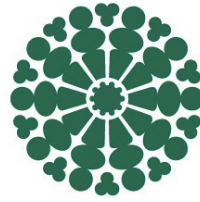


# THE EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

## From the Rector

Dear Friends-

February is the month we begin the next chapter of our life together. I've been with you nearly 15 years, and we have been through many chapters together. Most recently we've had a successful Capital Campaign, built the beautiful new Hardin Courtyard and joyfully celebrated our 150th Anniversary. What's next?

Two great things are next, fueled by a great new third thing. The first new thing has come out of our **RenewalWorks** Group, led by Jacob Moody. We have been prayerfully and creatively considering the data produced by the Spiritual Life Inventory that 84 of us took last September. We have created a road map for us for the next three years, when we intend to take the Inventory again. To borrow an old term from the business world, this road map gives us a way to go "from good to great."

The second new thing is a new group of six of us led by Pat Curtis, who successfully led our efforts to complete the Hardin Courtyard with the wisdom of our whole community. **St. Paul's Forward** is an effort to ensure our independence, stability and creativity through our faithful and generous stewardship. This is an area of great potential growth for us, and she is just the person to lead us.

The third new thing that fuels it all may already be apparent to you. People are stepping up to lead the community of Christians they love. We are newly committed to letting each of us offer our best work to God. Jacob and Pat are two of many who are stepping up in an exciting new way. What work might you have to offer, in love, for the glory of God?

Faithfully,

Christopher

**St. Paul's Forward**  
With Gladness and Singleness of Heart  
By Pat Curtis

Can you believe this is 2019 and that we have come so far together? Last year we celebrated our 150th Anniversary. This year we are looking forward with energy and spirit to embrace our wonderful life as we move Forward Together.

*Continued on page 3*



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

*"Without writing, the literate mind would not and could not think as it does... More than any other single invention, writing has transformed human consciousness."*

So writes Walter J. Ong, Jesuit priest, philosopher, cultural historian and author of our featured book for this month, *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word*.

Ong's most widely known work probes the relationship between literature and the media, as well as that of psychology, education and sociological thought. It provides a fascinating insight into the social effects of oral, written, printed and electronic technologies and their impact on philosophical, theological, scientific and literary disciplines.

Explore the power of the written word in the Downing Library on the second floor above Duncan Hall. To borrow any book, just fill out a library card with your name, book title, author and date.

As always, happy reading.

### Sunday Morning Book Group

"LIVING BUDDHA, LIVING CHRIST"

Peace, love, compassion and mindfulness are some of the themes we're exploring in a convivial book discussion of the classic bestseller by Vietnamese poet, Zen master and mystic, Thích Nhất Hạnh. All are invited to join us as we seek to understand the common denominators between two great spiritual paths. We meet in in the Upper Room, Sundays from 11:30-12:30.



### 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:** Breakfast served with love to hungry teens at the Community School. Contact Ginny Horton: 415.785.7011 or [hornlocker@comcast.net](mailto:hornlocker@comcast.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. We'll be singing Christmas Carols there at 11:30 on Sunday, December 16th. Join us!

**Death Row Ministry:** What began more than 20 years ago as visits and correspondence between St. Paul's rector and one inmate has grown to the involvement of 15 volunteers from three churches and 11 inmates. To learn more about the ministry and get involved, please contact Richard (415.259.9198 or [ollipops@comcast.net](mailto:ollipops@comcast.net)).

What is Your Next Spiritual Step?

- **Morning Prayer:** Tuesday at 7:30am in the church.
- **Bible Studies** Wednesdays 10-11am: Gospel of Mark  
Thursday 6:15-7:15pm: Ecclesiastes
- **Spiritual Forum:** Sundays 9-9:40am: Reading poetry. Duncan Hall.
- **Christian meditation:** 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7pm in the Upper Room.
- **Afternoon 20-minute meditation in the church:** Tuesdays at 5pm  
Thursdays at 5:45
- **Discipleship Groups:** small groups with a longer term commitment focused on spiritual maturity and loving community with the poor.
- **With Gladness:** See Rector's letter, p. 1 for details. Saturdays, 8:30am
- **Baptism and Confirmation:** Come to **St. Paul's 101** after the 10am service. Talk with Christopher about baptism.

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

## St. Paul's Forward, cont'd

Following Jesus Together in Prayer, Worship and Service is our Mission. Together is what we are all about. We are all in this

Community Together.

St. Paul's is rich in Stewardship with so many giving so much in time, talent and treasure. However, John McDermott, our treasurer, is raising a yellow flag. We've had some unexpected expenses like a \$5000 tax from the city, although generally our expenses are under control. But we need to keep up with cost of living increases for our outstanding staff and continue to do Outreach. And, over the past several years we have lost members of our Community leaving holes in our hearts and in our budget. These are the yellow flags that we need to pay attention to.

The Vestry has set a goal of Everyone Pledging and Achieving \$200,000 in Pledge Income by 2022.

It is important that we all understand the Challenge our Community faces and what each of us can do as we move through the stages of our life. We will be using the Annual Meeting and this Epistle to understand this Challenge. As we understand the Challenge, each of us should ponder these questions: Why is St. Paul's important to me? What is the right amount for me to Give?

In the months ahead, we'll be exploring Best Practices at other churches for ways to make financial Giving easier and better informed. We will redesign our Giving Campaign and new member orientation. We'll be seeking ideas from everyone for ways to enhance our Giving with Gladness and Singleness of Heart.

## Children and Youth at St. Paul's

What a great start we've had to 2019, only weeks following our adorable Epiphany Pageant, we had a real Family Sunday, with Zoe and me reading and the Sherman/Holsinger family presenting the offering. Thank you! The folk choir sang Here I Am Lord, which Libby had practiced with the children 2 weeks before. The kids were singing out and proud and excited to see Libby. Here is what February looks like! 2/3, Godly Play; 2/10, Music Sunday School; 2/17, No Sunday School; 2/25, Family Sunday.

For more info: Kati Dombrosky: [kdombrosky@gmail.com](mailto:kdombrosky@gmail.com) 415-846-1700

**Middle Schoolers:** may prepare for Confirmation (June 1 at Grace Cathedral). Talk to Christopher about classes underway. They are also encouraged to participate in the services as acolytes, readers and ushers. They are invited to the Marin Episcopal Youth Group (MEYG) service projects.

**Marin Episcopal Youth Group:** We'll meet again on Sunday evening, February 24, at 6:00 at Nativity, 333 Ellen Drive, San Rafael. So far we've had some great sessions. Dinner will be provided. Contact Rev. Gerry Caprio at [geraldcaprio@hotmail.com](mailto:geraldcaprio@hotmail.com) to find out more and sign up!

**Community Service** On Sunday afternoon, March 3, Holy Redeemer Church will hold its annual Community Mardi Gras Party from 12:00 – 4:00 (123 Knight Dr., San Rafael).

Father Ward is inviting MEYG volunteers, ages 12 – 17, to supervise pre-school and primary age kids who will be playing games and having fun with a bouncy house, bocce, bean bag toss, labyrinth walk, story telling, puppets and Michael Pritchard on stage. There will also be crepes and costumes appropriate for Mardi Gras. Choose from two work periods, 11:30 – 1:30, 1:30 - 3:30, or both. Let's work together to give Father Ward a hand. Community service hours are available.



### St Paul's Book Club

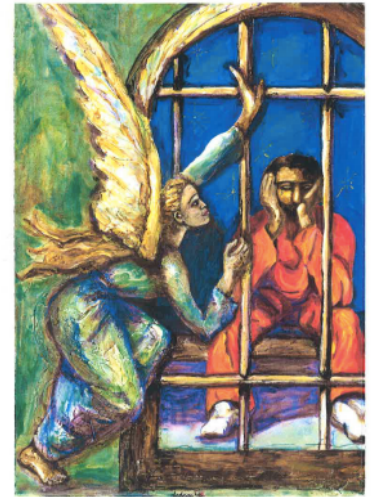
St. Paul's Book Club will meet on February 15th at 4 p.m. (please note new time) in Duncan Hall. The book we will be discussing is The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg. The theme of this book is that everyone needs a family and you can make up your family from those you choose. All are welcome. Contact Joy Moss (415)479-6930 for more information.

### Kairos in San Quentin

Over the President's Day weekend (Feb. 15-18), Tom Witt will be leading an ecumenical team of 50 Catholic and Protestant volunteers into San Quentin. Our team would certainly welcome St. Paul's prayers of support as we share the message of Christ's agape love with those behind bars.

## Kairós 52

SAN QUENTIN



### To Be Free

FEBRUARY 15-18, 2019

### Save the Date

Sunday,  
March 3  
4-6pm  
Open House  
at the Martins'



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1123 Court St.  
San Rafael, CA 94901