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The Epistle

Celebrating Family, Community, God's Abundant Love For All December 2017/January 2018



The Angel Tree

From the Desk of Rev. Audrey

I wonder how we think we are doing? Or, do we wonder where we are?

In an ever more complex world does the community of St. Paul's bring us a feeling of being grounded? Or, does this community factor into how we feel at all?

Of all the recent transition positions that I have been a part of, this one feels somehow different. I wonder if that difference is you, me, or perhaps the world we currently live in. I suspect it's the world we currently live in. Though each community is always different, and this is a good thing, I engage with the different parishes differently, and this too is a good thing.

That our current cultural, political and social climate is upside down is a fact. Whether we live in a post-truth world or we are simply experiencing a shift in thought, the analysis will be left to the generations that come after most of us. What we do live in is an ever more important need for God and for God's love.

As Episcopalians we have traditionally lived our faith in all the quiet and confidence of a people who know deeply but speak softly. Our distrust of most things evangelical have kept us sidelined and confined to our beautiful churches and our ancient ways of worship. Our embrace of the ever changing world around us has put us on the front lines of radical hospitality and confidence in our demands for justice.

Unlike many of our faith-filled sisters and brothers we are truly and uniquely poised to address a world that is damaged and seeking. We accept all people at all times and in all conditions. We open our embrace of love to those who doubt and to those who question and to those who struggle to even believe at all. We sit down at table with everyone - no matter what.

I invite, I encourage, I applaud the ongoing ministry that St. Paul's is actively engaged in within the family of faith, within the family that is Walnut Creek, and within the family that is the greater world of God's people. Let us keep our doors always open to all God's children.

Much Peace, Audrey+



Did you know?

That Advent has a dual meaning hinged on the joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ? Bible scholars are mixed in understanding whether the earliest celebrations of Advent were for the remembrance of the birth of Jesus or were for the anticipation of the second coming of Christ into the world - what do you think?

That the earliest Christians didn't celebrate Christ's birth on December 25? Actually, since they claimed no knowledge of when Jesus was born they didn't celebrate this event at all. December 25 became the celebration date declared by Pope Julius I, somewhere around 336!

That most churches still use the color purple, the oldest color tradition, in their Advent wreathes and celebrations? The color purple is meant to signify royalty, the penitential symbolism was overlaid onto this many years later. In the Anglican church, of which we are a part, Episcopal churches around the nation have been moving from the purple to the blue - specifically the color: Sarum Blue.



From the Desk of Rev. Jeff

I was asked this poignant question after a sermon: “It’s great that we should love everyone, but what does that really mean?” I would hazard a guess that it has to do with how we treat each other. It’s about how we care for others and ourselves. It’s a mutual commitment to being good to one another. It has a lot to do with how we listen to each other, and what we do when we find out something is broken in our relationships.



Right now, we’re in the thick of the choice of what to do with the difficult things we hear about broken relationships in our society. With the Harvey Weinstein scandals that led to the #MeToo movement, there’s a lot of conversation about “-isms”: Racism, sexism, genderism, classism, etc. For some, this topic is exciting and worth addressing. For others, the very mention of these “isms” turns the stomach. I find myself feeling both reactions!

What is the breakdown in relationship that all these “isms” result from? I think Jimi Hendrix summed it up well when he said it was the case of the love of power triumphing over the power of love. In my view, everything about “isms” seems to be the result of some imbalance of power; using one’s power to hurt someone else or take power away from them. This doesn’t sound like love. Misuse of sex, money, politics, religion, these are some of the many ways we have the potential to use power to harm others for our advantage.

It is that very misuse of power to which the story of Advent points. The hope for a messiah was the hope for the balancing of power. This hope asks the question, “In the face of violence, hate, and fear, where can love be found?” The One for whom we hope is one who teaches us to use power to help others, to restore broken relationships, to confront one another when we do something wrong, all the while seeing the dignity of God in the other.

If overcoming “isms” is the hope that is the origin of our beloved community, then it makes sense to explore how Jesus directs us to look closer at the hope that is in us. Through this we begin to find what love has to say about how to replace these “isms” with grace.

I understand grace to be empowerment to achieve more than we could on our own. I think grace is the solution to power imbalance and is a key component of love. In light of this, I propose an Advent practice to go along with this. Let’s ask ourselves a few questions:

- 1) Where is grace in our lives?
- 2) How are we givers of grace?
- 3) How are we receivers of grace?
- 4) Where is God in our relationships, especially in terms of how we share and use power?
- 5) God brings for us the ultimate source of grace in the most powerless way; a peasant baby in a feeding trough for barn animals. In what ways does this choice by God speak to how we see power?

May we grow in our understanding and use of power to prepare the way for God’s kingdom of love, as John the Baptist reminds us. Please join us Wednesday nights, Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall for a potluck discussion. Blessings to you this Advent Season!

Rev. Jeff Dodge

Reflections

Wow! What a wonderful experience at the very first Adult Camp at St. Dorothy's near Occidental in Sonoma County. Started in 1900, it is the oldest summer camp for children in California. This year they decided to offer camp for adults over 60. Since I generously qualified (and never having been to camp), I left my familiar surroundings for a deep green forest adventure. Boy, am I glad I did!

The entire staff was loving, kind and patient. With activities offered from A to Z - Archery, Aikido, canoeing, cooking, hiking, painting, sightseeing, swimming, team charades, tie-dye, winery visits and Zumba (oh my gosh) - it was a shame we had only 24 hours in a day. What a blast we all had working up an appetite for the yummy and healthful meals the cooks provided.

Charming cozy houses, acquired over the years, have fireplaces or wood stoves. The main house offers coffee and tea, magically replenished all day, and contained the kitchen, dining area and a huge room where we gathered by the fire for many activities. One of our campers, a literature professor, chose a Shakespeare sonnet which we read as he explained it. Another staffer, engaged us with an improv game.

We sang and prayed in the warm, stained glass, redwood chapel. It had a classic rope for bell ringing (which I gleefully rang).

The calm and serenity (no TV or newspapers) sent us home with an abundance of peace, love, renewal and strength. Prayerfully, St. Dorothy's will make this Adult Camp a frequent event. I'll be back for sure and hope you will too.

Space is limited so please google <http://stdorothysrest.org/about-us/our-staff/> to "read all about it". St. Dorothy's is a non-profit outreach of the Episcopal Church.

Ooops . . . I forgot the S'mores! Addictive!

Vi Trunk



Aging Well

Smart Driving

Aging brings changes and, since I have been driving for 80 years and my driver's license was due for renewal, a course offered by AARP on Smart Driving seemed like a wise one to take. This is an eight hour course given on two days in various locations. The objective of the course is to help us recognize and adapt to changes that occur in our abilities, our cars, state laws and roads.

It is essential to examine one's own capabilities and comfort as well as physical and mental limitations including reaction times, medications we take, alcohol consumption, vision acuity, hearing loss, concentration, attention and flexibility. All of these are examined and strategies for recognizing and dealing with them are presented – all from research based studies. These problems that develop with aging do not have to mean the end of driving.

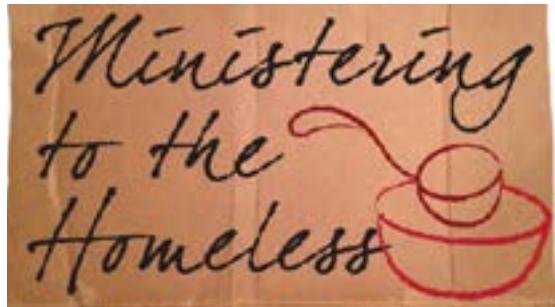
Knowing your car and all its features, i.e. lights, mirrors, tires, seat belts, air bags, brakes, restraints, helps make us safer. Knowing what is covered in the California Driver Handbook and the California Senior Guide for Safe Driving is all the information you will need to renew your license successfully. State laws are constantly changing and current editions of these are available at DMV offices. The DMV wants to work with you to make it possible for you to continue driving safely – if you are unable to read the regular eye chart you can use a chart at eye level in front of you. If you have a physical limitation a trained driving rehabilitation specialist can evaluate your driving skills with the possibility of therapy or special equipment for safe driving.

In this course you will learn the hazards of navigating on our busy roads and how to practice safe driving that only awareness of them can assure.

Catherine Welcome



Intergenerational News



This year we're making it as simple and easy as possible for families with young people to make a difference in the lives of the homeless in Contra Costa County. Here's how...

Trinity Center Winter Shelter for the Homeless -
From December 4 to March 31 Saint Paul's families are encouraged to prepare bag lunches on a weekend or a warm dinner any day for the Winter Shelter guests. Contact Sean or Carol Lombard at carol@trinitycenterwc.org.

Connecting with the kids at Warm Winter Nights -
During the week of January 1 to 7 let's find a night for youth or your whole family to come down, play with the younger kids and help the older ones with their homework. Contact Sean at the address below.

Also you don't want to miss...

The Real Story of Christmas Puppet Show! -
Sunday, December 17 at 9:30 a.m.
Our very own Nancy Adolphson will again tell the story of the reason for the season featuring Mary, the Angel Gabriel, Jesus and more. We'll spend the first part of the service in the Family Ministry Center for the show and join the main service by communion time.

Save the dates below for these events for middle and high school youth!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend of Service and Overnight at Grace Cathedral

Sunday, January 14 to Monday, January 15

Nightwatch Overnight at Grace Cathedral

Friday, March 2 to Saturday, March 3.

With questions, etc. you can contact Sean Potts at spotts@stpaulswc.org.

Sean Potts

Musical Notes



St. Paul's Annual Lessons and Carols Service will be on Saturday, December 16th, at 6 p.m. this year, followed by the Church Christmas Dinner. All are welcome.

With its origins in the 19th century, and following the festival originating in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge, nine traditional biblical readings leading up to the birth of Christ are read, interspersed with carols for all to sing, and more music performed by our Choir, St. Paul's Festival Brass Ensemble, and soloists. It has become a widespread Anglican tradition to celebrate Advent with this musical celebration.

On Christmas Eve morning we celebrate Advent IV with a combined service at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Later that day we have the Family Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m., the Christmas evening service at 8 p.m., and Carol Sing at 10:30 p.m., followed by the Midnight Mass at 11 p.m.

If you're looking to go a-caroling this season: BART caroling is Tuesday, December 19th! Every year a mid-December evening, a festive throng of rowdy carolers, some admittedly associated with St. Paul's, descends on the Walnut Creek BART station and subjects unsuspecting passers-by to cascades of full-throated and jubilant noise!

A debriefing with review of the evening's highs and lows, mishaps, and faux-pas takes place shortly afterward at St. Paul's Parish Hall facilitated with appropriate seasonal fare and libations.

Dwight Stone

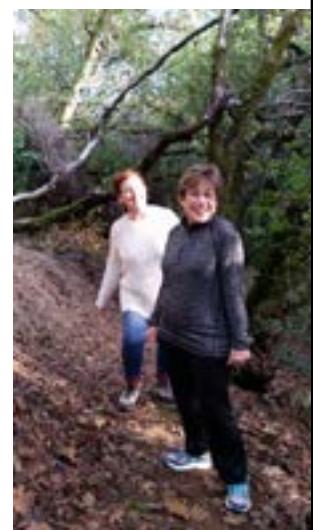


Rev. Audrey led us through an inspirational weekend. Using the symbolism of water - refreshing, cleansing, healing, nourishing - and its many references in the Bible, she encouraged us to press our “refresh button”. And indeed we did; through reflecting, talking, sharing, laughing, singing, walking/hiking, eating and relaxing.

Thank you Rev. Audrey for a very special weekend.



**Women's Retreat 2017 at Bishop's Ranch
in Healdsburg, CA**



Things St. Paul's People Like to Do

Why I Am A Bird Watcher

Birds have been of interest to me from a very young age. My family fed them in Cincinnati, and in second or third grade my teacher, Mrs. Roser, had the class make a Bird Booklet, which I still have. We copied onto paper her information on various bird species and colored their mimeographed pictures.

In 1958, a flock of birds flew into our yard. One hit a window, and my mom identified it as a Cedar Waxwing. It soon revived and flew away. The same year, our family visited Mammoth Cave National Park. In the gift shop, my mom helped me purchase a pair of Cedar Waxwing salt-and-pepper shakers for the sum of 50 cents. I was not yet eight years old, and my allowance was 7 cents per week. Since my mom lent me the 50 cents, I had to forgo seven weeks of allowance.

As an adult, I started birding with clunky binoculars. After 35 years, I now use higher horsepower, more expensive optics, and keep a list of the bird species I see in any calendar year. A good number for me would be 300 in California. As the field trip chair for Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, I assemble a calendar of field trips in our county, and for weekend trips to places like Yuba Pass north of Truckee. These trips help to increase the number of species on my list, though sometimes I may chase rarities by myself.

Rosita and I have heard 1000s of Tundra Swans, Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes flying in a cacophony of sound and observed the winter sunset near Lodi from Woodbridge Road or Staten Island Road, watching these birds arrive for the night. I have encountered a Great Blue Heron in the middle of Nevada on the loneliest road in America, and watched hummingbirds in Chile drink juice by poking their beaks into big, ripe purple grapes.

When I first started attending our Thursday service eight or nine years ago, I would sometimes tell Rev. George Ross that I might not be present the following week, as I would be in the chapel of the great outdoors. He corrected me, saying, "No, you mean the Cathedral of the Great Outdoors." And that says it all; birding is a way to enjoy the world around us, to thank God for the wonderful blessings of life, light and love.

Hugh Harvey

Warm Winter Nights

Warm Winter Rotating Family Shelter

Annually, from mid-October to June, churches provide a warm, safe place for families to stay, be fed and receive job search, resume building and tutoring help. During this time the parents can also earnestly search for housing without having to worry about their children's safety, knowing they are warm, sheltered and fed. The caring professional staff keep things organized and running smoothly.

January 1, 2018 through January 15, 2018, St. Paul's will host the Warm Winter Nights family shelter. From January 1-8 St. Paul's will provide three meals a day, tutors, people to play with the children, (right now there are eight children under the age of 4), do laundry, and staff the weekend with crafts, games, and projects of your choice. We will need people on January 1 during the morning to help unload the truck that carries the families' belongings and tents etc. We also need people to load the truck on the morning of January 15, when the folks move on to the next host church.

The second week (1/9-1/15), the families will still be in their tents in our Parish Hall but Hillcrest Congregational Church will be the co-host providing all of the food and volunteers.

Sign up sheets are in the Parish Hall. We particularly need folks in the early evenings and the weekend to entertain the little ones.

If you have not had the opportunity to participate in this service to our brothers and sisters who have fallen on hard times and need a boost, give it a try. Your hearts will be full of gratitude for the chance to share your time with these folks.

Sue Phalen

St. Paul's, Our History (Part 4)* 1953-1969

On December 6, 1953, the cornerstone of our new church was set in place (just to the right of the main entrance doors) by the Rt. Rev. Henry Shires, Suffragan Bishop of California. Four months later, on March 20, 1954 the new church was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Karl Morgan Block, Bishop of California. Retired Bishop Parsons was the homilist. At the service, Bishop Shires proclaimed "Praise ye the Lord, because the foundation of the House of the Lord is laid!" And the people responded "Alleluia!" The first service in our new church was held the next day.

Our 1955 statistics: Communicants: 816; baptisms: 121; total attendance: 38,795; income: \$36,175.61. Sometimes, good decisions are made. On April 5, 1957, we increased our fire insurance to \$145,000, just in time to cover the destruction of our Parish Hall, by fire, on May 5.

In 1960, the Rev. Wilfred Hodgkin left St. Paul's to take the position of Rector, Christ Church, Alameda and the following year we called the Rev. Alfred Seccombe to be St. Paul's fourth Rector. Born in Massachusetts, he attended the University of Virginia and the Virginia Theological Seminary. Rev. Seccombe had previously served in the United States Navy, and in churches in Connecticut, Missouri and Carmel, California. Also in 1960, the Altar Guild was instructed to wear head coverings when near the altar.

In 1961, Mrs. Marjorie Schimmel Ivy was appointed our first Parish Secretary, a post which has evolved into Parish Administrator, which has been held by Cathy Page, Pat Smith, Ti Klingler and currently by Sara O'Bryan.

On October 2, 1962, Lord Geoffrey Fisher, Retired Archbishop of Canterbury (99th in succession), and his wife, Lady Fisher, and the head of the Presbyterian Church, USA, were guests of the Deanery for dinner in our Parish Hall, following a Council of Churches service at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church.

Art and Janice Foster came to St. Paul's in 1952 and, in 1964, Janice succeeded Art and Audie Sturgess as Disbursement Treasurer (pays the bills, writes the checks), a job Janice has held ever since, some 53 years.

Statistics for 1965: communicants: 828; income: \$80,073.23. In 1966, our total Easter attendance was 1645!

There were three significant events in 1969: Our pipe organ was installed, we had our first annual summer encampment on the Eel River, and the great high altar in the church, one of the largest and most beautiful anywhere, was given as a memorial to Louis R. Pitto and was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. C. Kilmer Myers, Bishop of California.

Next time: 1970-1987

*See parts 1-3 in previous 2017 issues of Epistle.

Mike Siebert



Church under construction in 1953



Two Bishops and a Rector lay the cornerstone



The Episcopal Church in the San Francisco Bay Area

Annual Diocese Convention Report

St. Paul's was well represented at the 168th General Convention at Grace Cathedral October 27-28. Rev. Audrey and Rev. Jeff were joined with delegates and alternates Richard Kemink, Maureen Horton, Gail Sheffield, Sherry Mattern, Susan Burpee, Ken and Linnea Jessup.

A highlight of the Convention was to have the participation of the Right Reverend Barbara Harris who was the first woman and person of color to be elected to the Episcopacy. As a Bishop in the U.S. Episcopal Church, Barbara+, experienced considerable opposition and bias and outright racism and sexism by our own church community. She is very gracious and outspoken at 87 years of age.

We enjoyed meeting and speaking with delegates from around the Diocese. We learned much about how involved our Diocese is with social issues and diverse ministries.

Delegates considered seven Resolutions covering a wide variety of topics including Mandatory Retirement Age for clergy, Climate Change (submitted by member Emily Hopkins) and Sanctuary Diocese. Please refer to our Diocesan website DIOCAL.ORG for details on these resolutions.

Linnea Jessup

CALLING ALL BELL-RINGERS!

We'd like to start up the Bell Choir again. What a jubilant sound those bells bring! And it's the easiest learning curve there is in music. Please contact Dwight if you are interested.



Vestry Highlights

October 16 and November 20 meetings

- The Search Committee reported on its progress. Our parish profile is up on St. Paul's website as of November 1, and we are accepting applications! Given the need for confidentiality, news from the committee will be sparse for the next few weeks as members begin looking at candidates.
- St. Paul's Commons update – we have been looking closely at the final details of the ground floor lease (for St. Paul's use). We discussed what the end of the lease (70 to 99 years from now, depending on the financing terms) will look like – still low-income housing? It's hard to envision, but we are working to include options that give us flexibility, while assuming that our general mission will be similar.
- Music – we received updates on the reorganization of the concert series. A planning group has been established to help organize these increasingly popular events and take some of the burden off Dwight. Financial procedures are in place to track donations.
- Vestry approved the proposed recipients of Valentine's Tea donations – Food for the Poor, Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition and Solano - Contra Costa Food Bank.
- Nominating committee – we currently have four names for four openings next year, and were pleased to welcome three of the candidates at our November meeting so they could see how a Vestry meeting looks.
- Financial – costs have been on budget this year, with higher than expected income from facility use fees (including the parking lot). We are working on the budget for next year and will be discussing it in depth at next month's meeting. We approved the housing allowances to be claimed by the rector and associate rector. Staff benefit options were unanimously approved for the coming year, as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- Molly Clopp will be stepping down as Clerk of the Vestry at the end of the year. We are looking for a new clerk! This is a great way to get involved and learn about what's going on in the church without the responsibilities of a Vestry position.

Emily Lagrone

Trinity Center Update

With the approval of funding for St. Paul's Commons and the anticipation of construction starting early 2018 Trinity Center will move to a temporary location until completion of the project.

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

We will be moving around the end of January/beginning of February 2018 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 at jennyq@trinitycenterwc.org

Winter Evening Program Volunteers Needed - drivers, dinner (donate and serve), floor monitors and weekend breakfast bags (donate and deliver)

The evening program will be held from **December 4, 2017 to March 31, 2018**. Check-in and dinner will be at Trinity Center, and overnight stay will be in the Walnut Creek Armory. Transportation will be provided. Click this link to signup: <http://signup.com/go/JLFNNZS> or copy and paste into your web browser. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. Include an email and phone number contact.

Contact our program coordinator, Pam McGrath, pamm@trinitycenterwc.org for more information. See volunteer training dates below.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Dec 2nd | Evening Program Volunteer Orientation, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., Trinity Center, 1860 Trinity Ave |
| Dec 6th | Sports Basement Fundraiser for Winter Evening Program – 20% off your shopping and 20% donation to Trinity Center all day, all locations! |
| Dec 16th | Kendra Scott Gives Back Event – 20% of sales for Winter Evening Program, 5–8 p.m., 91 Broadway Plaza |

Donations: Your donations are needed to help with relocation expenses and utilities, evening and day program operations. We cannot do this without you! Donate today! Just in the first few days of November your donations helped three people with items needed for their new jobs! Items included a sales license, fingerprinting, new clothing, gas, bus and BART passes. Visit our website for more stories and information: www.trinitycenterwc.org

Donna Colombo

More good news for Trinity Center



It's a Win-Win! Upon purchasing a new 15-person van, Winter Nights Homeless Family Rotating Shelter was able to sell their old van to Trinity Center. This new van will be perfect for the transportation of members from Trinity Center to the Armory this winter. Here you can see the Executive Directors of both organizations exchanging the check for the title!



The City of Walnut Creek proclaims November as Homeless Awareness Month Donna Colombo accepts the Proclamation from Mayor Richard Carlson.

From the 2017 St. Paul's Liturgical Summit

Welcome to the Liturgy and Music Summit Review! Over the next several issues of the Epistle, we'll include excerpts from each of the liturgical teams' presentations from our Second Annual Liturgical Summit, held on September 16. We're excited to share these insights and information bits with you!

Altar Guild

There is a great deal of preparation and coordination that goes into each of our worship services, much of which occurs long before our service begins. Such is the work of the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild "sets the stage" for our services, being in charge of all elements that are used in the service, including linens, candles, chalices, patens, and all items presented at the altar. The beautiful floral arrangements are prepared by the Flower Guild, a sub-group within the Altar Guild.

Hours before the service begins, the Altar Guild is at work preparing for our worship; they are draping linens and sashes, setting up chalices, cruets, bowls, breads and wafers, wine and water cruets for Communion, arranging flowers, setting candles, and preparing any other seasonal-specific artifacts and elements featured during the service. All preparations are done keeping respect for the symbolic meaning of each of the elements used. If you'd like to know more about the symbology of these elements, just ask, and we'll share more with you!

The Altar Guild also collects all sacred vessels after each service, and washes and stores these away for the next service preparation. This work is done by the Altar Guild for all worship services as well as special services including weddings and memorial services. If you would like to know more, or are interested in serving on the Altar Guild, please leave a message for Donna Herdman or Susan Burpee at 925-934-2324.

Deborah Webster

Nancy Erle
cleans up after a 9:30
a.m. service.



2018 Valentine Tea

Plan a table, gather friends and family, and join us for another delightful and delicious event!

Date: February 10, 2018

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

Ticket Sales:

- To St. Paul's only: January 21, 8 a.m.- 11 a.m.
- To all, first come first served:

January 21, 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.;

January 28, February 4 - 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

The Valentine Tea annually donates all proceeds to support both worldwide and local philanthropies.

Our 2018 event will support:

- Food For The Poor
- Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition
- Solano-Contra Costa Food Bank

Doors open: 2:00 p.m.

Tea begins: 3:00 p.m.

Hats encouraged but optional!

YOU CAN HELP...The raffle committee requests:

- gift certificates
- 4, 6, and 8-ounce jars with screw-on lids
- bakers and jammers for the store

(Contact Sue Phalen 925-935-2586 about jars and donations of jams and baked good.).

Congrats Gail

Gail Sheffield won a raffle prize at the October 1st annual pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Fall Prevention Program of our local Meals on Wheels and Senior Outreach Services.

"I am donating most of the contents of the basket to the Valentine Tea," said Gail.

Thanks to all who made donations or bought tickets to support this important program, the Pancake Breakfast and Health Fair Fundraiser surpassed its fund raising goal of \$15,000. See more photos and information at www.mowsos.org.



Emily Hopkins

Rector Search Committee Update

On October 31, after months of collaboration, writing and editing, our rector job position posting went ‘live’ on St. Paul’s website, the Diocese of California’s website, and the national Episcopal Church website. We encourage everyone to review the Parish Profile and Office for Transition Ministry (OTM) and familiarize yourself with the information our rector candidates will be considering.

The job posting was open for four weeks, and now the Rector Search Committee is engrossed in the quiet work of the candidate review phase. We’re pouring over cover letters, resumes, OTM portfolios, and links to sermons, blogs, websites, etc. This requires focus, discipline and, most importantly, confidentiality for the RSC, so please bear with our aloofness as we work through the process. We’re not at liberty to discuss or share this information – and that’s challenging, of course, when we’re anxious and curious about who will lead St. Paul’s into our future. So, yes, please turn up the volume on prayers and encouragement for your Rector Search Committee!

Laura Williams

Remembering those we lost in 2017

*Nola Dawes
Priscilla Christensen
Robert Williams
Barbara Shupp
Martha Guichard
Dorothy Steel
Alan McDavid
Norman Kay
Esley Oliver
Robert Tharratt
Sarah McDavid
Ricky Wathen
Dorothy Carver
Elsie Pray
Marleny Forsyth*

Vestry Teams

Outreach / Faith in Action

This vestry commission supports the many activities in the parish that reach out to the local, regional, and worldwide community. Income for these activities is obtained by several events operated at the church by volunteers.

The Rummage Sale conducts weekend sales twice a year in the spring and fall, and volunteers work to receive, sort, price and sell donated clothing and household goods.

The Valentine’s Tea is a formal tea featuring food handmade by parishioners and serves approximately 160 people in the Parish Hall. Local merchants and parishioners donate items for a raffle and auction.

Outreach funds are distributed to a number of different organizations, usually chosen by the volunteers of the fund raising events. While these organizations vary from year to year, these are some of the regular recipients:

- The Food Pantry buys food monthly for the Emergency Pantry at Social Services in Martinez, which helps families who run out of food at the end of each month.
- Contra Costa Interfaith Council operates the Warm Winter Nights program, which provides homeless families with children shelter and meals. St Paul’s hosts the program for a two week period in the winter.
- Contra Costa Food Bank provides food items to low income people.
- Fourth Week Food program provides resources for needy people at the end of the month when other resources have been exhausted.

David Mattern

St. Paul’s Cooks

We meet at 1:30 p.m. every second Monday to prepare meals for the Concord Shelter. We prepare either beef stroganoff or chicken a la king for approximately 100 people. If you have a couple of hours to spare, like to cook and enjoy good company, please contact Nancy Burchett: nfburchett@astound.net or Marion Perry: marionperry@juno.org or Mike Yale 817-7463.

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 or contact Rhea Williams at johnrheawill@gmail.com

Find Your Balance

A free fitness class by Stanley Forsyth for the people that don't want to fall.

Tuesday and Thursday 1-2 p.m. in St. Paul's Parish Hall.

Come improve your strength and stability in a fun class.

For more info contact Stanley at www.forsythpersonaltraining.com or 925-639-0988.

December 16, Lessons and Carols at 6 p.m., followed by Parish Dinner.

December 19, BART Caroling at Walnut Creek BART station at 5 p.m.

December 3, 10, 17, Confirmation class with Rev. Jeff.

December 6, 13, 20. Rev. Jeff's Advent Series in the Parish Hall at 6:30- 8 p.m.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Service Times

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Advent IV 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services:

4 p.m., 8 p.m.

10:30 p.m. (carols), 11 p.m.

Monday, December 25, 2017

Christmas Day Services

11 a.m. in the Chapel

Honduras Mission Trip January 7, 2018- January 16, 2018

Please keep these missioners in your prayers

Rosita Ortega Harvey, Hugh Harvey,
Mary-Jane Wood, Rev. Jeffrey Alan Dodge,
Phillis Gray, Ruth Baney, Mark Sturgess,
Miriam Lattanzi, Jerry Williams

Annual Meeting, one service only, at 9 a.m. on January 28, 2018

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'Bryansobryan@stpaulswc.org
Office hours Monday—Thursday 8—4:30p.m.

Music Director

Dwight Stone.....stonemusique@gmail.com

Intergenerational 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	adulteducation@stpaulswc.org
Intergenerational 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/ Gifts and Memorials	Richard Colombo	stewardship@stpaulswc.org
*Epistle Team	Rhea Williams, Sara O'Bryan, Ned Soares	epistle@stpaulswc.org



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