networks often get smaller for other reasons as well – children may have moved away, along with grandchildren, and aging siblings and friends may have died. Loneliness is also prevalent among older adults: among those 85 years or older, 25% of individuals said they felt lonely some of the time or often.\* Living alone, health problems and disability, sensory impairment such as hearing loss, and major life events such as loss of a spouse have all been identified as risk factors for social isolation and loneliness.

Some of the promising approaches to tackling loneliness include services that help people to reconnect with and/or maintain existing connections, and develop new connections. You may know someone who is lonely or isolated. Consider inviting them to one of St. Paul's services or events, perhaps a music program or the daytime balance class. Other services in our community exist to help reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness for seniors. They include:

- Senior Center Without Walls: an award-winning program of Episcopal Senior Communities offering activities, education, friendly conversation, and an assortment of classes, support groups, and presentations to seniors. Each week, seniors can access over 70 groups by phone or online, all from the comfort of home. <http://www.seniorcenterwithoutwalls.org> or call 1-877-797-7299.
- Meals on Wheels and Senior Outreach Services: friendly visitors are volunteers from the community who are dependable and caring people with a positive outlook. Friendly visitors are matched with seniors who share similar interests. [www.Mowsos.org](http://www.Mowsos.org) or call (925) 937-8311.
- Institute on Aging: supports individuals who find connecting within the community challenging. The 24-hour toll-free Friendship Line is the only accredited crisis line in the country for people aged 60 years and older, and adults living with disabilities. They also make on-going outreach calls to lonely older adults. NATIONAL -800.971.0016 LOCAL - 415.752.3778. <https://www.ioaging.org/>

Loneliness is personal and so one size will never fit all. We are fortunate to live in a community with a range of services and supports including group-based and one-to-one activities to suit a range of tastes, and psychological support for those who need it.

\*Grenade L, Boldy D. Social isolation and loneliness among older people: issues and future challenges in community. *Australian Health Review* 2008;32:468-478

**Emily Hopkins**

# The Advent and Christmas Season at St. Paul's



Greeting the New Year by making Advent Wreaths.

**Lessons and Carols**  
*December 18th at 7pm*  
A Display of Nativities and a Reception Follow

*The 24th - Christmas Eve*  
Interactive Children's Service at 4pm  
Festival Eucharist at 8pm  
Reception Follows  
Traditional Carol Sing at 10:30pm  
Christ's Mass with Incense at 11pm  
Reception Follows

*The 25th - Christmas Day*  
Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 11am



The Episcopal Church is a church of the both/and.



Zoe Tcheng and friends' "College Park" string quartet completed our Lessons and Carols reception.

## Christmas Eve Services

### St. Paul's Women's Choir



A taste of St. Paul's Choir

### St. Paul's Festival Brass Ensemble



## Musical Notes



What a whirlwind of a musical season!

Two Lessons & Carols Services, three Christmas Eve services, Christmas caroling on Christmas Eve, and caroling at the BART station (thank you, Pete Banwell & Kathleen McAdam). And how nice to have the Christmas party right after our Lessons and Carols celebration (thank you, Mortons!), replete with Zoe's "College Park" string quartet. Special mentions are merited by our **St. Paul's Festival Brass Ensemble**: Greg Russell, Jerry Williams, Jonathan Anderson, Edwin Bradley, Sue Busenius, and Tom Stone, as well as Marina Tolstova soloing on "O Holy Night" (twice), and **St. Paul's Women's Choir** which presented lovely anthems. Pete Smyth soloed on "O Holy Night" at the Midnight Mass. We are grateful to Joyce Pricco and the Choir of St. Michael and All Angels, Concord, for joining us on this festive occasion. We look forward to future collaborations.

**St. Paul's Concert Series** continues to bring in rewarding performances: the Composers' Christmas Concert was a hit once again, and Matthew Fish on guitar was exceptionally good, with fine technique and repertoire, creating a most enjoyable evening in our Chapel.

**The Konevets Quartet** (with Marina Tolstova) will be featured in early Spring.

"**The Improv Concert II**" takes place Feb. 11th, with ten pianists offering their inspirations of the moment.

**Jonathan Anderson**, the French horn player who played so marvelously in December, was featured in January.

Our next Spirit Service will be Feb. 19th, so brace yourselves!

**Dwight Stone**

## St. Paul's Youth

### Coming up for youth in 2017

#### Happening #34, hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church, Menlo Park, February 24 - 26

Every young person needs a space to experience unconditional love in community. That's the special purpose of Happening, a unique weekend retreat led by youth, for youth, dedicated to diving deeper in faith and relationship. Over the weekend youth will spend time in small groups sharing about aspects of their lives including faith, grace, masks, Jesus Christ, authenticity, reconciliation, and how to go back into the world. They'll also play games in large groups, eat snacks, sing songs, pray, eat some more junk food, sleep on the floor, eat some healthy food, and get to know other teenagers from around the Diocese. To register visit <http://diocal.org/discipleship/youth/programs> and let Sean know.

#### Nightwatch, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, March 31 to April 1

Nightwatch is an overnight "lock-in" program in beautiful Grace Cathedral. Join youth from around the Diocese and Northern California for fellowship and fun. There will be facilitated community building, active and contemplative activities, art, music, and prayer! Cost for Nightwatch is \$15, and there is ample scholarship available. Contact Sean if you're interested.

#### EYE: Episcopal Youth Event - University of Central Oklahoma - July 10 - 14, 2017

This summer high school youth from all over the country will be gathering in Edmond, Oklahoma on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. The theme this year is Path to Peace, based on Matthew 5:1-12. The Diocese of California can take up to 24 youth and 6 adults in their delegation. The cost will be \$900 per person, split between the youth, their parish and the diocese (We do not want the price to be a barrier to anyone attending, so please let me know if you need assistance).

If you have questions or for more information about the above events you can contact:

Caren Miles, Associate for Discipleship Ministries, [carenm@diocal.org](mailto:carenm@diocal.org), 415.869.7815.

**Sean Potts**

## Your pledge money and what we're doing with it . . .

Things you don't know about St. Paul's finances and didn't think to ask.

1. We have buildings - most of them are paid for, and most of them are property-tax free

- Church
- Chapel
- Parish Hall
- Administrative facilities (offices, classrooms, meeting rooms, tons of storage areas)
- Associate rectory (rental house at 1944 Trinity)
- Fellowship House and Youth Center
- Parking lots (2)
- Condominium at 345 Pimlico (where Rev. Sylvia lived)

2. We have staff - 3 full-time and 3 part-time

- Interim Rector
- Associate Rector
- Administrative Assistant
- Director of Music
- Property Manager
- Youth and Family Minister

3. We have activities/things that we do - these are driven by

- The Gospel - the teachings of Jesus Christ
- National church rules and rubrics
- Diocesan guidelines
- St. Paul's policies and procedures
- Governmental regulations
- Necessity
- Common sense
- Good ideas

In the Next Epistle, we'll take some of these line items and give you some details - the inside scoop on how they work, who does what, how much they cost and other interesting information; sort of like A's, E's and O's ( Announcements, Events, Opportunities) but without the time-orientation. Meanwhile, think about these three categories - all of which cost money and are paid for by your pledges, and send your questions - what you'd like to know about them - to the Epistle editor at St. Paul's.

**Pete Banwell**

## Vestry meeting highlights from January 2017

- We discussed ideas for advertising in service leaflet - promoting member businesses.
- Rev. Audrey reported that things were going smoothly in general and on the staff side.
- We discussed and decided not to approve facility use by an additional congregation due to scheduling issues. Overall, however, it was agreed that facility use is a valuable source of income.
- We discussed the financial report at length (detailed information to be provided before and during the Annual Meeting).
- Vestry approved a motion to pay off the solar panel loan.
- The 2017 budget was reviewed and approved (again, more details to come in the Annual Meeting).

### **Emily Legrone**

#### St. Paul's 2017 Annual Meeting

We held our Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 29 at 9AM. Here are the highlights:

- Rev. Jeff gave his report, thanking the congregation for the opportunity to learn and grow in his position.
- Rev. Audrey repeated her invitation for all of us to come and talk to her about our concerns and ideas. She is excited about helping to lead the upcoming search process for a new rector.
- We were all invited to write down what we considered good news events of the past year. Rev. Audrey asked that some of them be read aloud during the meeting, and many responded with their thoughts.
- Senior Warden Jim Bell gave his address, thanking staff and vestry for their contributions. Outstanding Volunteers were honored: Earle Schremp, Mary Waddington and Tat Welcome.
- CFO Jennifer Machado gave an excellent financial overview, leading us through the pages of the Annual Report dealing with finances. There followed questions from parishioners and answers from Jennifer, Clergy and Wardens.
- Retiring Vestry Members Laura Williams, Glenn Schockley, and Joyce Leveque received a round of applause and thanks for their service.
- Rich Colombo, Sheri Grosjean, Emily Hopkins, Pete Smyth and Deborah Webster were elected to Vestry by acclamation.
- Associate delegates to the Diocesan Convention will be elected at a future date.
- New Vestry Members were commissioned and the congregation agreed to support them.
- A comprehensive report was distributed to the congregation and included reports from staff, Vestry Ministry Leaders. Copies are available in the office.
- Rev. Audrey announced that Jim Bell will serve again as Senior Warden in 2017.

**Mike Siebert**

# Baptism: A Family Affair

Baptism is where we find full membership and identity as followers of Jesus the Christ in the Episcopal tradition. The Dolinky family has found all of this and more in our Beloved Community! They participate in the story we share in our Baptismal Covenant.



Step 1: You say your vows! We define membership in the Apostle's Creed and vows to God, neighbors, and ourselves.



Step 2: You get wet! We pass through the waters of baptism into the family of God.



Step 3: You get oily! We are anointed (Christ means "anointed") as Christ's own forever.



Step 4: Receive the light! As light gives clarity, we are now part of the light of Christ.



Step 5: You're in! You are welcomed by the family of God.

## SOMETHING NEW

“St. Paul’s people like to \_\_\_\_\_”

The Epistle is pleased to introduce a new section. We are a congregation of many with varied interests, passions and ideas. Articles about these facets of our members will be discussed in this new section. We hope you might be willing to fill in the blank (St. Paul’s people like to \_\_\_\_\_”) and share something about your hobby.

This issue addresses the joys of READING.

### The Joys of Reading

All the problems of my life can be laid at the feet of my 1st grade teacher. She taught me to read! Ever since then someone has been shouting at me to, “Put that book down and go to work.”

Why is reading so addictive? What other activity is as satisfying done alone or in a group? What else can you do with people of any age, from a newborn to someone 102? How many other activities can generate such divergent opinions or heated discussions?

A good book can fill a number of niches in our lives. For example - Holes: Nothing is more satisfying than finding a book that fills a need in your life. Pleasure: Picking up a funny book can drive all the cobwebs out of your mind, if only for a short time. Information: What do you want to know about, right now? There is at least one book available which will tell you. Aunt Maud’s birthday: What would she like this year, your favorite author’s new book? Do you want to live somewhere else, even for an hour? Try poetry, science fiction or a marvelously illustrated children’s book.

A lively book discussion group is a gift. Search for others who share your passion for books and spend an hour once a month exchanging ideas about how, why, when your book was written. Does it reflect your own life, the author’s life, or a fantasy you enjoy? Sharing the pleasures of a good book can make life long friends.

There are two current book groups at St. Paul’s. One meets the second Thursday of each month at 1:30p.m. in the Livingston Conference Room (contact Judy 925-934-4788). The other meets the 2nd Thursday at 7 p.m. (contact Walt/Sue at 925-945-0745). Come and join other dedicated readers and enjoy their company and the books.

**Judy Dillingham**

## How Important Is The Rummage Sale

Since the early 1960s, rummage sales have been a regular part of the St. Paul’s culture and outreach program. We currently have two sales each year - one in the spring and one in the fall. Amazingly...we always seem to come up with lots of rummage for them all!!

Why are these sales important?

1. The semi-annual sales allow us all to clean out our closets and recycle, rather than simply throw away items that are still in good shape, but that we are no longer using. One person’s “junk” is another’s treasure.
2. The rummage sales provide an opportunity to help struggling families purchase the items they need. We have many repeat shoppers coming to the sales to purchase clothes, shoes, linens, household items and books that they cannot afford to purchase new.
3. ALL the money raised from these sales - \$10k-\$13k each year - support a number of community social organizations. At St. Paul’s, the food pantry, Winter Nights weeks and Mountainview Shelter meals are almost completely funded from rummage sale proceeds. Other organizations that have benefitted throughout the years include: Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Monument Crisis Center, Meals on Wheels, Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition (CCIC), Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH), Honduras Mission Trips, Green Empowerment, Youth Homes, Contra Costa Food Bank, Trinity Center, St. Dorothy’s Rest, Juvenile Hall Chaplain, Episcopal Charities, and MANY Others!
4. The Friday Night Parish-Only preview provides an opportunity for fellowship while we all hunt for our treasures. There is a silent auction with some extra special items found during the sorting process.

BUT, we need help...lots of it. Many of the regular volunteers are aging (yep, we are forced to admit it!) and experiencing decreased capability and energy. Unless we recruit more volunteers to help with our May sale, we will have no choice but to reduce the sales from two times per year, to only one.

Please tune in to the next issue of the Epistle for ways to help us continue the great tradition by getting involved in the next Rummage Sale to be held May 13th and 14th. If you just cannot wait to find out, please contact Joan McDavid (jmcddvd5@comcast.net) or Leslie Dawson (leslie@dawsoncpafirm.com).

**Leslie Dawson**

## Introducing our New Vestry Members

Richard Colombo



I have been a member of St. Paul's since 1984. Donna and I joined the church when we were looking for an Episcopal church after having moved to Walnut Creek. Since that time, I have been involved in various ministries and committees. My decision to join the vestry is based on my belief that during this time of transition, my past leadership experience and 32 years with this parish will be useful as we go forward to write a new chapter of our church history. This will be a time to evaluate the past to determine what has worked well and what we might need to revisit. I have served on the vestry twice before and was once the CFO for approximately 6 years. During my time on the vestry, I was Senior Warden for 2 years and chaired the Finance Committee for several years afterwards. I look forward to bringing my experience and history to the 2017 Vestry.

Sheri Grosjean



St. Paul's Episcopal Church has been my church home for 15 years. I began attending St. Paul's in 1985, when I moved to Walnut Creek from San Ramon. I attended regularly for 10 years, and then took time away. I longed for community again, so I returned 5 years ago. I was so warmly greeted, it was as if I had never been away. I previously served at St. Paul's as Stewardship Chair. My earlier experience as a Vestry member, and the opportunity to serve St. Paul's again, inspire me to return to this leadership team. My career as a teacher, and a district and school site administrator, has given me invaluable experience in service leadership. I look forward to using that experience to support this complex parish and share in the vision for St. Paul's, especially during this time of transition.

Emily Hopkins



I have been a member of St. Paul's since 2006. I visited St. Paul's on a Sunday when Phil Brochard was preaching, and the people were friendly and invited me to coffee hour. Our lovely historic chapel reminds me of the ones back East; I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in Virginia in 1966. Over the years, St. Paul's has given me opportunities to be of service to my community, and to my church family. I am a retired Navy public affairs officer, and have served in various public agencies as a community and public relations manager. When Rev. Sylvia arrived, she asked me to facilitate a vision statement for St. Paul's, and I was on the first Honduras mission team from St. Paul's in 2008. I attend 7:30a.m. service and serve as a lector; I am on the teams of Good Sams and flower arrangers; and occasionally I sing anthems for the early service. I have not served on Vestry before, but I would like to join the Vestry team now, especially during this time of transition. I would like to represent our 7:30 folks, and be their liaison. I believe I can contribute my skills, knowledge and abilities to add value to our St. Paul's community and mission.

Pete Smyth



Late 1971, I got out of the Army, and our son was born, so Karen and I decided to move back to the Bay Area. We both were cradle Episcopalians, and wanted to find a church for the 3 (!) of us. So in 1972, we visited St. Paul's looking for a church, and found an extended family. Except for 4 years in Portland, we've been here ever since. Our three kids grew up in St. Paul's, with all kinds of "Aunts" and "Uncles" who helped us along the way. Especially in the 80's, I was active in Cursillo and a variety of communications committees. These days, however, you'll find me running the sound board, baking the communion bread, or singing in the choir.

I've been on the Vestry twice before, and it has been my good fortune to participate in a number of the "stepping out in faith" events in St. Paul's life. I was a member of the Vestry that bought the Warren Property (where Trinity Center is now housed), and a member of the Vestry that called Rev. Sylvia. I'm hoping to contribute to our selection process for the new rector, whenever that may happen, and I'll even be at all the meetings....

Deborah Webster



My husband, Phil and I have been members of St. Paul's for 25 years, and I have been involved in the music program here for nearly as long. Our three children were baptized here, two of which served as acolytes in high school. Without hesitation, I can state that this is my spiritual home.

From 2009 through 2011, I served on the staff as music co-director. During this time, I facilitated numerous staff discussions ranging from evangelism and growth and spiritual nurturing to communication styles and outreach. I served on the Communications Committee from 2010 through 2014, during which I was the layout editor for The Epistle. In my "day job", I have worked with Verizon, Kaiser, Chevron, and MWH (an environmental engineering firm) as a database manager, application developer, process analyst, project manager, and operations manager. Recently, I transitioned to teaching music as my "day job", and am grateful that I have the opportunity to do so. With my process, business, leadership, and inter-personal skills matched with my devotion to the success of St. Paul's, I feel I can contribute greatly to Vestry and the community of St. Paul's.

**We thank the out going Vestry Members  
Joyce Leveque, Glenn Shockley and  
Laura Williams, for their years of devotion and  
service to St. Paul's Church.**

### Warm Winter Nights

St Paul's hosted the Winter Nights Family Homeless Shelter from 1/2/17-1/16/17. Hillcrest Congregational of Pleasant Hill under the direction of Angie Beal was our cohost. We supplied all the food and volunteers for the 1st week and they were responsible for the 2nd week.

We had 8 families totaling 26 guests. We were privileged to keep this nice group, keep warm, dry (mostly) and well fed for the two weeks—snug in our parish hall. We did have a leak during the deluge but thanks to Pete Banwell, Jim Bell and Richard Kimink it was repaired with only one tent getting wet.

The coordinating team consisted of Sue Phalen, Anne Morton, Nancy and John Erle, Nancy Falkenstine and Bill King. Our volunteer crew consisted of dinner cooks, breakfast cooks, shoppers, sleepover folk, supervisors, tutor/child play people, as well as those who set up and cleaned up, packed and did laundry.

In addition to those named above, our crew consisted of: Mark Sturgess, Steven Falkenstine, Susan Burpee, the Soares, Pete Smyth, the Waddingtons, the Shremps, Susan Morton, Mike Yale, the Leveques, Phil Webster, Danielle Dolinky, Rev. Laina Casillas, Ako Takakura, the Glasses, Lyle Morton, Ken Jessup, the Couches, Frank Casillas, Laura Williams, Molly Clopp, Emily Hopkins, the Kus Family, Jared Adams, folks from B'nai Tikva and others that helped but did not sign the volunteer sheet.

We thank God for this opportunity to help our neighbors and we look forward to continuing to do the Lord's work.

**Sue Phalen**

### St. Paul's Community Center & Affordable Housing Updates Fourth Quarter 2016:

The parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, recognizing that our community service needs have outgrown our current facilities, is developing a new community center facility to house St. Paul's Ministries, Trinity Center, community groups, and also provide affordable housing. St Paul's development partner in this project is Resources for Community Development (RCD). This is a quarterly report with updates on the development of the multi-use building at 1860 Trinity Avenue, to be named St Paul's Commons.

The project has a multi-source funding application process. The Committee and RCD continue to work on multiple viable funding sources, and will be submitting applications for County funding as well as a number of other special needs funds. The City of Walnut Creek and HUD have verbally indicated their intention to increase support for the project. We now anticipate ground breaking at the very end of 2017 or early 2018. Additionally:

The team continues to work closely with the General Contractor for the project, Midstate Construction, the Design Team as well as Pyatok architects, to refine the plans.

The relocation consultant is working actively on our relocation plan to assure St Paul's Ministries (including Trinity Center) can continue to operate during the construction phase.

The Vestry and Interim Rector continue to be very supportive of the project, as is the City of Walnut Creek leadership.

One of the most common questions that comes up pertains to how the "Tenant Improvements" or interior design and finishing of the first floor will be funded. The plan all along has been that it will be funded by a lease payment from the developer, and not by St Paul's. The Committee hopes to fund the purchase of unattached things like desks, tables, chairs, etc, by working with a number of corporate partners that have come forward in support of the great work we are doing.

The Committee and RCD are excited about the progress to date. Look for quarterly updates via website and Epistle to keep you up to date on the latest developments. Also, the project team will be taking over a bulletin space in the parish hall to post updates. Please feel free to contact the committee members for any questions (Molly P. Clopp, Charles Couch, Richard Kemink, Donna Colombo, Julie Layne, Jennifer Machado, David Mattern)

**Molly Clopp**

## Trinity Center Update

2016 has been another amazing year of growth! We again added member advocacy services and the Winter Evening Program housing up to 38 adults with another 12 beds available during extreme weather conditions at the Armory. There have been no significant issues. Community wide volunteers help with donations of goods, monetary contribution as well as their time.

We are not done yet – we have great plans for 2017 and hope you will join us!

Our Day Program continues to make a difference in our community. Below are some of the results (Oct-Dec 2016)

### **Basic Services**

Meals: 5,442                      Showers: 1,450  
Laundry: 512 Loads              Clothing distributed: 4,628  
Food Pantry Boxes: 3,893      Mail Stop

### **Program**

- New 72 members registered at Trinity Center (68 exited)
- 46/72 (64%) unique members actively engaged in advocacy services
- 50/54 (92%) met at least one self-sufficiency goal this quarter

**Housing Applications Complete:**      14 members /33 applications

<b>Placements into Shelter:</b>	32	Placement into Transitional Housing:	8
Placement into Stable Housing:	6	Housing/Apartment Tours:	5
Placement in Sober Living	1	Apartment tours:	5
Apartment/Housing applications:	33	Shelter Appointments:	1
Recovery Tour & Appointment:	1	Moved into housing:	7
VISPDAT (Housing Assessment/Waitlist):	20+		

### **Health**

Mental Health Assessments:	10+	Medical/Dental Appointments:	19
Referrals for Domestic Violence resources:	1		

### **Benefits & Documentation**

IDs & Personal Documentation	24	Applications for Benefits/Documentation:	15+
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### **Advocacy Barriers**

No on-site county mental health professional  
Contra Costa (CC) Healthcare for the Homeless van cancellations  
Wait list for a bed in local homeless shelter (211)  
Lack of transportation for local social services and programs  
Very limited access to drug/alcohol rehab centers for MediCAL recipients

### **Significant Accomplishments**

Permanent housing placements 3  
Established formal relations with Contra Costa County (CCC) Public Defender's Office for re-entry services and the Clean Slate Program, 21 regular Evening Program members

### **Community Advocacy**

Homeless Task Force Meeting	Walnut Creek City Advisory Council
Evening Winter Program planning	Participation in Contra Costa Continuum of Care meetings
Contra Costa Interfaith Housing planning	Contra Costa County Homeless Task Force participation
CCC Public Defender's Office	

### **Donna Colombo**

# Just a Reminder!!

See website for full calendar of events.

## The Epistle Team wants to hear from you...

What would you like to see in the Epistle? Send suggestions, articles and other items to [Epistle@stpaulswc.org](mailto:Epistle@stpaulswc.org) or talk to Rhea Williams.

## Lenten Series:

Wednesdays 6:30-8p.m. in the Parish Hall, March 8-April 5. What does it mean to be Episcopalian to you? Bring your stories, share in a potluck dinner, and see where this question takes us as we begin to explore our next steps as a parish in our search for our next rector. All ages encouraged to attend, and childcare will be provided!

Ned Soares is offering a short class in rose pruning at St. Paul's rose garden by the church. It will be scheduled for Saturday Feb. 18th at 1p.m. weather permitting.

Please RSVP to [nedsoares@gmail.com](mailto:nedsoares@gmail.com) or send a text or leave a voicemail at 925-787-7387.

Also, bring your pruners and clippers to be sharpened.

## 2017 Valentine Tea

Tickets: \$35 each, \$280 /table

Remaining Tickets on Sale. Contact at Carol Lombard 925-818-0874

The Valentine Tea annually donates all proceeds to support both worldwide and local philanthropies. Our 2017 event will support:

- Nothing But Nets
- Bay Area Crisis Nursery
- Living Grace of WC Inc.

Doors open: 2:00 p.m.

Raffle Tickets: \$1.50/ticket, 7 tickets/\$10, 15 tickets/\$20

Tea begins: 3:00 p.m.

Hats encouraged but optional!

You can help!

- gift certificates (Contact Julie Layne or Mary Waddington)
- 2-, 4-, and 6-ounce jars with screw-on lids.
- bakers and jammers for the store (contact Sue Phalen).

We hope you will plan a table, gather friends and family, and join us for a delightful and delicious event.

Many thanks for your support of this event.

**Julie Layne**

**Valentine Tea Chair**



## St. Paul's Clergy and Staff

### Interim Rector

The Rev. Audrey Miskelley.....amiskelley@stpaulswc.org

### Associate Rector

The Rev. Jeffrey A. Dodge.....jdodge@stpaulswc.org

### Deacons

The Rev. Donald Adolphson.....dadolphson@stpaulswc.org

The Rev. Laina Wood Casillas.....lcasillas@stpaulswc.org

### Parish Administrator

Sara O'Bryan .....sobryan@stpaulswc.org

Office hours Monday—Thursday 8—4:30p.m.

### Music Director

Dwight Stone.....dstone@stpaulswc.org

### Youth Minister

Sean Potts.....spotts@stpaulswc.org

### Facilities Manager

Bev Price.....facilitymanager@stpaulswc.org

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Junior Warden  
CFO  
Clerk

Jim Bell (19)  
Pete Smyth (20)  
Jennifer Machado  
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