

THE EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Following Jesus together in prayer, worship and service.

From the Rector



Dear Friends,

December is the month with the greatest spiritual contrast of the year. For me, and for many, the contrast is primal. On one hand, the season invites deep spiritual stillness and attention. The Christian invitation in Advent is to prepare room in our hearts to receive afresh the good news the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. This spiritual practice of preparation encourages stillness, not activity; simplicity, not clutter; silence, not noise. By contrast, American culture gets noisier and more insistent this month. To respect the season of Advent, a Christian soul must make a strong and

intentional move in the opposite direction, like a pendulum swing.

We are committed to making St. Paul's a sacred space for your busy life. It is often open during the week so that you can come and be in quiet and recall that you are a beloved child of God, yearning to be shown a new thing this Christmas. Not only can you come by to pray or to any of our half dozen weekly spiritual activities during the week, you can also contact me. I'm here to listen to you and guide you as you make your own way through this spiritually and emotionally dense season.

Prepare Him room!

Christopher (cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org)

Christmas Service Times

| | |
|---|---------|
| Christmas Eve Family Service | 5pm |
| Christmas Eve Service with Choral Prelude | 10:30pm |
| Christmas Day | 10am |

Although Christmas Day is a Sunday, there will be no 8am or 5pm service. The 10am service is followed by a Pot Luck Feast hosted by the Martins (see below)

St. Anne's Christmas Lunch

All are invited to come and enjoy delicious food, holiday cheer, and Sue Adamson's famous flaming figgy pudding!

Thursday, December 8
at noon

Christmas Day Potluck Feast

The Martin Family invites you to celebrate the joy of Christmas at our annual Potluck Feast on Christmas Day at 11:00. RSVP to chloedmartin@comcast.net

For more information please visit our website at StPaulsSanRafael.org.
Join the community on Facebook and Twitter. Church Office Phone: 415-456-4843.

Special Ways to Support our Outreach Ministries this Season



- ❖ **Gifts for Ritter Center:** We are collecting gifts for the clients of Ritter Center in San Rafael. Please bring an unwrapped gift and deposit it in one of the two barrels in Duncan Hall by **Friday, December 9th**.
 Ideas for adults: warm socks, camping equipment, backpacks and duffle bags, gift cards for iTunes, Ross, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Target, Kohls, Starbucks, Safeway.
 Ideas for teens: hoodies, sweatshirts, journal books, scarves, gloves, throw blankets, art supplies, toiletries, hair care products and accessories, cosmetics, jewelry, pajamas, gift cards as above.
- ❖ **Christmas Cards to San Quentin Inmates:** Look for the Christmas Cards in Duncan Hall, and write one to one of the 9 men we visit. The cards they received from us last year were truly appreciated.
- ❖ **Caroling at the San Rafael Health Care Center:** Join the children who have been learning Christmas Carols in Sunday School, and come sing to our friends at San Rafael Health Care Center. We'll be going after the 10am service on Sunday, December 18.

Death Row Ministry "Come and See" Meeting, Wed. Dec. 7, 5:30pm in the Upper Room
 We have a thriving ministry to 9 inmates on Death Row, and a group from St. Luke's in San Francisco is interested in joining it. Come to this meeting to find out more about the ministry and how you might get involved. Or contact Richard (415.259.9198 or ollipops@comcast.net).

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

Coffee hour is such a special time of fellowship when we visit with friends and welcome newcomers. It has always been put on by volunteers who make the coffee, set the table, put out the food, then clean it all up afterwards. We have 2 Sundays covered, and need coverage for 2 Sundays a month. If you can help with this important ministry, please call Eric Guastavino 415.755.8362 or Ronnie Dods 415.454.7559.

Christmas Flower Donations and Greening the Church

The beauty of our Church at Christmas time is legendary!
 But only if you help.

If you would like to have flowers given in memory of someone you love, please contact Alex Elliot at isaiah24257@gmail.com or call him at 415.488.7930. There is no specific dollar amount required. If paying by check, please either send your check by mail or bring it in on a Sunday and put in the offering plate. Please specifically note what it is for and please have all Christmas Flower donations in by **Sunday, December 18**.

Alex could use a couple extra hands hanging the garland on Thursday or Friday evening. Please call him.

What is Your Next Spiritual Step?

- **Morning Prayer:** every Tuesday at 7:30am in the church.
- **Bible Studies:** Tuesdays 12:30-1:30pm: The Gospels
 Wednesdays 10-11am: Numbers
 Thursday 6:15-7:15pm: Letters of Paul
- **Spiritual Forum:** Sundays 9-9:40am-Exploring the soul. Duncan Hall.
- **Christian meditation:** 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7pm in the Upper Room.
- **Sunday Evening Eucharist:** 5pm every Sunday at Church of the Nativity. This shared ministry with our sister churches in San Rafael, Nativity and Redeemer has a relaxed, intimate feel. The clergy from the three churches alternate leading the worship.
- **Discipleship Groups:** small groups with a longer term commitment focused on spiritual maturity and loving community with the poor. Talk to Christopher about joining a group.

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

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 memorialized with their gifts to the glory of God and in remembrance of loved ones.



When St. Paul's was founded in 1868, among the founding members were James D. and Sarah Jane Walker. The beautiful stained glass window over the altar was donated by Sarah Jane Walker. She had the window made in England at a glassworks at Newcastle on Tyne. Sarah Jane was a dedicated church woman and deeply involved in the establishment of St. Paul's.

Her husband, James D. Walker, was born in Scotland in 1835. He went to work in an English bank in London. It was there in 1861 that he met and married Sarah Jane Hewitt. He was sent to Canada to open a bank, the Bank of British Columbia. In 1866, Mr. Walker joined the firm of Faulkner Bell & Co. in San Francisco.

The family chose San Rafael for their home, living on Fifth St. By that time their family had grown to include a son, Henry and soon welcomed daughter, Emma.

James was a vestryman at St. Paul's. He commuted to San Francisco via a ferry at San Quentin. To speed up the commute, he and other local businessmen established the first railroad in Marin, The San Rafael and San Quentin Railroad in 1869. Later Mr. Walker was an officer of the North Pacific Coast Railroad, a narrow gauge railroad that went to West Marin and into Sonoma. He was also the manager of the Marin Water Company.

In his obituary in 1899, James D. Walker was called "an earnest worker in the interest of San Rafael and Marin."..... *For the complete story, please visit stpaulssanrafael.com.*

Children and Youth at St. Paul's

The children at St. Paul's have been learning the traditional Christmas songs. We invite the congregation

to join us on **December 18th after church for our Annual Caroling trip** to 5th Avenue. We will sing Joy to the World, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night, Go Tell it on the Mountain and The First Noel.

The Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. will be the Christmas Family Service. Christopher's homily will focus on the children. If there are enough children in attendance, we will invite them up to stand in the parts of the nativity scene. No practice needed, we are ready to go with it and excited to include all children: friends, families and strangers who join us to celebrate Christ's birth.

Our nursery needs some help! Our amazing staff, Kristen and Roxanne, will not be able to maintain consistent coverage because of their demanding nursing school schedules. We need more help! If you, or anyone you know, is interested in the regular job of Sunday mornings 9:30-11:30, please be in touch with me soon.

Preparing Him Room,

Kati, Family Programming
kdombrosky@gmail.com 415-846-1700



Hardin Courtyard Update by Pat Curtis

We are making progress! Meetings with Contractors are underway to obtain proposals by Christmas. We are seeking proposals from Van Mitte Concrete, Ghilotti Concrete, Black Diamond Pavers and A. Hadley Pavers. Additionally, Swinerton, a San Francisco contracting firm is submitting a proposal at the request of the Marin Day School. Swinerton has done numerous projects for Bright Horizons, the parent company of the Marin Day School.

We are considering either pavers or concrete or perhaps a combination. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. We'll know more after we receive the proposals and understand the costs and trade offs of each approach.

We plan to present the proposals to the Vestry in January. The Vestry will decide on the Contractor and the surface (concrete or pavers).

Other improvements are underway on the St. Paul's Campus. Be sure to notice the historic Pepper Tree in the parking lot. Marin Tree Service trimmed the dead top and shaped up the tree a bit. It's now safer and more beautiful. They also pruned the Maples next to the church and several troublesome Pines in the back of Duncan Hall.

Before we do the Courtyard, Marin Tree Service will be back to prune and shape the large Pear Tree in the Courtyard. This tree is in great shape and, according to Marin Tree Service, can look forward to perhaps fifty years plus of providing shade and beauty to the Courtyard. The small Pear Tree will be cut down to make room for an expanded planting area.



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1123 Court St.
San Rafael, CA 94901