

THE EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Following Jesus together in prayer, worship and service.

From the Rector

Dear Friends-

May looks to be another exciting month at St. Paul's. First, on Mother's Day, May 8th, we will have our youth leading worship in many ways at 10am service. You'll see six of our youth, who are set to be Confirmed at Grace Cathedral on June 4th, reading, acolyting, ushering and reading the prayers. Come support the future of our church!

May 15th is Pentecost Sunday and we plan to share with you some of our initial thoughts on how we hope to celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2018. It's not too early to start planning and getting excited!

Finally, that week I start three different Basic Discipleship classes. They will be Sundays at 6pm, Thursdays at 12:30pm and Saturdays at 8am. Each time slot is limited to four people. Learn to pray and find your voice for telling your own spiritual story. It meets weekly for five weeks.

This continues to be a very rich season at St. Paul's.

Faithfully,
Christopher (cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org)

Field Trip to Grace Cathedral Sunday, May 29th

Worshipping at Grace Cathedral is an awesome experience, and it's more fun as a group! A group from St. Paul's will be going to the 11:00 choral eucharist service on Sunday, May 29th. If you'd like to carpool, we will meet in the parking lot across from St. Paul's and leave at 10:00. The service lasts for 75-90 minutes. Questions, please contact Chloe: 415.464.7149



Singing at San Rafael Health Care Center Sunday, May 15th

As part of our ongoing ministry to the San Rafael Health Care Center, groups from St. Paul's lead a short worship service twice a month, and sing Christmas Carols in December. On May 15th, a group including our children's choir will be going over to sing some hymns. Please join us to bring some cheer to our friends. 1601 5th Ave., San Rafael. We'll leave from the church before 11.

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

St. Paul's Prayer Ministry

St. Paul's has a small but dedicated group of people who are called (or drawn) to Intercessory Prayer for those who need our prayers on a daily basis. Some of us have been intercessors for many years, and some have been only for a short time.

Intercessions are based on needs: the list you get in the Sunday Bulletin are the people we list as "acute," because there is some emergency as to why they have been put on the list. We also have another three lists: the "chronic" list: We consider them as needing the "long haul" prayers which may often take up to years for healing. The second list is "Those Who Have Died" who are prayed for daily until November 1, All Saints' Day, at which time they are removed from the annual list. And my absolute favorite list is "Thanksgiving." Healing has taken place.

If you are called to this ministry or interested, please give me a call at 415.457.9491 or email me at nancyskinner@comcast.net, and we can get together and talk.

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.

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.

Donate your old Towels

St. Vincent de Paul's kitchen uses lots of towels every day, and they are in need of an infusion. We will be collecting towels (of any size) in a box in the vestibule through the month of May, and they will be delivered to Vinnies at the end of the month. Thank you!

Fellowship Opportunities in April

St. Paul's Book Club

Friday, May 20th at 7 p.m. in Duncan Hall.

The book we will be discussing is *Abide with Me* by Elizabeth Stout. All are welcome. Please contact Joy Moss at 415.479.6930

St. Anne's Guild weekly lunch

St. Anne's would be delighted to have anyone who would be interested in our group. Join us on Thursdays. We start at 11:00 in Duncan Hall and some of us knit. We're working on scarves and children's sweaters which we'll offer the parish for sale, and the rest will go to Ritter. We're also sorting books donated for our October Book Sale. Bring your sandwich and we'll have tea and cookies. We have good conversation and enjoy one another.

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.

On the left side of the church while facing the altar, there is the stained glass window dedicated to the memory of Helena Babcock. Here's what the local newspaper, *The Marin Journal*, had to say about the Memorial Window on Nov. 3, 1887: "The beautiful stained glass window recently placed in St. Paul's by William Babcock as a memorial to his deceased wife was made by Mr. James T. Lawder of New York. The subject of the window is Faith looking to the cross of Christ. The inscription reads: To the glory of God, this monument is erected in memory of Helena Babcock who entered into rest Feb. 12, 1887.

Helena Babcock was born in 1858 on the Island of St. Helena as Helena Kimball. Later she was adopted by General Alfred Redington and was brought up in Sacramento. She married William Babcock on Oct. 31, 1877 in London. Helena and William Babcock built their Queen Anne style house in 1887 on a large estate at the corner of Palm and Magnolia avenues in San Rafael. They called their home Edgehill. She and William had one son, William F. Babcock. She died in Monterey in 1887 of lung disease and was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in San Francisco.



Babcock Mansion built in 1887 at the corner of Palm and Magnolia Avenues in San Rafael.

To read Joy's full article about the Babcock family, please visit StPaulsSanRafael.org, click the "Community" tab, and select "History." You will see "History Corner" on the right side of the page.

Children and Youth at St. Paul's

St. Paul's is a spiritual home for children of all ages. Our children and youth ministry is led by a team of dedicated adults who believe that children have an innate spirituality and who want to help them:

- to know that they are precious children of God
- to learn the stories of the people of God told through the scriptures
- to learn to speak and listen to God in prayer
- to experience awe, reverence and peace in the beauty of the worship
- to become active participants in the worship services as readers, acolytes, ushers and choir members
- to feel grounded in the Anglican Tradition
- to open their hearts and discover ways that they can be of service to those in need
- to be known, respected and cared for by this multigenerational community

For more information about Sunday programs, children's choir, nursery care, or youth group, please contact Kati Dombrosky at kdombrosky@gmail.com or 415.846.1700

May 1. Godly Play with Chloe & Michelle in the upper classroom.

May 8. Family Sunday with Children's Choir

May 15. Prayers and Saints with Kati & Alison, then a quick practice of some choir songs and a trip to 5th Avenue to perform for their residents.

May 22. Stories and Songs with Janet & Jim.

May 29. Field trip to Grace Cathedral (see box on page 1)



There was much rejoicing and celebration at St. Paul's in April with 3 weddings and a baptism. Pictured above are the weddings of John and Don, and Virginia and Antonio. Congratulations also to Matthew and Brenda on their wedding, and to their baby Saliana who was baptized, and to Lindsay who was baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Legacy Society Planning Meeting
Sunday, May 22 9am in the Upper Room

We are putting together a "Legacy Society" for St. Paul's, and we would like your input about what kinds of educational programs would be most helpful and interesting to you as you plan for the rest of your life and beyond. All are welcome to come to an initial brainstorming session to help prepare a survey we will put out to the parish. Bring your creativity and help us choose the name for our society.

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