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# The Epistle

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

October/November



## *From the Desk of Rev. Audrey*

Dear People of God -

This edition of the Epistle marks my one year anniversary with you and what a remarkable year it has been already.

I have had the enjoyment of gaining closer relationships with many of you as we have explored together who we are as people of God and followers of Christ. I am continuing to learn and understand that which you hold dear and those that you hold close in love and prayer. I have found considerable grace and blessing during this time with you and I pray that you have gained in your faith and in your understanding of yourselves and one another.

We will soon find ourselves entering a new church year; a time to assess where we've been and prepare for where we are going. We do this through our development of budgets and renewal of ministry, with the celebration of looking forward and with the sadness of what or to whom we've said goodbye. We also find ourselves in the middle of the search process which reminds us of who we are, our better natures, where we've fallen short in our goals and aspirations for St. Paul's and provides us the opportunity to reexamine and reevaluate. In Army vernacular this is our opportunity to "fall back and regroup"!

The autumn, or fall, season is my favorite. The weather cools, the trees turn beautiful color, and of course football. I look forward to moving into Advent as I prepare myself mentally and emotionally for this wonderful season of the church calendar where we are asked to find some intentionality in our lives. Let's use this season purposefully and examine thoroughly our individual journey with St. Paul's, with the greater Christian tradition, and with our God.

Peace be with you and prayers for blessing and joy,

Audrey+



## *From the Desk of Rev. Jeff*



The Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman made a profound statement that is still ahead of its time today. He said, “Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” This, I think, is what it means to be a steward. It is when we come alive that we are able to care for the world God has given us.

Stewardship is often flattened to only mean giving money to the church. Giving money to make possible the upkeep and running of the church is necessary stewardship. However, it wasn’t until I read *Lord of the Rings* that I gained a fuller understanding of what a steward is. Stewards are caretakers trusted with running the organization in the absence of, or in the good graces of, the ultimate authority of a place. We’re in charge, and therefore responsible for what St. Paul’s is and does in the world.

This is difficult if we have no investment in what is going on, or if we have not yet found our place in the community that fulfills us. If the church needed someone to do math all day long, I would be a terrible choice for that job, because I don’t math very well! I’d be miserable, and the math wouldn’t be done right. That’s why Jennifer Machado is the CFO, not me. Repairing things around the campus is best left to those on the property committee, who are good at such work and enjoy it.

However, if it’s a teacher you need, I’m your guy! Those who’ve had my classes see just how alive I get when teaching. I’m happy to be a listening ear, as I love hearing your stories and figuring out together where God is in the midst of us. I am being a good steward by providing opportunities for us to delve more deeply into what makes us who we are. This process makes me come alive, while allowing others to do work in which they’re gifted in ways I’m not. The hands are not the means of walking. The leg cannot type this letter. We need each other, and we each have unique gifts.

We are the body of Christ in Walnut Creek. We are entrusted to care for our parish community and the wider Walnut Creek community. This is stewardship. If we follow Dr. Thurman’s statement, we are in luck! We can find ways to come alive in our participation in this family, and in that participation, we help build God’s kingdom. As we step into a new stewardship year, may we recognize the stewardship we are currently occupying and celebrate it. May we also explore what makes us come alive, and see how God empowers that life to build our community stronger, bigger and fully alive.

Rev. Jeff Dodge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Dodge'.

## Reflections on 2017 High School Immersion Trip

Here are two excerpts from the sermon that Kayla, Steven and I preached on August 27th about the High School Immersion Trip we took with youth and adults from five other Episcopal churches in the Diocese. During the week the group clocked 500+ hours of volunteer time at various sites in West Virginia. In the evenings we reflected on ways select Bible stories applied to our experiences and at the end of the week we spent recreation time in West Virginia, Virginia and Washington D.C.

### **Sean Potts**

I was recently given the opportunity to travel with 27 other youth and 10 adults to Greenbrier County, West Virginia for flood relief. In one home we worked on, there lived a very old lady with dementia. Her home was literally falling apart around her. The paint was peeling off and under the paint were just layers of mold. So overall, we had a lot of work to do but that never stopped us. If anything it encouraged us. In the span of a week, we rebuilt the front of her house, power washed and repainted her entire home. I had no idea who this lady was the entire week but on the very last day she came out to thank us, and she explained to us that if we hadn't worked on her home she would've had to move but she had nowhere to go.

West Virginians are also some of the most giving people I have come across. After the flood destroyed nearly everything they had, there were neighbors saving people from their homes, they were rebuilding each other's houses and giving extra food to each other. I saw these same qualities in my peers on this trip and something that contributed to that was the ability to make a difference working together.

At the end of the mission trip we asked each other "Where do you see God in all of this?". I personally saw God in every single person on the mission trip; waking up at 7a.m. and going out to really make a difference. This mission trip is an experience that I will never forget. And I hope this encourages all of you to go out and make a difference in your own community.

### **Kayla Leveque**

I wanted to go on this trip to gain some new work experience and to help the people of West Virginia. I thought the people in West Virginia would dislike people from California but they were very nice. On the way to the church I caught eye contact with a stranger who smiled at me and said, 'Hello'. This threw me off because never has a stranger in California looked at me and smiled before.

The next morning, we drove a few blocks down to a small place called Hope Village. We were working with people from Texas and Louisiana. This made me very happy that people from different states came together to help out. One of the days I was there, I was working in a house owned by a man named Bob. He was very nice. His house had a lot of damage from the flood. When I first stepped in, there were broken floor boards, chipped paint on the walls, and the ceiling was full of coal which I discovered when taking down the ceiling and the coal fell on me.

Towards the end of the trip, I was asked where do I see God in all this. I saw God in everybody on this trip because all the churches came from halfway across the country to help the people of West Virginia.

### **Steven Falkenstine**



Sean, Steven and Kayla in Washington D.C.

## Reflections

This year for the August Adult Education Class, I again chose a book that challenged our thinking. The topic was "Grace" and the group read Max Lucado's book *Grace*. The class was conducted as a discussion group focusing on chapters of the book read the week before. Together we enlarged our understanding about grace. By the end of the five, one hour class sessions the group came away with the following observations:

- I am much more aware of God's grace in my daily life.
- Grace is a free gift, given to all, no requirements.
- Grace is given to us by God freely, we must pass it on as freely.
- Grace is present in our lives regardless of circumstances.
- Learning to recognize grace in our lives is an ongoing process.
- Grace is the evidence of God's love for us on a daily basis.

The class this year was a special group of 12 to 15 participants. We came together realizing how little about this common word we understood. We broadened our awareness of God's blessings in our lives and of what we can actively do to spread the good news of God's grace in every day living. The sharing of our personal gifts of grace strengthened our friendships and allowed us a deeper understanding of each other.

**Judith Dillingham**

## Did you know?

Did you know the Chapel and the Church are equipped with hearing loops? To access this assistive listening device you need a telecoil or more commonly called T-coil in your hearing aid. Most modern hearing aids have this feature, but you need to ask your audiologist to activate it. Typically, there is no charge. It is a feature you are easily able to turn on or off on your hearing aid, as needed, when a "loop" is available. You will be amazed how much clearer you will hear the service. Hint: I have the T-coil activated in just one hearing aid so I can still hear normally out of the other one. If you have more questions about T-coils, email: [babottomley@comcast.net](mailto:babottomley@comcast.net)

**Barbara Bottomley**

## Aging Well - Universal Design

Universal Design is part of a strategy for continuing to live in your own home as long as possible. It refers to ideas meant to produce buildings, products and environments that are inherently accessible to older people, and people with disabilities. In 1960, specifications for barrier free design were published. It was a compendium of over 11 years of disability ergonomic research. In 1961, the specifications became the first Barrier Free Design standard called the American National Standard, A1171.1.

Some examples in a home setting are:

- Smooth, ground level entrances without stairs.
- Wide interior doors (36"), hallways, and alcoves with 60" x 60" turning space at doors and dead-ends.
- Cabinets with pull-out shelves, and kitchen counters at several heights to accommodate different tasks and postures.
- Lever handles for opening doors rather than twisting knobs.
- Single-hand operation with closed fist for operable components including fire alarm pull stations.
- Light switches with large flat panels rather than small toggle switches.
- Buttons and other controls that can be distinguished by touch.
- Bright and appropriate lighting, particularly task lighting.

As life expectancy rises and modern medicine increases the survival rate of those with significant injuries, illnesses, and birth defects, there is a growing interest in universal design. Most seniors would prefer to age in place, and home modifications that incorporate universal design are critical to this process.

Making improvements and modifications based on universal design -- ideally before you need them -- can help you stay safe and comfortable in your home for many years.

Sources:

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/em/fall13/highlight1.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_design](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_design)

**Emily Hopkins**

# Falling into the Program Year!

As Summer ends, the kickoff of our regular activities begin with the crisp winds of Fall.



Liturgical Summit, Birthdays, Blessing of the Backpacks, Spirit Service, Youth Mission Trip, Brass ensemble in honor of Greg Russell, the new Program Year has been kicked off with great opportunities!



## Musical Notes



Choir Corner:

Choir rehearsals started after Labor Day, and we are back at full force. Many thanks to all of you who have come out to sing! We've had a couple of new faces, and we're happy to welcome our new tenor choir member, Jeff Scott.

We offered a musical tribute in September to Greg Russell who passed away this summer. Greg was our beloved first trumpet in St. Paul's Brass Ensemble. Thanks to all of you who participated in that musical offering: Joan McDavid, oboe; Zoe Tcheng, violin; St. Paul's Choir; Marina Tolstova, soprano; St. Paul's Brass Ensemble -1: Trumpet: Bill King, Jerry Williams; French Horn: Jonathan Anderson, Edwin Bradley, Sue Busenius; Euphonium: Tom Stone. If you would like to join us in singing or playing, please talk to Dwight.

Pentecost is the longest season of the church year (up to 28 Sundays!), finishing with Christ the King Sunday at the end of November. The season of Advent, soon upon us, is a time of anticipation. Advent, from its Latin roots ad "to" and venire "to come", means arrival, heralding the coming of the Christ Child. The liturgical color for the season is royal purple (or royal blue). The music also changes, with a more reserved feeling in anticipation of the feast days to come. There are a number of Advent hymns which are frequently used in this time (as opposed to Christmas carols, which we may yearn to sing, but for which we must patiently wait :-)) such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", and "Sleepers, Wake!", typically sung on the first Sunday of Advent. Another favorite Advent hymn is "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying", and my favorite, "Prepare the Way, O Zion". Indeed, let us prepare the way!

**Dwight Stone**

## Stewardship

"Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."  
(Deut. 8:18).

Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of 'tithing,' which means to give back a tenth of our earnings to God.\* As the annual pledge season begins we must strive to meet St. Paul's financial needs.

In the last several Epistles Pete Banwell told us how St. Paul's uses our pledge money. When all income sources are combined and operating expenses considered, we continue to be a viable church in which to worship, spread the Good Word, and to build lasting friendships.

Yet, every year expenses go up, and 2018 will not be different. In addition to normal operating expenses, we also need to fund Search Committee expenses such as out of state travel to visit potential new rectors. We are asking parishioners with frequent flyer miles and time share points to consider donating those to help reduce travel costs. It is also time to start thinking of your yearly pledge commitment for 2018.

For your convenience you can manage your pledge electronically either online or through your bank. For online contributions go to the St. Paul's website, click the SERVE button, scroll down and click GIVE ONLINE then fill out the required information. You can also go to your bank and set up "bill pay". We can provide you with the needed information. Electronic transfers save you time and saves the church printing cost for pledge envelopes. You will still receive a year-end statement for your taxes.

Plan to attend the October 8th service where we will discuss "Stewardship" and answer your questions. This will be a one service Sunday starting at 9:30 a.m. Parish Life will provide a light meal for this occasion. Remember the Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time, talent and being good stewards of all that has been given to us.\*

**Richard Colombo**

\*[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org) (Stewardship)

## Your Pledge Money

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)

This article deals with the "everything else" I promised you last Epistle (property and payroll having been covered to some extent). It's mostly a list of things we have to pay for (but would be happy if they were donated).

These include:

- Office expenses: telephone, network, web-site maintenance fees, bookkeeping, paper, stamps, printing, copying.
- Worship service expenses: wafers, wine, flowers, candles and oil, music costs, sound equipment operation, vestments.
- Financial costs: Diocesan assessment, insurance, bank fees, audit fees, credit card fees, on-line payment fees.
- Utilities: gas, electricity, water, trash and recycling, janitorial services.

All of this "everything else" comes to about 16% of our budget which leaves less than 1% for what we call "program". "Program" refers to various vestry and staff-coordinated activities. These include: communications, outreach (faith in action), adult formation (SPACE), stewardship, parish life, families, youth, children's education, and new members/evangelism.

The budget, which I've summarized in these articles, doesn't include money that is donated for other charitable purposes (Valentine Tea, Rummage Sale, CROP Walk, Honduras, etc.). It's only your pledge money that falls under the percentages I've listed (e.g., 16% for "everything else"). St. Paul's parishioners donate a lot of time and materials for causes like Trinity Center, CCIC homeless shelter meals, and so on.

I hope I've given you an idea of how much it costs to run an active (vibrant is the word we like to use) church like St. Paul's, and to let you realize that an increase in your pledge, allows us to use more money for program activities.

**Pete Banwell**

## Rummage Sale Collection

Fall is around the corner and so is our semi-annual rummage sale! The sale will be held October 28th & 29th with the parish-only preview the evening of October 27th @ 7:30 p.m.

Rummage may be dropped off on Sunday mornings (no later than 11:30) beginning 9/10/17.

For the collection – we request:

- Only items that have been gently worn or are in good condition
- Bring small furniture and large items to the parish hall only during set-up week
- Only appliances in working order
- NO CRT monitors, computers or TVs - these don't really sell and are difficult to dispose

Set up will begin on 10/22/17 and signups for volunteers will be in the Parish Hall 10/8/17.

Contact Joan McDavid at [jmcdvd5@comcast.net](mailto:jmcdvd5@comcast.net) or Leslie Dawson at [leslie@forensiccpa.com](mailto:leslie@forensiccpa.com) if you would like to volunteer.

## Angel Tree

### Gifts and Food for Those in Need

The annual St. Paul's Angel Tree is coming again soon. The goal is to provide Christmas gifts and dinner for families and individuals that otherwise cannot afford these extras.

The tree will be set up November 19th. Each "ornament" will contain a number and information for a needed gift or food card. Here are the simple steps:

1. Pick up an ornament (or two!).
2. Sign your name on the associated number line of the master list – *very important*.
3. Purchase the gift card(s).
4. Attach the ornament to the card/envelope.
5. Deliver to St. Paul's no later than 12/3.

We are strongly recommending gift cards for both the gifts and the food. This allows parents to shop for their children and their family's Christmas Dinner.

Please help us spread the spirit and experience of Christmas to those less fortunate.

If you have any questions, please call Leslie Dawson 925-586-2396 or Mary Waddington 925-939-2304

## St. Paul's, Our History (Part 3)\* 1939-1950

During this phase of our history, we called three rectors and moved the church (now called the Chapel) from Locust St. to its current location. Here are the highlights, year by year:

- 1939: St. Paul's welcomed the Rev. James Trotter as Vicar. Fr. Trotter, a native of Victoria, B.C., attended UC Berkeley and the General Theological Seminary. He was married to Ann Louise Alger and was a man of great energy and had a fine sense of humor. He and his family resided in the very modest rectory, which was adjacent to the church on Locust St. In addition to his St. Paul's duties, he conducted an early Sunday service in Brentwood.
- 1941: Walnut Creek's population was 2,300, average income was \$1,800 per year, and St. Paul's had 140 communicants.
- 1944: St. Paul's became a parish and Fr. Trotter became our first rector.
- 1946, Fr. Trotter left St. Paul's to become a missionary in the Philippines. The Rev. David Graham became our second rector in 1946 and served until 1951. It was during his tenure that the decision was made to move the church to its present location, and to undertake the project of building a new church. Fr. Graham was born in St. Louis, Mo. and attended the Virginia Theological Institute and Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Before coming to St. Paul's, he served in many churches, including St. Patrick's at Incline Village and Grace Cathedral. He was married to Margaret Ellen Wilson and they had two children.
- 1947: In June, we paid \$5,000 for the lot on which our new church was to be built on Walnut Street, now Trinity Avenue. Fr. Graham established the practice of rotating our elected vestry, which we still do.
- 1948: Our women's auxiliary sponsored movies for children at the old El Rey Theatre on Main Street (since demolished). We had our first rummage sale and the proceeds were \$148.50.
- 1950: We sold the Locust Street property in June for \$42,000 and the chapel was moved from Locust St. (site of the current Massimo Restaurant) to its present location. We have it on good authority that Lyle Morton stationed himself in the Chapel for the ride up the street. The first services in the new location were on October 22, 1950. Attendance: 8 a.m. 38; 9:30 a.m. 53; 11 a.m. 87, for a total of 178.
- 1951: The classroom wing was dedicated, and the Rev. Wilfred H. Hodgkin was called as St. Paul's third rector. Fr. Hodgkin was born in Berkeley, CA, and attended UC Berkeley and CDSP. He was married to Ann Barrett Hall, and they had four children.
- 1952: We purchased the land for the parking lot for \$3,000.

With growing attendance, we needed more worship space and were ready to take the big step of building a new church.

Next time: 1953-1966      \*See June/July and August/September Epistles for Parts 1 & 2.

### **Mike Siebert**



The Chapel on Locust St. before it was moved in 1950 with Parish Hall in back.



The Chapel being moved from Locust St. to its current location. (this is the original newspaper photo)

## Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition (CCIC) Corner

In the last Epistle, we described some of the outreach projects and programs in which CCIC participates. In this and future Epistle issues, we will dive deeper into various programs and how we can use your help. Today, let's talk about the Fourth Week Food Program.



### **What is the Fourth Week Food Program?**

The Fourth Week Food Program is in need of additional monthly donors. This program serves families that cannot cover their basic monthly expenses due to some unforeseen circumstance (job loss, divorce, illness, death, etc). To assist, a grocery store gift card is provided to the family for food during the fourth week of the month after the monthly food stamps run out.

Families eligible for the Fourth Week Food Program are those who have a close, on-going working relationship with a caseworker. This is considered a temporary safety net not to exceed six months.

We are currently seeking additional monthly pledges to continue supporting these families. Any and all amounts are welcome – pooled together we can make this happen!! Please make checks payable to St. Paul's and mark "Fourth Week Food" in the memo. Please consider a monthly donation of \$20, \$25, \$50 or some other amount to help us make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Contact Leslie Dawson - [Leslie@DawsonCPAFirm.com](mailto:Leslie@DawsonCPAFirm.com) or call 586-2396 if you would like to join this effort.

**Leslie Dawson**

## Things St. Paul's People Like To Do Model Railroading

As a young kid, I got a train set for Xmas. I enjoyed it not just around the Xmas tree, but all year. After a hiatus for schools and career, I was able to get into the hobby big time. Yes you might say that I still "play with trains" (although we prefer the term "operate"). This is a hobby with many facets from building alone to joining a group. I get inspiration from informational books, magazines, You tube segments and videos. I enjoy taking train trips, visiting other clubs or facilities, or just watching trains (called "rail fanning").

My first layout started on the floor, then on a board to slide under the bed. Next, I added legs so that it fit over the bed. (My sister-in-law recalls sleeping under the trains when she came to visit.) This progressed to a flip-up table to allow better use of the room. It worked when I got displaced to the garage, but wanted the cars to fit. The next time, I made the table high enough so that the hood of the cars would fit underneath. This served me for many years until we moved north.

In addition to my small layout in the garage, I joined a club. It gives me comradeship with other modelers plus a more extensive train layout. The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society has a very large setup, located in Larkey Park, opposite the swimming pool, in the big green building. Public shows are open the last Friday of every month, 8-10p.m. Our special Holiday Shows are the weekend before and the weekend of Thanksgiving, 11a.m.-6p.m. During the show you'll see up to 10 trains running through 12 ft mountains and tunnels, across high bridges and next to a working trolley. There is even a night scene with a thunderstorm with lightning and rain. Come join us, it's fun for the whole family.

**John D.  
Williams**



## **St. Paul's Community Center & Affordable Housing**

St. Paul's Community Center & Affordable Housing Updates:

This is an update on the development of our project to build a new facility including a community center to house St. Paul's Ministries, Trinity Center, community groups, and provide affordable housing 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 we have been submitting applications for HUD and County funding as well as a number of other special needs funds. Our recent low-income housing tax credit application to the Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) was approved at the September 20th statewide meeting, paving the way for the last milestones in our financing journey. We continue to anticipate ground breaking in early 2018.

The Committee and RCD are excited about the progress. Look for continued quarterly updates via website and Epistle to keep you informed on the latest developments. Also, the project team has taken 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, and David Mattern)

**Molly Cloop**

## **Liturgical Summit**

We had our 2nd Annual Liturgical Summit on Saturday, 9/16, where 40 parishioners attended. The event unfolded with a narrated liturgy, where we all learned the history and symbology of our liturgical customs and artifacts, and were given an overview on the duties of each liturgical team during the service. Feedback suggests that we will not only continue to plan our annual Liturgical Summit for next Fall, but also, we would like to present a short essay from each liturgical team regarding their role in the service, here in the Epistle. Please watch for these featured essays in our upcoming issues.

**Deborah Webster**

## **Memorial Garden and Columbarium**

The dark green granite Columbarium wall and the Memorial Stone are located adjacent to St. Paul's church in a beautiful garden setting. Columbarium niches are available to receive the ashes of St. Paul's members and relatives, and plaques are available on the memorial stone to remember those whose remains are elsewhere.

The fee for a niche, which can accommodate two urns, is \$1,200, which includes opening and closing, two urns, inscriptions on the urns and granite covers, and perpetual care. The fee for a plaque on the Memorial Stone is \$195. One name, plus years of birth and death, or two names can be placed on each plaque.

If you are interested, please contact the Church Office at (925) 934-2324.



## Rector Search Committee Update

A huge thank you to all who attended the Listening Post meetings in July and August! Your input was vitally important -- and inspiring. With this information, we are currently crafting a parish profile which will offer prospective candidates a snapshot of who we are, our challenges and our hopes for St. Paul's future. While this may seem relatively simple, our challenge is to represent all the individual voices of St. Paul's into a collective and authentic statement. And as a group writing project, many eyes and perspectives will review and edit beyond the Rector Search Committee including Vestry, Rev. Audrey and DioCal's Office of Transitional Ministry. The profile is essentially our job posting, so we are striving for a succinct and genuine representation of our Church Family.

We will keep you updated as the writing is completed and we move into the job posting and application phase of the search process.

The support and guidance from Rev. Audrey, Denise Obando at the diocese, the Vestry and the people of St. Paul's is so important and appreciated. Please continue to hold us in your thoughts and prayers!

We welcome your comments! Please contact Rector Search Committee Co-chairs Laura Williams at [lwillia@comcast.net](mailto:lwillia@comcast.net) or 925-949-6806, or Lisa Bell Stewart at 925-640-4650, or any Rector Search Committee member.

**Laura Williams**

## Vestry Highlights

On Sunday Oct 8th following the 9:30a.m. service there will be a brunch and discussion of the stewardship campaign.

Vestry members are discussing with their ministry teams a Fund Procedure to assure security of funds, and to ensure St. Paul's tracks donations and payments properly. These guidelines are posted on our web site.

St. Paul's will host a Healing Racism Training October 6 and 7. This DioCal program instructs attendees on how to identify the structure of institutional racism, be a supportive ally, and recognize the work of Gospel in the social justice movement of the Church. The course is open to anyone in the diocese.

Vestry endorsed an Environmental Resolution for Diocesan Convention to be held October 27-28 at Grace Cathedral. Proposed by our Delegate Emily Hopkins from the Contra Costa Deanery, Resolution #6, Climate Change, Carbon Tax is on the DioCal web site: [Diocal.org](http://Diocal.org)

Vestry approved a number of recommended diocesan policies and procedures for use at St Paul's. Links to the policies are being posted on our web site, [www.stpaulswc.org](http://www.stpaulswc.org)

- Suggested Practices and Guidelines for Use of Social Networking and Other Forms of Digital Communication
- Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth
- Policy for the Protection of Elders and Dependent Adults
- Compliance with Standards for Ministry with Minors and Dependent Adults
- Congregational Safe Church Self-Audit
- Field Trip Permission
- Incident Reporting
- Medical and Image Release
- Volunteer Application
- Volunteer Driver Information

Financial Reports are published in the Sunday Announcements.

**Emily Hopkins**

## Trinity Center Update

Trinity Center – Helping those Without a Home

In August, Trinity Center saw 69 new members (clients), but 34 exited through referrals and family reunification, or many simply moved on.

Beyond food, clothing, and hygiene, we are planting seeds, watching and supporting seedlings grow. Below are a few examples.

Trinity Center's Substance Use Disorder support groups has served 52 unique individuals since the program began in March. The support groups are approximately 32 hours per month (M-Th. 2 hrs. each day).

### **Seeds:**

A 64 year old man struggling with alcohol addiction for most of his life arrived at Trinity in April. Poking his head into the group he said, "I need help". We explained our substance use group and he became very excited. He became a daily participant in the group from that point forward. We referred him to a local detox facility. It took a few attempts in detox but he managed to remain sober on the last attempt and graduated into a 90-day residential treatment program where he remains today. He has expressed interest in returning to Trinity Center to help others struggling with addiction when he successfully completes the program.

### **Seedlings:**

Housing success story:

We have an individual who recently signed a one-year lease to sublet an apartment in Walnut Creek. She has been engaged with the community health team that comes to Trinity Center and assists her with her psychological medication and other needs. She attends Trinity Center on a regular basis and although we did not directly find the housing for her, she has been able to tend to her daily needs here and focus on finding a home rather than just survival. She recently moved into her new place.

Trinity Center's Evening Program Employment and Housing Sprouts:

During Trinity Center's four month long Evening Program, a 52 year old female worked diligently with member advocates to return to the workforce. She secured a full-time sales position with a well-known glass and textile distributor in South SF. She was able to save enough money to cover move-in costs and security deposit for a shared living situation very close to her new office. She was considered "chronically homeless" under HUD's definition and she lived nearly two years in a small sedan before entering Trinity Center's Evening shelter. She hopes her sales position will eventually afford her the luxury of living in an apartment of her own.

### **What's Next?**

Construction of St. Paul's Commons will displace Trinity Center for 18 months. We have secured an alternate location at 1271 S. California Blvd and are currently working on a lease that would not incur rental fees. However, we will need to pay utility and other fees. These costs are estimated to be in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000. We will need to raise these funds as our budget is already stretched with the operation of the evening program this winter. The timeframe for relocation is expected to be January/February 2018.

The evening program will operate December 4, 2017 to March 31, 2018. The costs are expected to be about \$231,000 for the season. The City of Walnut Creek has committed up to \$100,000 toward program expenses but we must raise the additional funds.

**Donna Columbo**

# 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 contact Rhea Williams at [johnrheawill@gmail.com](mailto:johnrheawill@gmail.com)

## Save the Dates

Men's Retreat at Walker Ranch October 14-16

Women's Retreat at Bishop's Ranch November 17-19

### All Saints' Remembrance

If there is a person(s) you wish to have remembered on All Saints' Sunday (Nov.6), please write the name(s) below. Please mail or email [info@stpaulswc.org](mailto:info@stpaulswc.org) no later than Tuesday, October 25th. These names will appear in the service leaflet on All Saints' Sunday, and will be read during the Eucharist at the Prayers of the People.

Please PRINT the names carefully.

Names of those to be remembered: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.....stonemusique@gmail.com

### Inter-generational Minister

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

### Facilities Manager

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

## Vestry

|               |                  |                                |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Senior Warden | Jim Bell         | seniorwarden@stpaulswc.org     |
| Junior Warden | Pete Smyth       | jrwarden@stpaulswc.org         |
| CFO           | Jennifer Machado | cfo@stpaulswc.org              |
| Clerk         | Molly Pfau Clopp | clerkofthevestry@stpaulswc.org |

## Ministry Teams

To join a team, contact the Vestry Liaison listed.

|                                     |   |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Administration                      | Audrey Miskelley (Staff)                | amiskelley@stpaulswc.org         |
| Adult Formation                     | Emily Lagrone                           | adulthoodeducation@stpaulswc.org |
| Inter-generational Minister         | Sean Potts (Staff)                      | spotts@stpaulswc.org             |
| Communication*                      | Emily Hopkins                           | communication@stpaulswc.org      |
| Faith in Action (Outreach)          | David Mattern                           | faithinaction@stpaulswc.org      |
| Liturgy & Music                     | Deborah Webster                         | liturgyandmusic@stpaulswc.org    |
| Membership & Church Growth          | Pete Smyth                              | jrwarden@stpaulswc.org           |
| Parish Life                         | Maureen Horton                          | parishlife@stpaulswc.org         |
| Pastoral Care                       | Jeff Dodge (Staff)                      | jdodge@stpaulswc.org             |
| Property                            | Jim Bell                                | property@stpaulswc.org           |
| Search                              | Sheri Grosjean                          | search@stpaulswc.org             |
| Stewardship/<br>Gifts and Memorials | Richard Colombo                         | stewardship@stpaulswc.org        |
| *Epistle Team                       | Rhea Williams, Sara O'Bryan, Ned Soares | epistle@stpaulswc.org            |



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