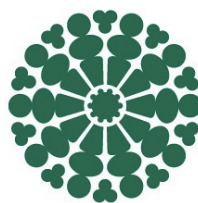


# THE EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Following Jesus together in prayer, worship and service.*

## From the Rector

Dear Friends-

I return from vacation loaded with ideas, games and images I'm looking forward to sharing with you, all centering around this poorly understood notion of Christian Call. What I want to do is help make Christian Call a lively and life-giving part of your everyday life. We have three different ways this fall to learn more about Call together.

1. **The Work is Very Near You.** Starting Labor Day weekend I will be offering classes on Saturdays at 8:30am, Sundays at 11:30am and Tuesdays at 6:30pm. I will be offering some teaching, a few powerful words to remember, and some little games to play throughout your week such that "gladness and singleness of heart," by God's grace, becomes real for you.

2. **Spiritual Forum.** Every Sunday at 9am people gather at the conversation end of Duncan Hall to explore together. We are now reading the teachings of Evagrius, a wise Christian of the 4th Century who knew the Desert Fathers and Mothers and many of the greatest theologians of his day. He offers a series of short teachings on the art of spiritual discernment. How, in the flow of life, we can distinguish good thoughts and impulses from bad ones. Come and read aloud and then discuss this ancient art of sorting our thoughts.

3. **New College of Christian Practice.** New College starts Wednesday, September 11th at 7pm, and is every other week for three meetings. For my offering this year I will be teaching how to enact three restorative stories in our daily life. I have recovered an ancient narrative theology, taught by St. Iranaeus, and made it useful for us. These three stories are Eve desires while Mary beholds, Adam sulks while Mary sings, and Eve and Adam desire while Jesus pours out. Which of our ancestors' practices do you follow? Come to New College and let these stories lead you to fullness of life.

Faithfully,  
Christopher ([cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org](mailto:cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org))

### Open House at the Martins' Home

Sunday, September 22

4:00-6:00 PM

An all-generations,  
all-community event.

Call/text Chloe at  
415-464-7149 for address in  
San Anselmo.

### St. Anne's Annual Book Sale

is coming up on October 5th and 6th.

Please comb your bookshelves for gently used books and bring them in to Duncan Hall (they can be left near the closet doors in the living room area). This annual fundraiser is a labor of love that raises money to support the ministries of St. Paul's.

**Help with set-up** will be needed Thursday, October 3 starting at 10:00am into the afternoon.

Tell your friends and come find some well-priced books at the sale!

For more information please visit our website at [StPaulsSanRafael.org](http://StPaulsSanRafael.org).  
Join the community on Facebook and Twitter. Church Office Phone: 415-456-4842.

## Downing Library Book of the Month

by Tom Witt

In keeping with the theme and integrity of the Downing Library, our featured book of the month is William J. Bernstein's *Masters of the Word: How Media*

*Shaped History from the Alphabet to the Internet.*

As Donn well captured in his annotated bibliography:

“The current age of digital communications and migrations is more apt to think of nations as networks. No longer does the image of a nation as a bounded community imagined on a larger scale fit today’s world where it is ever less clear what the boundaries of national territories enclose or exclude. National borders are porous, and relations once rooted in national territory – from family to livelihoods to political relationships – increasingly spanning borders, linking far-flung realities and fellow nationals to each other and to other people and institutions in complex sociopolitical relationships.”

*Masters of the Word* and other masters of the word await you in the Downing Library on the second floor of Duncan Hall. The Library is open on Sunday mornings during coffee hour (11 am to noon) and Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 am to 2 pm.

**St Paul's Book Club** will meet on Sept. 21st at 4 p.m. in Duncan Hall. The book we will be discussing is *The Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey. This mystery takes place in Bombay in the 1920s. The only female lawyer in India is hired to process a will. The women she is representing are in purdah which means they can have no contact with a male. A murder occurs and she must solve the mystery. This book introduces us to a little known culture. All are welcome. Contact Joy Moss (415)479-6930.

### St. Anne's Guild 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. Bring your sandwich and we'll have tea and cookies. We have good conversation and enjoy one another.

### How can I Serve the Least of These?

**Teen Success Breakfast:** Four days a week, volunteers prepare and serve a hot breakfast to at-risk youth at the County Community School. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact Ginny Horton: 415.785.7011 or hornlocker@comcast.net.

**San Rafael Health Care:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month, a small group of parishioners slips out of church early and heads down the street to lead a simple worship service with prayers and songs for the residents at the 5th Ave. Health Care center. 11:00 – 11:25. Children are welcome. Contact Sue Adamson at 415.461.1798.

**Death Row Ministry:** The next meeting of Death Row Ministry is 5:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 11, in Duncan Hall at St. Paul's. Anyone interested in the ministry, whether for volunteering or to observe, is welcome. If you have any questions about Death Row Ministry, feel free to contact Brigitte McCulloch (415) 497-5469, Richard Olive (415) 259-9198 or Christopher Martin (415)456-4842. See Page 4 for more information about the Death Row Ministry

### What is Your Next Spiritual Step?

- **Spiritual Forum** every Sunday from 9:00am to 9:40am in Duncan Hall.
- **Morning Prayer** Tuesdays starting in September at 7:30am in the church.
- **Bible Studies** Wednesdays (10-11am)  
Thursdays evenings (6:15pm-7:15).
- **Discipleship Groups**, which are small groups with a longer term commitment focused on spiritual maturity and loving community with the poor.
- **Afternoon 20-minute meditation in the church:** Tuesdays at 5pm  
Thursdays at 5:45
- **Christian meditation** on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at 7pm.

## St. Paul's Forward

By Pat Curtis

St. Paul's is Moving Forward with new, convenient ways to Give. But, we're not abandoning envelopes and checks. Many of us experience the Joy of Generosity more deeply when we Give our treasure directly into the collection plate. Others have asked for shortcuts to easily give regularly via their credit card or from their checking account. And we've even added Venmo!

Check out the Give page on [StPaulsSanRafael.org](http://StPaulsSanRafael.org) which is copied on the insert page in this Epistle. Or go to [StPaulsSanRafael.org/Giving/](http://StPaulsSanRafael.org/Giving/) on your phone, tablet or computer.

## Children and Youth at St. Paul's

Welcome back, families! We are looking forward to kicking-off the year with our Back-to-School Sunday on August 25th and a parent prayer night on September 3rd. If you haven't met Alyssa, our marvelous nursery staff in the preschool room, do stop by to say hello. She is a mother of two herself who cares for smaller children during the 10am service. We will also have a second nursery staff-person, Kennedy, who will be assisting in a few weeks. Our first Sunday School will be September 8th—music Sunday with Libby.

**Sunday August 25th, 10am: Back-to-school Sunday.** We will be introducing the children to the congregation and blessing their upcoming school year.

**Sunday August 25th, 1pm: Pacifics Baseball.** Our St Paul's choir will be singing the National Anthem for this final game of the season, which also happens to be a "Family Fun Day" (involving silly kids' games in between innings). Tickets are \$15 (0-3 year olds are free). Come, hang out after Back-to-School Sunday and have fun with other families and friends from St Paul's!

**Tuesday September 3rd, 7.30pm: Parent Prayer Night.** We will meet in the upstairs room at St Paul's to share and pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

**Sunday September 8th: Music Sunday with Libby.** We start the Sunday School year off with our traditional second Sunday music program led by our amazing Libby Silvestri!

**Sunday September 15th: Godly Play** during the 10am service.

**Sunday September 22nd: Family Sunday.** These fourth Sundays provide the children with the opportunity to participate in the 10am liturgy. Please let Karin know if your child might be interested in doing a reading, helping with the offering, or even greeting!

Finally, **September 29th** is a fifth Sunday, which means that families will be taking care of coffee hour. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or thoughts on the year ahead!

Karin [karina.holsinger@gmail.com](mailto:karina.holsinger@gmail.com)



### Job Opening

**WANTED—Volunteers for Death Row Ministry available to correspond with a condemned inmate. No experience necessary. Work from your own home at hours of your choosing.**

The job description is as easy as it gets ... and your involvement could make a world of difference to a death row inmate at San Quentin State Prison, some of whom have been incarcerated for decades without contact with family or anyone in the outside world, except for defense counsel.

There currently are 19 volunteers writing to inmates. Sixteen of them also make periodic visits to the prison. Twelve, including Pastor Christopher Martin, are members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The call for additional volunteers follows a dramatic rise in the number of inmates asking for pen pals and/or visitors. After more than 20 years in this ministry—the outreach began with two people from St. Paul's visiting one inmate—the program had expanded to 13 inmates by the beginning of 2019. Word-of-mouth among the inmates has resulted in recent months in a 46 per cent increase—from 13 to 19—in the number of inmates communicating with the volunteers.

Besides St. Paul's, members of two other churches are active in Death Row Ministry: Grace Church of Marin and New Life in Novato.

Efforts are under way to involve other churches, mindful of Jesus' call to Christians in Matthew (25:36) to visit the prisoner, that when one does this "for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

### "Dead Man Walking" Sister at Book Passage

Sister Helen Prajean, CSJ, for decades well-known advocate against the death penalty, will appear at Book Passage at 7 p.m., Thursday, September 5, to discuss River of Fire, which focuses on faith and spirituality, doubt and belief. The \$30 ticket price includes purchase of the book.

### Death Cafe Sunday, September 15

4-6 pm

Duncan Hall

Cookies and  
conversation

**RSVP**

**chloeadmartin@  
comcast.net**

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1123 Court St.  
San Rafael, CA 94901