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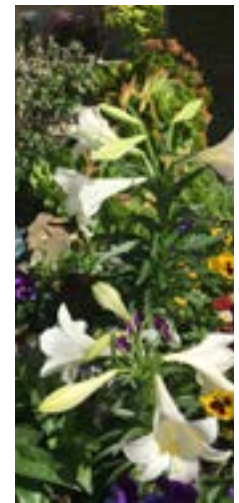
JUST A REMINDER



# The Epistle

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

April/May 2018



## *Easter 2018*



# *From the Desk of Rev. Audrey*

Alleluia The Lord has Risen!

Early in my Episcopal journey our Easter tradition was to gather together with a few other families eat, pop the champagne, and eat some more. The kids would have the traditional egg hunt. The afternoon always felt bright, fresh and new, even if it was raining or gloomy. These were good times. My family and I have spent many Easters since then in other festive and fun activities; and though I remain quite fond of these bright memories they are now long past. The kids are older and aged out of easter egg hunts, the boys now have families of their own with whom they are building memories. I like to think that they have at least adapted some of their own childhood into the childhood events they are sharing today with their kids. But the truth is, I don't control whether they do or not. And, if they don't, it is not an indictment against the memories that we all shared as a young(er) family.



Here's the truth about time, it continues on, it moves forward, life changes, and so do we.

You and I find ourselves on the "down" side of our time together. I am wrapping up details and tasks that I hope to complete as I prepare to move on and away from my service with you. This is always a time when I recheck the lists that I've made to determine whether - or not - completion of a task is possible or perhaps isn't even important after all. This is the best time for us to begin our process of goodbyes and well wishes for one another and to establish the proper and appropriate boundaries that will be important for you and for me as we each move on.

As a priest in this beloved church I have taken a vow and within that vow I state clearly and deeply that my obligation is to live a life that is above reproach and that I will respect all God's children. I take seriously my vows as pastor to the communities that I have been given charge and I hope that I am able to accomplish this - mostly.

Though I serve in an Interim position, leave-taking is no easier for me than it is for other clergy in other positions within parish work. I become "attached" to the parish and to the people and to the energy of the ministry itself. I find myself beginning to mourn the loss of relationships and friendships, working relationships and colleague relationships. I experience these losses frequently and you would think I'd be used to them, but I am not. Leaving folks that you admire and care for gets no easier.

However, I do understand the reason why the church asks us as clergy to say goodbye and to mean it. It is really simple and it is healthy too. Though I have developed close relationships while I have served with you, the reality is that I work for you. I work for you as the rest of the staff work for you. Our work relationships feel different because they are different, but it doesn't change the bottom line - I am an employee. Your Associate is an employee. Your next Rector is an employee. Your past Rectors were employees.

On the one hand I am no different than the CEO and on the other hand I am completely different than the CEO. It is in our ability to hold these differences of relationship and understanding within a healthy tension that helps us understand and manage the comings and goings of the clergy. It is when we are able to appreciate what Rev. 'so and so' has brought us that we are then able to look forward to the next Rev. 'so and so', and what it is she or he will bring. Hold the bigger picture of the church and of St. Paul's parish, in perspective over time and generation, needs and desires, helps us to weather the various clergy leadership and the changes that brings.

All clergy take the canonical direction to non-interference in past parishes seriously when they are the arriving clergy. Unfortunately, some decide it doesn't apply to them when they are the departing clergy. The canons are clear and I take them seriously and handling past clergy incursions is a routine part of Interim work and not one I like. It is healthy for the clergy to move on and to move around, it's a natural part of our ministry and the structure of the church; it is not healthy to hang onto past parishes or people after we've decided it's time to retire or move to another position. In fact, it's not even fair. Not to you and not to them and certainly not to the ongoing health of the parish or the next Rector.

Peace,

Audrey+

Handwritten signature of Audrey.

## *From the Desk of Rev. Jeff*



I'm watching the HBO Series "Rome." It drove home how religion and politics were one and the same in that time and place. Every ritual for political and military roles was blessed with a religious sacrifice, including painting the inductee with blood. Nothing religion touched was separated from politics. This was why the Jesus movement was seen as a threat: they were a religion without a national loyalty, or political hierarchy. They were ousted by Judaism and persecuted by Rome for treason. They simply didn't fit the paradigm.

Then I thought about the strange time in which we now find ourselves: We are facing a different paradigm than any that preceded us. We're in a society that has embraced secularity. Secularism offers us the same challenge that our own faith offered the religions of its time: the need to think outside the structures to which we've been accustomed for centuries. Though the First Amendment grants us religious freedom of choice, western Christianity has been the culturally dominant norm up to the past century. Now that secularism has taken root, generations have dismissed church outright, and many younger people consider church unnecessary, let alone desirable.

The irony is, people hunger for God, even if the word God has no meaning for them. They're done with the white bearded guy on a cloud with lightning bolts. The uniting Source from whence we all come, the ties that bind us in love, now that is worth looking into. While many might not think the transformation we offer is appealing, it is the very thing that we seek together on both sides of our vitriolic fights, our entrenched identities and politics, and our fear: love that embraces difference.

The frameworks in which our politics, religions, and societies came are no longer in existence in our western context. One of the key facets of our society is a desperate hunger for community and meaningful spirituality built in authenticity. We face a world that has been convinced that everything is a commodity and transaction, including both religion and politics. We are tasked with offering a safe community to find meaningful spirituality. We must reframe church from commodity to community.

So what is our opportunity in this open sea of new ways of being? First, to love and be loved, in the unity of God's diverse family, as we've always done. Second, we continue to better understand what we've committed ourselves to as a church family, and how to better know one another, something too often lost in the windings of religious politics in history. Third, we offer all this to our neighbors where they are, not just where we are, something we did not have to do when religion was a state function, nor when it was a cultural norm.

We take our cue from the early church and demonstrate how the Jesus movement transcends any powers, any context, and provide any who wish the space to embrace the love of God, of neighbor, and of self. This is what Easter points us to: Death is not the final word. That Word is Life, and Life Abundant. We find Abundant Life as we follow Jesus, the one we call Christ, whose prime directive is that love for ALL.

Rev. Jeff Dodge

Handwritten signature of Rev. Jeff Dodge.



## Reflections

### **Lenten Series: Reflections on the Journey**

These are my reflections on my journey through this year's five week Lenten Series led by Rev. Jeff Dodge. A small group of us started each Wednesday evening session with a soup and salad potluck. We had many different paths in our lives that have led to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek; from multi-decade and multi-generational family presence at St. Paul's, and from other faith paths such as Roman and Baptist, that led to various lengths of time here. My perspective in this article will be influenced by my Roman Catholic upbringing and eight years of immersion in traditional Jesuit high-school and college programs followed by more than fifteen years of participation in the very progressive Newman Center in Berkeley. Now I have been affiliated with Sufism Reoriented for more than 35 years and, thanks to the encouragement of my wife, Elizabeth, have come to know St. Paul's.

For each of the five sessions Rev. Jeff started and anchored our discussions with questions to ponder and introductions to the definition and scope of Liturgy, to how space and shape bring meaning and impressions, to our participation in the Service, to the detail of the many liturgical objects and the historical and current bases of why we use them, to all the sacraments, primarily with the Eucharist and finally to considering in our written thought how context matters as we focused on writing what we felt was our personal concept of the Liturgy.

I personally found the mix of topics and the mix of people during the discussions helped me learn and see how deep, rich and varied is the Episcopal faith and how I can take this away with me in my service to God and all of creation. As we approached the end of the last day we were also coming to the end of the Liturgy. This series particularly brought home to me the fullness, depth and breadth of my experience of truth, beauty, joy and love. It brought to me a deeper meaning of this sentence that we say together:

“We who are many are one Body, because we share one Bread and one Cup.”

**Ned Soares**

## Musical Notes



Ahhhh! The glorious sound of handbells ringing, a loud peal over a grand hymn. Let's revive St. Paul's Handbell Choir! All you wonderful bell ringers out there, don't hesitate to chime in--let me or Deborah Webster know of your interest. We look forward to reveling in this joyful and inspiring sound.

Many thanks to the Choir and musicians who have stepped up on numerous occasions to play and sing solos and ensemble pieces: Marina, Deborah, Karen, Pete S., Pete, B., Nancy T., Sue, Nancy R., Tom T., Bill, Jeff S., and Gretchen. We love you, appreciate your gifts, and what you add to our services. We look forward to hearing you again and again!

We would especially like to thank our St. Paul's Festival Brass Ensemble who joined us in making a joyful noise unto the Lord this glorious Easter season: Trumpet: Bill King, Jerry Williams; French horn: Edwin Bradley, Sue Busenius; Euphonium: Tom Stone.

## Upcoming Events

### **St. Paul's Talent Night & Potluck! June 2nd, 6:30 p.m.**

This June we will have a Talent Night and potluck in the Parish Hall. If you have some hidden talent (poetry, music, dance, yoyo, hula hoop, juggling, a magic trick) which you would dare reveal, please come and regale us! Contact: Pete Banwell or Dwight Stone.

### **Choir Celebrations Sunday! June 10th**

On this occasion we take time to acknowledge and express our appreciation for our Choir, who dedicate themselves to attending rehearsals most Thursdays and singing all Sundays and Feast days, bringing more joy to the midst of our parish.

**Dwight Stone**

## Aging Well

### **Sleep**

Now that Daylight Saving Time is here, it might be time to ruminate on sleep. The darker mornings and lighter evenings affect how and what hours we get our rest. We usually adjust, but it will take some of us longer to do so.

Do you fall asleep easily? Do you sleep well, awakening refreshed? Many of you will reply in the negative to one or both of these questions. We are living in tense times. This isn't new, but we tend to forget how cyclical it is to have tensions affecting our rest. Work issues, family stresses, facing life changes like retirement or relocation and yes, politics, can all affect our equilibrium.

Some suggestions on falling asleep might be useful. Preparation helps. A soothing bath at bedtime can be calming. It's always a good idea to read something light. Meditating helps many of us. It's a chance to stop thinking, or over-thinking the events of our day. Of course, prayer is a big help. Turning over everything to the Creator to hold for us can be a relief. Experiment with one or more of these possibilities to find what suits your personality. The important thing is to rid ourselves of the thoughts and distractions that makes us tense.

Find the right pillow! Being comfortable, especially with your neck, helps you relax. A good-night prayer will soothe you. Make the bedroom dark; light makes it difficult to sleep. Pay attention to your breathing. Count slowly in and out for several breaths. If you awaken in the night, repeat these gestures. Soon, you will have a routine what works for you.

Remember that we each have an optimal number of hours for our own individual needs. Don't judge your seven hours by your partner's nine!

When sleeplessness affects your waking hours and your ability to focus on daytime tasks, it might be time to talk to your doctor. If there's someone at home who mentions that you snore---or if you wake yourself up snoring---that could point to sleep apnea, and you need testing for it, as this is dangerous. Always be on guard for your own health. Sweet dreams!

**Nancy Burchett**

## Trinity Center/ St. Paul's Commons

### New Building

Construction begins on St. Paul's Commons and Trinity Center the first week of April.

To support relocation and operations for Trinity Center, Bishop Marc Andrus and his wife Sheila will host an elegant evening of music, fellowship and dinner in their home via a special drawing for Dinner for 10.

The winning ticket for the Bishop's dinner will be drawn at the Ave Maria Dinner and concert on August 25. (see event below)

Purchase tickets to enter the drawing for the dinner and support Trinity Center.

### New Location

Trinity Center will temporarily use a vacant building at 1271-1275 S. California Blvd, in downtown Walnut Creek at the corner of Botelho Avenue, while St. Paul's Commons is being built.

We will be moving in during the first week of April, and will be there for approximately 18 months while our new building is built.

Have a truck? Packing & painting skills? Volunteers are needed to help pack, move, unpack, paint and more. Contact Jenny Quijada

### New Events

May 17th - Trinity Center's 4th Annual Gala  
Night of Hope

Tickets on sale now. \$150 pp. Send a check to Trinity Center or pay by credit card to hold your seat and join us May 17th for an exciting evening, elegant dinner, fantastic auction items, and surprise guest! Volunteers, sponsors and auction items are welcome. Contact Sandy Hathaway at email: sandyhathaway@wavecable.net

August 25th - Dinner and Concert fundraiser at St. Paul's, featuring Marina Tolstova. We need volunteers for set up, decorations, check out and other miscellaneous activities.

Email Jenny Quijada at: jennyq@trinitycenterwc.org

**Donna Colombo**  
**Jenny Quijada**

# Holy Week 2018



## Did You Know?

Did you know that Easter is a movable feast? This means that the date of Easter moves from year to year. Easter is determined from the earliest decision of the Council of Nicea in 325 and has been associated with the vernal equinox ever since.

Did you know that the easiest way to know when Easter is going to be is to find Ash Wednesday? Each year Ash Wednesday is exactly 46 days before Easter Sunday.

Did you know that the different calendars used by the Eastern Church and the Western Church is why we typically celebrate Holy Week and Easter at different times? Our Eastern brothers and sisters use the Julian (and older) calendar to determine the date of Easter whereas the Western Church uses the Gregorian calendar for this determination.

Which is determined first: Ash Wednesday or Easter Sunday? I encourage you to look this up and read about how these two very different Holy Days have been established in our long history of Christianity!



## Things St. Paul's People Like to Do

### **Ruminations of a Glass Addict (Glass/jewelry making)**

When asked to write an article about my hobby of glass/jewelry making, I tried to remember when I began to work with glass. It actually started in the '80s. I saw an ad for a stained-glass class and signed up for it. I took a few classes after work and made a few things. I even bought some tools. I did foil wrapping, with solder.

In 1993 I married Lee and moved to Concord where I found an evening stained glass class at Ygnacio Valley High School. The class was fun and it inspired me to make some things for my home and gifts items for friends and family. Be careful, if you start working with glass you may become addicted!

Next, I took classes for fused glass. This developed my full-blown addiction. Fused glass is a special glass that can be melted in layers to make jewelry, bowls and plates as well as art for hanging on walls. It is a very versatile medium. Fusing glass is made to withstand heat up to over 1500 degrees and still have a nice shine. Dichroic glass (developed by the space program) has a very thin metallic finish that reflects light and makes lovely jewelry.

Lee and I were able to retire early, so I was able to take more art classes during the day. Lee was my biggest fan. At Diablo Valley College (DVC) I took art, metal art sculpture, and jewelry classes which were tons of fun. After Lee got sick I stopped taking the classes at DVC.

I have been taking classes through Walnut Creek Arts and Rec for years. I bought my own kiln so I could have more control of my work and then I started participating in the December Walnut Creek Art sale for students and teachers. I enjoy the camaraderie of the classes. The people I take classes from and with are very creative and I learn from the other students as well as from the teachers.



**Pat Baxter**

## Valentine Tea 2018

### **A Lovely Day!**

Many thanks to all of you who generously supported our 15th annual Valentine Tea. February 10 dawned warmly and brightly as we finished prepping for this year's event. All the food was plated and the tea was brewing in the urns when we opened the doors at 2:00 p.m. We had a great turn out, and there was a lot of enthusiastic interest in the many raffle items and our two auction items as well.

In all we grossed \$10,694!! After expenses we were able to send significant donations to both CCIC and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to help in their ministries to those in need locally.

The international philanthropy we had chosen for this year was Food for the Poor Inc. It was very serendipitous that the week before the tea a representative from that organization spoke at our services. Mary Waddington and Ann Thelwell had an opportunity to speak to him regarding some particular needs. It was determined that they were in dire need of two water pumps. Now they will have them!

It's amazing how doing so much good can also be such fun. Again, warmest thanks to you all from the Valentine Tea committee and all our recipients. Make a note... Valentine Tea 2019 – Saturday, February 9!!

### **Julie Layne**





## **St. Paul's, Our History (Part 6)\* 1987-2018**

After Fr. McWhorter left St. Paul's in 1987, we had a two year interim before Robert Reynolds accepted our call to be our sixth rector. Fr. Bob had been rector of Christ Church, Lake Oswego, Oregon. During his 17 years at St. Paul's, major renovation of the physical plant took place. A capital fund drive in the early 1990s resulted in replacing the church roof, installation of new air conditioning and, with help from Fred Bolton, Jerry Williams and others, taking an entire summer, remodeling of the administration wing. Another capital fund drive in the late 1990s enabled the remodeling of the Parish Hall, new slate floor and lighting in the church, doubling the size of our pipe organ, creation of the glass enclosure which separates the narthex from the sanctuary, new stained glass windows, a new baptistry, and remodeled choir and sound booth areas. In addition, a very generous donation from Marge and Jim Livingston enabled us to add the book store (now the Family Ministry Center) and the Livingston Conference Room alongside the Parish Hall, and the magnificent reredos behind the high altar in the church. Fr. Bob is a gifted wood craftsman. He designed and built the hanging cross and pulpit (using wood from the old communion rails) and, with help from parishioners, including Bob Tharratt and Dave White, built the current communion rails.

One of the days we will all remember forever is September 11, 2001. St. Paul's reacted quickly and offered noon time and evening prayer services on the same day. Even without advance publicity, both were well attended, as people from throughout the community felt a need for a spiritual response to the terrible events of that day.

In 2002, we added the Columbarium and the surrounding garden.

The healing prayer ministry was revived and revitalized at St. Paul's under Fr. Bob's and Elizabeth Reynolds' leadership. The grounds and gardens were brought to their current splendor with leadership from Fred Bolton and Priscilla Christensen and many of our members who love to work in the garden. The gardens have been the subject of special tours and honors and continue to prosper under the care of Ned and Elizabeth Soares and their team.

Around the year 2000, St. Paul's partnered with a group called Fresh Start, led by Susan Prather. They used the Fellowship house during the day to care for homeless people, furnishing meals, clothing, counseling, laundry and showers during the week days. After Susan died, this ministry continued for a while, but eventually closed. A group of St. Paul's folks, encouraged by Rev. Sylvia and led by Donna Colombo, picked up the reigns and today we have Trinity Center, an independent organization which will be housed in the new St. Paul's Commons building when it is completed sometime in 2019. Trinity Center continues to care for the homeless during the day and provides housing on cold winter nights.

Fr. Reynolds retired in 2006, but we had established our Rector Search and Transition Committees even before he left. In 2007, Rev. Sylvia Vasquez answered our call to become the seventh rector of St. Paul's, and on April 15, 2007, our new Bishop of California, Marc Andrus, joined us with clergy from far and wide for our Celebration of new Ministry, at which Rev. Sylvia was formally installed. Rev. Sylvia, a native of San Antonio, Texas, came to us from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where she had been Canon for Parish Development. We were doubly blessed with the arrival of Rev. Sylvia's husband, Bill Ennis, who became a well loved and very active member and leader.

One of the first things that happened after Rev. Sylvia's arrival was her encouragement for us to commit to install the solar panels on the roof of the administration wing.

Rev. Sylvia led us on annual ministry trips to San Juan Evangelista church in a suburb on Tegucigalpa, Honduras. We have made this mission trip every year since 2008 and during the trips we have built homes, stores, stoves, playgrounds, classrooms, and have sponsored daily lunches for the community as well as field trips and school for the children. We were unable to make the trip in 2018 because of the dangers brought about by civil unrest, but we still sponsored major projects and have every expectation of returning in future years.



For years St. Paul's operated a pre-school but it went out of business in 2007. We were approached by a wonderful couple from Peru, Ita and Robert Perez, who wanted to relocate their pre-school to our facilities. This happened in 2009, and the campus, including our two buildings and playground, have been transformed into a wonderful space for learning and play, My Spanish Village.

In 2009 we sponsored a series of meeting and talks during which we brought famous theologian, John Dominick Crossan to St. Paul's. The series was well attended by St. Paul's and others from throughout the Bay Area.

Around 2010 St. Paul's began sharing our church and chapel with two other congregations, St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church and Open Door East Bay Church, both of whom have services on Sundays after our services.

St. Paul's has long been active in outreach ministries and projects. The semi-annual rummage sales and the annual Valentine Tea provide much needed support for many of these projects. The annual Summer Camp on the Eel River and the yearly Easter Party at the Morton's home are much looked forward to events.

We celebrated the 125th anniversary of our founding during the years 2012 and 2013, inviting back retired rectors and with many other celebratory events, including the honor of having the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, come to St. Paul's to celebrate eucharist and preach.

In 2016 Bill Ennis died and a few months later, Rev. Sylvia decided to retire to San Antonio to take care of her father.

With the St. Paul's Commons project scheduled for completion in 2019, we will have new space available for our ministries as well as for Trinity Center, and many will have access to low rent apartments.

St. Paul's continues to be a wonderful place to worship, with beautiful music and liturgy, enlightened clergy, wonderful parishioners and outstanding programs and events. With the leadership of our Vestry, search committee, our Interim Rector, Rev. Audrey Miskelley and our Associate Rector, Rev. Jeff Dodge, we look forward to greeting our eighth rector in 2018.

\* See previous Epistle for Parts 1-5.

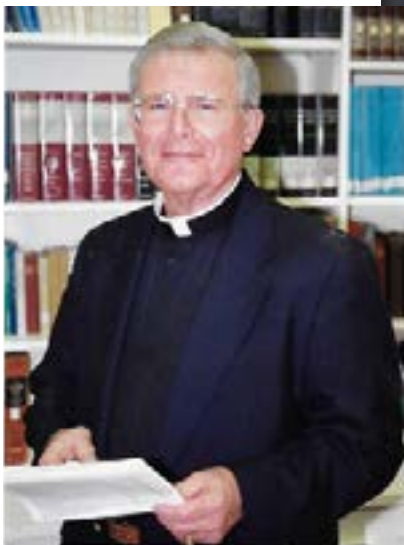
**Mike Siebert**



The Rev. Sylvia Vasquez  
and Bill Ennis



Trinity Center Staff  
Jenny, Natalie, Scott, Clyde, Max,  
Kevin, Donna, Carol, Tommy.



The Rev.  
Robert Reynolds



San Juan Evangelista Church, In Honduras

## St. Paul's Concert Series

### **Konevet Quartet**

On February 17, (in the year of our Lord) 2018, 98 lucky and enthusiastic people attended the concert presented by the Konevets Quartet (from St. Petersburg, Russia). It was held in the sanctuary at St. Paul's and was the second in the 2018 Concert Series. It was another splendid offering, and, with guest soprano (our own) Marina Tolstova, was really great. If you missed it, you missed a good one. By the way, Kevin Ayesh's piano concert in January was also great! Actually, it turns out that every concert to date, over the last three years or so, has been a top-grade presentation by a top-grade performer.

OK, then - The Konovets quartet, consisting of two tenors, a baritone and a (Russian) bass - four wonderful voices - sang beautiful harmonies and delightfully expressive arrangements. They began their program, dressed in their full-length black cassocks, with sacred music. It was at times loud enough to fill the sanctuary and at others so soft that the audience almost had to stop breathing to hear them. Those moments were breath-taking(!) Though each of the four voices could be clearly distinguished, their balance and blend were near-perfect. Marina sang several songs with them; her Caccini Ave Maria was to die for.

The quartet came back for the second half of their program dressed in their colorful black-belted Tolstoy shirts, and sang folk music, including the well-known and ever-popular "Moscow Nights" (we know it as "Midnight in Moscow"), which Marina sang with them. This reviewer is looking forward to the quartet's next visit to St. Paul's.

### **Pete Banwell**



### **William Feasley - Guitarist**

On March 10, William Feasley's classical guitar music filled the church, as he started the concert with pieces by Fernando Sor and other classical guitar composers, playing with the grace and poise of a true master guitarist. His style of playing and delivery was as delicate and fresh as a warm spring rain. After intermission, he took the energy up a notch and played more contemporary pieces by Joaquin Rodrigo and Peter Madlem, the latter of whom composed a piece specifically for William to perform. William was witty and warm to the audience, and had a special greeting to Randall Angello, the instrument maker that made his guitar, who was also attending the concert. The concert was a delight to experience.

### **Deborah Webster**



## The Deanery- What is it?

At our Annual Meeting questions were raised about the Deanery and what being a Delegate or Alternate entails. Deaneries are organized under the Canons of our Diocese. There are six Deaneries in our Diocese and twelve Congregations in our Deanery. Deaneries are required to convene four times a year. The principal objectives of the Deanery are to:

- *Develop and implement the policies and plans of the Diocesan Convention and the Executive Council;*
- *Provide education by and participation in the governance of the Diocese;*
- *Provide leadership training and development;*
- *Aid communication between the Diocese and the congregations and ministries located in the Deanery;*
- *Support ministries located in the Deanery.*

Our Deanery meets the third Thursday of March, June, September and November. The September meeting is the most important as it is devoted to preparing for Diocesan Convention. The proposed budget, resolutions and any changes to the Canons are presented and discussed. Candidates standing for election to Standing Committee and Executive Council are invited to campaign. Depending on the topics and issues, this meeting can be lively as well as informative.

The leaders endeavor to present interesting discussion topics and speakers throughout the year. You have an opportunity to share and learn what is happening with churches. Annually, Deaneries receive \$2,500 from the Diocesan budget from which grants are awarded to deserving missions and ministries twice a year. In November, elections are held for the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Representatives to Executive Council and the Nomination Committee.

Deanery Delegates and Alternates meet and share ideas with new people, vote for and get reports from our representatives to Executive Council, prepare for Convention and hear interesting speakers. All this happens in the true Episcopal way – while sharing a nice dinner.

*In the next Epistle The Diocesan Convention will be discussed.*

**Mary-Jane Wood**

## From the 2017 St. Paul's Liturgical Summit

### **Sub-Deacons**

When we first started our 2017 Summit planning, Rev. Audrey posed a question to us, “What is a Sub-Deacon?”. This is not a common role in the U.S., and like all functions of our church, it is our duty to understand the how's and why's of everything we do, as we prepare to welcome a new Rector into our church. Mike Siebert then educated us on this role, and we'd like to share this historical and current-day function of the Sub-Deacon.

Stemming from the Byzantine Rite, the Sub-Deacon's liturgical role was to serve the Bishop. This included vesting, and assisting in altar-party functions for worship services at which the Bishop presided. The intent here was to perform all functions so that the Bishop could perform his role of prayer undistracted. At services where the Bishop was not presiding, the Sub-Deacon's role was to serve as the highest-ranking minor clergy of the altar party. This placement fell just below Deacon, and put the Sub-Deacon in charge of coordinating and leading the serving team, including readers, acolytes, LEV's, prayers of the people, healers, and any other service included in the worship.

The official role of Sub-Deacon was abolished by the Anglican Church at the time of the Reformation. But, the role of Sub-Deacon is emerging, where a layperson takes on this role and assists with the functions and services of the liturgy. Here at St. Paul's, our Sub-Deacon assists with preparation of the oblations for Communion, acts as Reader for the Second Readings, and assists during the reading of the Gospel, among other functions. As you might have noticed, many of these functions are shared with the Acolytes in our 9:30 a.m. service, but in the 7:30 a.m. service, the Sub-Deacons perform these functions.

**Deborah Webster**

## Vestry Highlights

**Notable from vestry meetings of Jan. 15 and Feb. 19, 2018 are:**

- The County Health Department closed our kitchen -- along with a number of other churches' kitchens -- except for use by Trinity Center. The refrigerator and hot water temperatures were rectified, but there are a number of other issues, and a new inspection is scheduled. \*
- For the St. Paul's Commons project, St Paul's Vestry approved the Ground Lease for real property; approved the CDBG (California Development Block Grant) Revocable Grant Agreement with the County of Contra Costa and Resources for Community Development, a nonprofit; and approved the execution of all contracts related to the St. Paul's Commons project.
- Vestry set an Expense Reimbursement threshold of \$100 for Ministry activities (except for the Property committee). Ministry Team members should submit all requests for reimbursement to the appropriate Vestry Liaison -- for example, altar flowers to Worship Ministry, currently Deborah Webster; refreshments to Parish Life, currently Julie Layne, etc. If reimbursement is expected for anything over \$100, it is submitted by a Vestry member to the finance committee before the money is spent.
- The office is using a new computer program called Breeze. It has many useful features that will help staff be more efficient and improve processes.

Minutes of all Vestry meetings are available in the office.

\* Permit to operate the kitchen is now in place 3/01/18 - 2/28/19

**Emily Hopkins**

## CCIC Corner

### **Lenten Food Drive - Food for Those in Need**

Each spring, CCIC conducts a food drive to provide emergency food boxes for families in need. The food boxes help fill in the gap from an emergency event until the family can begin the food stamp program and are also given to families transitioning out of shelters.

We plan to assemble 40 of these food boxes this spring. On Easter, bags and lists of necessary items will be passed out to the parish. We ask that you bring some or all of the non-perishable items on the list through May 6th. Funds are also necessary to purchase additional items from another agency. On Sunday, May 13th, the food will be assembled into the boxes for delivery as needed. Volunteers are needed to help with "Boxing Day".

So come to church on Easter, grab a list of items which can be purchased with your next grocery run and bring them to church on the above dates. Bags and lists will be available after Church until May 6th.

**Leslie Dawson**

## Rector Search Update

The Rector Search Committee's work is winding down. We are completing review of finalist candidates that will be presented to the Vestry the first part of April. We thank you for all your prayers and support throughout the year-long process.

Rector Search Committee members:  
Mike Yale, Rhea Williams, Mary Waddington,  
Amy Tcheng, Sherry Mattern, Neal Logue,  
Sheri Grosjean,; Lisa Bell Stewart & Laura Williams,  
Co-chairs



## Honduras Update

As most of you know, our Mission Team did not go to Honduras in January due to the dangerous political environment following a highly contentious presidential election. We were advised not to come by Esmeralda Mejia, the lay person in charge of San Juan Evangelista Episcopal Church. This decision was made after she conferred with the retired Rvda Maria Consuelo and Celia Maria Arevalo, the Rvda's daughter. While this news was heart-breaking to the members of the St. Paul's Mission Team, we have not ceased to support our sisters and brothers in Honduras.

After discussions with the team members and approval of our Vestry, we decided to send a total of \$12,000 of your donations to Honduras to support their programs. The first \$2,500 was wired early in January, the second installment of \$4,750 was sent later the same month. It is planned to wire the remaining installment in early May.

Your donations helped to purchase backpacks and some school supplies for parish children in our sister parish in Villa Nueva, a poor neighborhood in the capital city of Tegucigalpa. You supported a Vacation Bible School program and purchased materials for a major wall repair project. You are also supporting the labor to complete that project. Finally, it is with your help that Esmeralda and Antonio receive a small monthly stipend of \$100. Esmeralda is the day-to-day leader of the parish and Antonio is the live-in caretaker of the property. Without Antonio's help, the children of the neighborhood would not have access to the playground which was constructed with your help in 2014.

The congregation of San Juan Evangelista is very thankful for all the support we at St Paul's and our diocese have given them. They and the Mission Team look forward to our next chance to visit Tegucigalpa, hopefully in January of 2019. *The Brigade of Love*, as we are known in Honduras, thank all of you for your financial support as well as your love and prayers.

### **Hugh Harvey**

The Honduras Team:

Mary-Jane Wood, Ruth Baney, Mark Sturgess, Jerry Williams, Phyllis Gray, Miriam Lattanzi, Mike Lattanzi, Dominic Lattanzi, Marcela Lattazi, Rosita Harvey, Hugh Harvey, Rev. Jeff Dodge.



# 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,  
(tell us about your hobby)  
articles and other items to Epistle@stpaulswc.org or  
contact Rhea Williams at johnrheawill@gmail.com

## The Dialogue

April 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.  
Explore new ways to share time with God and others.

## St. Paul's Concert Series

**April 21st** - Lino Rivera - Pianist, Featuring pieces by Scarlotti, Sor, Ponce, Ferraris, Rodrigo and Martin  
**May 26th** - Richard Cionco - Pianist, Classical Favorites

## Spring Rummage Sale

Spring Is around the corner and so is our semi-annual rummage sale! The sale will be held May 5th & 6th with the parish-only preview the evening of May 4th.

Rummage may be dropped off on Sunday mornings (no later than 11:30 a.m.)

Set up will begin on April 29th and signups for volunteers will be in the Parish Hall on April 15th. Come and help out with this semi-annual closet clean-out fund-raiser for various non-profit organizations!!

## St. Paul's Family Camp

Family Camp Registration starts on May 13th  
Family Camp is July 15th-27th.

## St. Paul's Book Groups

### Afternoon Book Group

The afternoon book group will meet April 12th at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room, located behind the office. The book for this meeting is "The Storied Life of A. J. Fikery". The book for May 10th is "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf. For more information contact Susan Penn at swpenn@astound.net

### Evening Book Group

Thursday evening book group will meet April 12th at 7:00 p.m. in Family Ministries Room. Our book is "A Dangerous Talent" by Charlotte and Aaron Elkins a fast-paced mystery set in the high end Art world. Alix London is the daughter of an infamous art forger who is called upon to help verify the authenticity of nothing less than a ... The story is set in New Mexico.

For more information contact Walt or Sue Busenius at 925- 945-0715.

## 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

### 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	Frances Sturgess	clerkofthevestry@stpaulswc.org

## Ministry Teams

### **To join a team, contact the Vestry Liaison listed.**

Administration	Audrey Miskelley (Staff)	amiskelley@stpaulswc.org
Christian Formation	Amanda Cruz	christformation@stpaulswc.org
Communication	Emily Hopkins	communication@stpaulswc.org
Outreach	Maureen Horton	outreach@stpaulswc.org
Worship	Deborah Webster	worship@stpaulswc.org
Membership & Church Growth	Emily Lagrone	churchgrowth@stpaulswc.org
Parish Life	Julie Layne	parishlife@stpaulswc.org
Pastoral Care	Jeff Dodge (Staff)	jdodge@stpaulswc.org
Property	Frank Holbrook	property@stpaulswc.org
Search	Sheri Grosjean	search@stpaulswc.org
Stewardship/G&M	Richard Colombo	stewardship@stpaulswc.org
Personnel	Pete Smyth	personnel@stpaulswc.org
Music	Tom Stone	musicliaison@stpaulswc.org
St. Paul's Commons	Jim Bell	seniorwarden@stpaulswc.org
Epistle Team	Rhea Williams, Sara O'Bryan, Ned Soares	epistle@stpaulswc.org



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