

THE EPISTLE

Following Jesus together in prayer, worship and service.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

From the Rector

The most important class I teach at St. Paul's is Basic Discipleship, yet I haven't taught it in years. This month, after encouragement from people who have taken the class and told me how much it meant to them, I'm offering it again.

In Basic Discipleship, four or five of us pick a mutually convenient time and meet weekly for five weeks. We focus on two things which are establishing the rhythm of daily prayer and telling a bit of our story. Each of us has a turn to tell three stories from our lives of when we felt close to God. Both telling and hearing these stories is a powerful experience, it is like the pearl of great price.

I already have interest in starting at least one group. Please contact me if you're feeling that now is the time to make that next step in your growth in God.

Finally, we are baptizing four people, marrying four couples and preparing nine youth for confirmation. Please pray for them all!

Faithfully,
Christopher (cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org)

Alleluia!



St. Paul's Spiritual Forum by Walter Tanner

For the past few months, several parishioners have been meeting Sundays with Rector Christopher between Masses to investigate and deepen our particular tradition of English spirituality.

We opened the series with *The Cloud of Unknowing*, the classic text of Carthusian mysticism. Focusing on the few chapters of *The Cloud* that develop Saint Augustine's conception of the human soul, we all found ourselves amazed at how these 600-year-old words continue to speak meaningfully to our own, modern condition.

From there, we shifted to a little-known contemporary of the anonymous author of *The Cloud*, Walter Hilton. Hilton was an Augustinian canon at a priory in Nottinghamshire, and many scholars believe that he and the author of *The Cloud* may have been friends. Many themes in both authors' works seem like a conversation between these two great contemplative minds.

Hilton's greatest work, *The Scale of Perfection*, is an amazing condensation of the entire Christian spiritual tradition. At the forum we have been reading his allegory of the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The pilgrim faces various dangers and upheavals on his journey, reflecting our own path following Christ. We read a paragraph or two aloud and often find the wisdom so rich that it keeps us in conversation the whole hour. Sometimes we meet and even decide to go back and read the last week's passage a second time!
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For more information please visit our website at StPaulsSanRafael.org.
Join the community on Facebook and Twitter. Church Office Phone: 415-456-4843.

Spiritual Forum (cont'd)

You don't need to bring anything to the forum, there are always copies of the texts available. And there is no commitment, drop-in as you can -- since Christopher is expert at bringing people up-to-speed! Upon completing the passages from Walter Hilton, we are planning to move to the final of the great trinity of 14th century contemplative writers -- Julian of Norwich.

The Spiritual Forum will resume on Sunday, April 3rd at 9AM in Stuart Hall. Please join us!

What is Your Next Spiritual Step?

- **Morning Prayer** every Tuesday at 7:30am in the church.
- **Bible Studies** on Tuesdays (12:30pm), Wednesdays (10am) and on Thursday evenings (6:15pm).
- **Christian meditation** on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 7pm.
- **Discipleship Groups**, which are small groups with a longer term commitment focused on spiritual maturity and loving community with the poor.
- **Baptism preparation**. Preparing for the holy rite of Baptism for adults or children involves a series of meetings with Christopher.

St. Paul's offers many opportunities for you to learn, pray and grow spiritually.

Cursillo Retreats

There is still time to sign up for the Cursillo Retreats in April! Men's Retreat is April 7-10, and Women's Cursillo is April 21-24. Both retreats start on Thursday evening and end Sunday early afternoon. See Christopher, Janie Burtch, or Steve Avanzino for more information. Your time spent at this special retreat will deepen and grow your faith.

How can I serve the least of these?

Teen Success Breakfast: Serve breakfast to at-risk youth. Contact Beverly Armstrong at 415.454.4015 or nevbev@sbcglobal.net.

San Rafael Health Care: Help lead a simple worship service with prayers and songs for the residents at the 5th Ave. Health Care center. 11:00 – 11:25 on 1st and 3rd Sunday. Children are welcome. Contact Sue Adamson at 415.461.1798.

Prison Ministry: Visit or correspond with one of 7 death row inmates at San Quentin. Contact Richard Olive 415.259.9198 or ollipops@comcast.net.

Young Moms Marin: Host a support a supportive and educational group for mostly teen moms and their children. The group meets Fridays from 3pm to 5:30pm in Duncan Hall. Contact Carolyn Eitel at 415.214.2560 or ceitel@mvmgmt.com.

"Just as you did it to one of the least of these you did it to me."
Matthew

Fellowship Opportunities in April

St.Paul's Book Club

Friday, April 15th at 7 p.m. in Duncan Hall.

The book we will be discussing is *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. This book is described as "a sweet, uplifting homage to bookstores." All are welcome. Contact Joy Moss (415)479-6930.

St. Anne's Guild weekly lunch

Thursdays at 11:00 in Duncan Hall. All are invited. Bring a bag lunch. Cookies and tea are served.

St. Paul's History Corner by Joy Moss

Leading up to St. Paul's 150th anniversary, let's take a look at some of the former church members who are commemorated with plaques and windows.

Dr. Alfred W. Taliaferro is memorialized in a stained glass window over the organ. The window depicts the scene of "The Good Samaritan." This is very appropriate for Dr. Talliaferro who was known in his practice of medicine to treat all regardless of their ability to pay.

Dr. Taliaferro (pronounced Toliver) came from Virginia on the ship "Glenmore" in 1849. He was a true "49'er" sailing to California to join the gold rush. He was part of the Virginia Company, a group of young men from Richmond who formed a company to make it rich in California. The ship arrived in San Francisco on October 6, 1849. The company was so eager to take off for the mines that they sold their cargo at a loss and hurried off to become rich. Dr. Taliaferro was one of the few who decided to go into farming and came to San Rafael with some other members of the company for that purpose...

Dr. Taliaferro was a member of St. Paul's Church and passed the collection plate on Sunday morning. If the well-to-do did not put what he thought was a sufficient amount in the plate, he would stand in the aisle and motion with his hand to tell the embarrassed man to fork over more.

To read Joy's full article about Dr. Taliaferro, please visit StPaulsSanRafael.org, click on "News" and select "St. Paul's Blog."



Anne T. Kent California Room Collection
Marin County Free Library

Children and Youth at St. Paul's

St. Paul's is a spiritual home for children of all ages. Our Children and Youth Ministry program is led by a team of dedicated adults who believe that children's sense of spirituality is innate, and who want to help them nurture it. For more information please contact Kati Dombrosky at kdombrosky@gmail.com or 415.846.1700

Christian Education

- April 3. Godly Play with Chloe in the upper classroom.
- April 10. Family Sunday (no children's choir)
- April 17. Prayers and Saints with Kati & Alison.
- April 24. Stories and Songs with Janet & Jim.

Nursery Care is available on Sunday mornings during the 10 AM service in the basement level classroom across from the church.

Confirmation Class

From 11:30 -12:30 in Christopher's office, a series of classes to prepare for confirmation by the Bishop at Grace Cathedral on June 4th. Please contact Christopher.

Children's Choir

We rehearse at church on Fridays from 5-6pm, and sing at the 2nd Sunday Family Service. Contact Alison Blume at alisonblume@comcast.net

A Grace our children
have learned:

*Come Lord Jesus,
Be our guest
And let these gifts
to us be blessed.
Amen*

Middle School and High School Youth Group

Sundays 6-7:30, ages 11-18, Church of The Nativity, 333 Ellen Drive, San Rafael
Fun, fellowship, prayer, service, food, friends--Our youth group rocks! Contact daniel.london@gmail.com

Death Cafe

A funny name for something I've now experienced twice and would like to bring to the

St. Paul's community--
and open it to the public.
A chance to do something we don't often do: talk about death. Anything about it.

No agenda.

An open conversation.

And cookies.

Tuesday, April 19

7:00-9:00 pm

Duncan Hall

Please join me:

RSVP Chloe Martin

415-464-7149

chloeadmartin@comcast.net



Photos from the Open House at the Martins on February 28.

A good time was had by all....if you weren't there, we missed you!

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