



# THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA - A SACRED SPACE FOR YOUR BUSY LIFE

## FROM THE RECTOR



Dear Friends,

This month I'd like to share with you the second half of my Rector's address from the Annual Meeting. I hope you find it helpful as a way to see what we will be doing this year.

As a way to frame the whole address I used a phrase given to me by a parishioner a few years ago to describe the work facing St. Paul's. John Martin said it seemed our work was to 'get our act together and then go for it.' In the first half of the address I talked about six different ways we 'have gotten our act together.' These six are that we are not running deficits anymore, our facilities are solid and our staff is excellent. Furthermore, we have a balanced ministry with the five purposes, we are environmentally friendly and, above all, we like each other. There will be ongoing maintenance issues, of course, but a few years ago we had a backlog of issues that needed attending to, and now we've done it.

In the second half of the address I talked about what it might mean to 'go for it' and why it is so important to have an 'it' to 'go for':

'I don't think God is done with St. Paul's. God has a vision of what it looks like for St. Paul's to thrive. Yet, in the big picture, we are still a church that is merely surviving and not yet thriving. If you look at attendance at St. Paul's over the course of the last 40 years, all you see is numerical decline. And unfortunately, things are not getting better for Episcopal Churches. In 2005, the latest year for which statistics are available, the number of Episcopalians in the Bay Area decreased by 4% even as the Bay Area population increased slightly. We can't just rely on our Episcopal identity and assumptions to turn around our gradual decline. Furthermore, Marin is one of the least church going counties in the United States and surveys consistently show that interest in organized religion here is minimal. We need something more, something distinct, something compelling if we're going to buck the trend and thrive and grow. I believe God knows what that 'something

more' is. I think our work in 2008 is to do our best to find out what God's vision for St. Paul's is, and to 'go for it.'

As you may know, I have a vision for St. Paul's. My vision is that we are 'an open community following Jesus into lives of prayer and service.' I can see us becoming a community of people who pray 20 minutes every day and serve those in need for one hour every week. We then find support, encouragement and direction from a small group of fellow Disciples we meet with every other week in Discipleship Groups. Furthermore, we provide lots of opportunities for people to take small steps towards entering into the rhythm of daily prayer, weekly service and regular small group attendance. Prayer is the key to the inward journey of healing and claiming our identity as a beloved child of God. Service is the key to the outward journey of living in the kingdom of God, and spreading the Good News. Discipleship groups are the way we hold together both the inward and the outward journeys as, over time, we break down the boundaries that separate us and become known and loved for who we really are.

In 2008 I propose that we test this vision of 'an open community following Jesus into prayer and service' to see if it is God's vision. I'm not entirely sure how to do this. In the coming months I'm going to be asking for help from all of you, but particularly from the Vestry and from the two discipleship groups. I'll be asking three questions:

1. What are the ways that we can all continue to explore 'prayer and service' to try it ourselves, even in very small steps?
2. How can we make sure we are asking the right questions to test whether 'prayer and service' is God's vision? In other words, how do we structure the experiences we are having so that we're talking to one another openly, sharing what we see?
3. If it becomes clear that 'an open community following Jesus into prayer and service' is not God's vision for us, what is?

*Continued on page 2*

In 2008, let's answer those three questions. At next year's annual meeting, I want to stand here and confidently say, 'here's what we, as a whole community, believe God's vision is for St. Paul's, and here's what we're going to be doing in 2009 to fulfill it.'

When we have discovered God's vision for us, God will bless us. We will begin to see the people of St. Paul's going from being seekers of God to fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Money, which is still so tight here, will begin to flow as people realize God's generosity in their lives and enter into the joy of giving back. Finally, we will see numerical growth. Right now, if you walk into any of our three services, it feels like we have a quorum. None of the services are usually embarrassingly low, but none of them feels full. Picture the service that you go to. Now imagine if at the 7:45, instead of 16, there are 25 people every Sunday. At the 9:00 instead of 30, picture 60. At the 10:30, instead of 65, picture 95. I know you can do it, because we've had unusual Sundays at each of those services with those numbers. When it happens, you can tell a difference in the energy of the room. The worship is exciting, vibrant, full and satisfying in a new way. It would make a profound difference in our lives if we had those new people in our life every Sunday. When we follow God's vision we will thrive and grow because God blesses what God asks for.

The good news is that we are finally in a position where we can try to discover God's vision for us without major distraction. As I said at the beginning, 'we have gotten our act together.' Let's go for it.'

In Christ,

Christopher

*PS - If you're looking for a way to serve the community, you can join a group of us going to receive the one hour training from the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen in downtown San Rafael on Monday, March 3rd at 5:30pm, to be kitchen helpers. They need regular help any time between 6am and 11am Monday through Friday. We'll meet at St. Paul's at 5:15 and walk over together. Please contact me at 415.456.4842 or [cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org](mailto:cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org).*



## **FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR**

If you've been around St. Paul's at all recently, this will probably be old news to you. But in case you haven't, or have but missed the last few Sundays, I want to tell you about something that we ("we" being the families of St. Paul's) are really excited about.

It began when the families wanted to have an outreach project for the kids during Lent. We decided to offer support to an orphanage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is a fairly good sized country in the south-central part of Africa. The orphanage is in a remote village on the SE part of the DRC - it takes two flights, and a 20-hour drive to get there.

Gigi Holland has a friend who works for the orphanage arranging adoptions for the many children who live there. The latest figures we have (from their Website), is there are 45 girls in the girls' orphanage, and 20 in the boys'. Their ages range from infant to 16 years old. Our hope is to raise funds to build five cribs for the orphanage. Our primary fundraiser will be through See's Candies and we will have a "Congo Day" on March 2nd, in hopes to raise everyone's awareness and get people excited about the project.

Check out the information on the following page. Join us as we collect funds to create a nursery for a lost child. If you have questions or suggestions, you know how to find me.



Blessings to you all.

In God's grace,

Julie

## JAMAA LETU - A LENTEN ACT OF COMPASSION

### **Jamaa Letu Orphanage**

Each year, the children of St. Paul's Church choose a charity for their Lenten Outreach Project. This year, the children have chosen to raise money for the Jamaa Letu Orphanage. Jamaa Letu Orphanage is located in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo. Jamaa Letu was developed and built through the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission. Jamaa Letu Girls Orphanage houses 45 girls and the Boys Orphanage houses over 20 boys. Ages range from infant to 16 years old. All children are healthy and have regular medical exams. Most of the children were abandoned or lost their parents through civil unrest or illness.



### **On Behalf of St. Paul's**

Our goal for the year is to raise money to purchase 5 cribs for the new nursery being built at Jamaa Letu. Each crib will cost approximately \$75, for a total fundraising goal of \$375. The children of St. Paul's and their families will raise money through direct solicitation of contributions and also by selling See's Candy to St. Paul's parishioners, family and friends. In addition to raising money to purchase the cribs, our children will also write letters and make small, portable craft projects that will be delivered to the orphanage.



### **Congo Day**

To learn more about Jamaa Letu and the DRC, we will be having "Congo Day" on March 2nd, from 9:40 to 10:20 in the Upper Room. Come join us, learn more about the Congo in general and the orphanage in particular . . . partake of some great food and music, and plan on having a blast.

### **How You Can Help**

Please join our efforts to raise funds to build a nursery. You can do that by participating in the See's Candy fundraiser, or by taking the more direct route of donating money to the cause. Would you like to sell some candy bars? To sign up,

please contact Marcella Hauser at 415.460.6407 or email her at [marcella.hauser@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marcella.hauser@sbcglobal.net) - anything you can do will be appreciated. Your gift of time will go a long way for these children.

### **Photos from the Orphanage**

These smiling faces are children who live at the Jamaa Letu orphanage in the southern corner of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.. Let's make sure these kids don't lose their smiles.

For more information about the orphanage and their adoption process, please visit [www.ourfamilyadoptions.org](http://www.ourfamilyadoptions.org)

For more information about Hope for the Children of Africa and the Pacific Northwest Task Force, please visit [www.hopeforthechildrenofafrica.com](http://www.hopeforthechildrenofafrica.com)



## HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the most important week in the church year. This year Holy Week is from March 16th to March 23rd. The heart of Holy Week is four services. If you mark your calendar now and show up to these four services, you will have a positive, life changing experience of God. The four main services are:

1. Palm Sunday. March 16th. 7:45am, 9am, 10:30am. We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and how quickly the crowds turned on him. The service begins joyfully and ends somberly, setting the tone for the week to come.
2. Maundy Thursday. March 20th. 7:30pm. We remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his betrayal by Judas and his abduction by the soldiers. The service concludes with a dramatic stripping of the church.
3. Good Friday. March 21<sup>st</sup> 12:00. We remember Jesus' death upon the cross. We watch as the cross is brought into the church and have an opportunity to hammer our own nails into the wood. We keep watch with prayers, silence and songs as he dies.
4. The Great Vigil of Easter. March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm. We remember Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The service begins with a dark church; part way through the church explodes with light and sound as we proclaim Jesus' triumph over death.

To supplement these services there are others such as Tenebrae, Stations of the Cross and our Sunday morning Easter services.

Here is the full schedule:

### **Palm Sunday, March 16th**

7:45am Eucharist Service with blessing of Palms  
9:00am Family Service  
10:30am Eucharist Service with Blessing of the Palms,  
Festival Procession and Dramatic Reading of the Passion Narrative

### **Wednesday, March 19th**

7:30am Eucharist followed by brunch  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
6:30pm Holy Eucharist

### **Maundy Thursday, March 20th**

7:30pm Holy Eucharist with Foot washing and stripping of the Altar

### **Good Friday, March 21st**

12:00pm Good Friday Service  
1:00-3:00pm Good Friday Vigil at the Foot of the Cross  
4:30pm Interactive Stations of the Cross especially for Families  
7:30pm Tenebrae; a Service of Light and Shadows

### **Holy Saturday, March 22nd**

7:30pm The Great Vigil of Easter; Easter Eve Liturgy,  
Lighting of the Paschal Candle and the Chancel Choir- Bring Your Bells!

### **Easter Sunday, March 23rd**

9:00am Easter Service for Families followed by the Easter Egg Hunt  
11:00am Easter Service with Chancel Choir

## ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB

St. Paul's Book Club will meet in Duncan Hall at 7:00 on March 16th.

The book we will be discussing is "The Golden Notebook" by Doris Lessing who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2007.

## CREATION CARE

*For our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Ash Wednesday, Litany of Penitence,  
Book of Common Prayer

Concerned about climate change  
and other environmental challenges?  
Save these Sundays in 2008 and make a difference!

**MAR 30 - LEARN TO COMPOST**  
(during coffee hour)

**APR 20 - EARTH DAY AT ST. PAUL'S**

**MAY 25 - CREATION CARE STUDY GROUP**  
(Upper Room 9:45-10:15am)

Last June, under the glare of camera lights, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori testified before the U.S. Senate's Environment and Public Works committee on the subject of climate change. She was joined by Roman Catholic, Evangelical and Jewish leaders, united in urging Congress to make addressing climate change a national priority, saying:

*"The crisis of climate change presents an unprecedented challenge to the goodness, interconnectedness, and sanctity of the world God created and loves...As one who has been formed both through a deep faith and as a scientist I believe science has revealed to us without equivocation that climate change and global warming are real, and caused in significant part by human activities. They are a threat not only to God's good creation but to all of humanity. This acknowledgment of global warming, and the Church's commitment to ameliorating it, is a part of the ongoing discovery of God's revelation to humanity and a call to a fuller understanding of the scriptural imperative of loving our neighbor."*

## ST. ANNE'S GUILD AT ST. PAUL'S

Saint Anne's Guild has been meeting for over fifty years. The purpose of St. Anne's Guild was and is to actively work for the financial support of the church and the community. They have consistently and faithfully worked in outreach to others and have been involved in a multitude of projects to raise money for St. Paul's and have done so joyfully and with love.

St. Anne's is a close fellowship of those who have found friendship and the pleasures of working together without thought of self, but mostly for the good of others and serving God. They have become the church "recyclers" allowing goods to be circulated instead of disposed of.

St. Anne's guild meets every Thursday morning at 11:00 in Duncan Hall for tea, lunch, and camaraderie. All members of the parish are de-facto member of St. Anne's - so stop by for a visit!

## FUNDRAISING DATES TO REMEMBER

Please get out your calendars and mark the following important dates:

**September 20 and 21** - Book Sale  
**October 11 and 12** - Clothing Sale  
**November 8 and 9** - Harvest Bazaar

To donate: If you are wondering what to do with all those bits and pieces that you are storing in your closets, attics, basements, and storage units, please bag or box them up and bring them to Duncan Hall at St. Paul's Church during business hours, Tues-Fri, 9am-1pm, or on Sunday mornings.

We need men's, women's, and children's gently used clothing and accessories, as many books as you can bear to part with, and all of your other items that could be considered rummage. Dig through that jewelry box, clear the closet of clutter, and sort through those boxes in the attic!

Tax deduction receipts are available. Without your donations, the **Book Sale**, the **Clothing Sale**, and the **Harvest Bazaar and Rummage Sale** would not happen. Call Barbara Alexander at 459.2829 for further information.



When Joan Adams decided to leave the Tiburon Lutheran church and go “church shopping” she had no idea within seven years she would be an Episcopalian, a member of a vestry and SENIOR WARDEN of St. Paul’s Episcopal church. We Episcopalians move fast! Sometimes.

At the Lutheran church she was president of its Church Council (vestry) and held other responsible positions. She had made Cursillo, so her first move was to go to a Fourth Day celebration being held at The Church of the Nativity in Marinwood where cursillistas of many denominations were present. And there she met our Susie Quenzer who promptly invited her to come to St. Paul’s on Sunday. Susie suggested 8 A.M. And that’s how Joan became an Episcopalian. And gave up church shopping.

Joan very quickly became Clerk of the Vestry and then was elected to the Vestry. She served three years - the last two years as Senior Warden. What does the Senior Warden do? The National Canons (laws) simply say that when a parish is without a priest the Senior Warden shall act in his/her place organizationally speaking. When there is a priest in place, the Senior Warden becomes the Rector’s priest. He or she is elected to the Vestry by the congregation and then is appointed as Senior Warden and is responsible to the Rector. For example, in Joan’s two years, she met regularly with Fr. Martin to discuss various issues of concern to the parish, she listened to problems members of the parish raised, she prayed for all of the members of the church, she led vestry meetings when the Rector was absent, she along with the Junior Warden and the Rector, prepared the meeting agenda and she evaluated the insurance program, in which she has special training. In case you are wondering, the Junior Warden is selected by the Vestry. And the clerk is appointed by the Rector and takes the minutes of the meeting.

Joan was born in Sacramento went to college at San Francisco State University with a major in Language Arts. She worked in the insurance industry, and when she retired, was asked to return as a consultant. One of the big pleasures of her life is to travel -and traveled she has. Among the countries she has enjoyed are Greece and Turkey, the Baltic Sea area, France, Mexico (to see Fr. Hal and Carol), Australia, Italy, and she has toured the theatre attractions of London. Joan lives in San Rafael with her two cats - Cindena and Cho Pare (names she must have picked up in Language School). Let us give thanks to God for Joan’s presence among us and for her ministry as our Senior Warden.

**PRAYER LIST**

**+In the Short Term Prayer List:**

Renee	John Dods	John Lamb	Bill and Ines Stark
Mimi B.	Walter & Nancy Dods	Susan Laubaugh	Maureen Zeuss and Family
Tim & Alicia	Souxzi F.	Brian O’Donnell	
Mary Bucklew	Steve Gordon	The Puccinelli Family	

**+In the Long Term Prayer List:**

Baby Lillian Grace	Joseph Cook	John Lynch	Richard Satterfield
Ben	Helenclare Cox	Blaine Marshall	Beverly Sherman
Gudrun	John Davis	Emily Monforte & Family	Howard Sherman
Kathleen and Olivia	Letty Dell’Era	Jocelyn O.	Sue Shirley
Melissa	Alex Elliot	Sandy Olnick	Kathy Sullivan
Natalie	Robert and Dorothy Essen	Charles Riggan	Patricia W.
Cheryl August	Gordon Felton	The Rowcliffe Family	Martha Wickcliff
Ken Asay	The Goldman Family	Colin Ryan	Eugin Wilms & Family
Pali Boucher	Vera Levitan	Marianne S.	Dar and Stan Wood

+ **In Thanksgiving:** Baby V. Jethani, Jim N. and Family, J.S.

+ **Congratulations to:** Joy Moss on the birth of her granddaughter on Valentine’s Day!

+ **For those that have died:** Donald Baas, Pam De Ferrari, Marie Gardner, Ellen Mullins, Theodore H. Rowcliffe, Heather’s Grandmother.

+ **For those serving in the military:** Jason Brooks, Ryan Richard Gourley, Alex Rey, Aaron Sova, and our friend Brandon.

+ **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for the Diocese of Bethlehem (United States).

+ **We pray for the other Episcopal Churches in San Rafael:** Church of the Nativity and Church of the Redeemer.

We pray for the unity of the Anglican Church worldwide and the Episcopal Church in the United States.

## WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S

*Please see Page 4 for  
Holy Week and Easter Schedule*

### SUNDAYS:

7:45 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Family Service  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist

### WEDNESDAYS:

8:30 am Morning Prayer  
6:00 pm Centering Prayer  
6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

### THURSDAYS:

7:15 am Centering Prayer

### HEALING PRAYER

Healing Prayer is available at the back of the church on the first and third Sundays of each month, during communion at the 10:30am service. It consists of the laying on of hands with prayers for you or for someone you love.

### CENTERING PRAYER

Rediscover silent meditation in the Christian Tradition. Sessions are on the Second and Fourth Sunday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Upper Room. For more information, leave a message for Chris Olson at the Parish Office 415.456.4842.

Also note the regular service of Centering Prayer every Thursday morning at 7:15 am and Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm.

### THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL EPISTLE IS MARCH 8TH.

Email your article to Ana at  
astark@stpaulssanrafael.org  
or leave it on her desk.

All are encouraged to  
submit an article, family news,  
or points of interest!

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

After Sunday Services, please join us in Duncan Hall for coffee and treats.

Those whose last names begin with the following letters, please bring food on the respective Sunday:

First Sunday	A - G
Second Sunday	H - L
Third Sunday	M - R
Fourth Sunday	S - Z

A sign-up notebook will be on the coffee table each Sunday. Please help.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

What a popular month!

- 1 Ethan Salmonson
- 3 Donald Army
- 4 Sandra Stone
- 8 Thea Rodgers
- 8 Larry Santucci
- 10 Bob Kenny
- 12 Linot Vierke
- 12 Garrett Westover
- 15 Roy Begun
- 16 Will Pritchard
- 16 Chloe Martin
- 17 Cole von Buchau
- 22 Alex Olson
- 24 Scott Hastings
- 24 Donald Greenfield
- 24 Dylan McDermott
- 24 Phillip Hauser
- 25 Alisa Lafferty
- 26 Hailey Caldwell
- 27 Katherine Tompkins
- 29 Nancy Skinner
- 30 Leslie Wilson

*Are you missing from our list?*

*We don't have many  
anniversaries listed for our  
parishioners...*

*So add your info and we'll  
mention your special day here!*

*Call Ana in the office:  
415.456.4842*

## STAFF DIRECTORY

### ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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San Rafael, CA 94901-2909

Phone: 415.456.4842  
Fax: 415.456.1096

Email: info@stpaulssanrafael.org  
www.StPaulsSanRafael.org

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
The Office is closed on Mondays.

### RECTOR

The Reverend Christopher Martin  
415.456.4842 ext. 3  
415.454.1133 (H)  
cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org

### ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The Reverend Julie Anderson Love  
jlove@stpaulssanrafael.org  
If you need to reach her by phone,  
please leave a message in Ana's voice-mail.

### ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Jeremy Blodgett  
415.499.0204 (H)  
signsandwonders@juno.com

### TREASURERS

Susie and Larry Quenzer  
415.456.4842 ext. 4  
415.457.3229 (H)  
lsbqzr39@aol.com

### ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

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415.892.9731 (H)  
m\_struck@comcast.net

### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Ana Stark  
415.456.4842 ext. 1  
astark@stpaulssanrafael.org

## ALTAR FLOWERS

*Clip along dotted line*

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for flowers to decorate the chancel area.

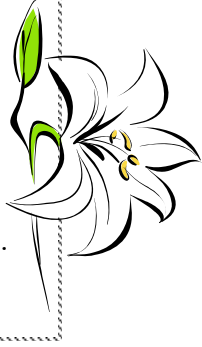
Flowers are given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of     In thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your checks payable to St. Paul's and note the designation for Easter Altar Flowers.

Please be sure that this request is in the Church Office no later than March 13th.

Thank You.



Lent began on February 6th, which means that Easter will follow in six weeks.  
There are some special activities in which the Altar Guild invites the congregation to participate.

### **March 15th**

We gather around noon to make the palm crosses which will be distributed  
to the congregation on Palm Sunday.

### **March 22nd**

We decorate the windows in the church with containers of spring flowers. We ask members of the congregation  
to bring flowers from their gardens by 9:30 am, and all are most welcome to stay and help with the arranging.

### **Easter Sunday**

There will be a large cross in the courtyard to be decorated with garden flowers  
by the congregation as they arrive for services.

You are also invited to contribute to the memorial Altar Flowers by either sending it to the office,  
or by using one of the envelopes which will be in the pews, and placing it in the offering plate.

We ask that these be in the office by March 13th to give adequate time to compose the  
memorial list which will be in the Easter service program.



## **ST. PAUL'S**

### **EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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