

THE EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Following Jesus together in prayer, worship and service.

From the Rector

Dear Friends-

This is the Epistle for the summer. After a little burst of activity in early June, things will go relatively quiet for the rest of June and July.

We finish the school year with a host of people taking steps to be, as our RenewalWorks group invites us, "spiritual leaders of our own faith." Just recently, two new Discipleship Groups have formed, 5 people have been Confirmed and over half a dozen people from St. Paul's have shown leadership in the thriving Marin Cursillo community.

A simple way to continue the momentum into the summer is for you to join many of us in reading the Gospel of John. This gospel is both simple and profound. As always, I recommend reading it alongside a commentary, especially the HarperCollins Bible commentary which is concise and reliable. You are also invited to join the Wednesday Bible Study at 10am, where they will be reading John aloud through the summer.

I will be taking six weeks off this summer in order to begin work on my next book. My friend and colleague the Rev. Molly Hawes will be with you all the Sundays I am gone and will also be here on Thursday afternoons to prepare bulletins, make visits and lead the Thursday evening Bible Study, where they are reading the greatest of the prophets, Isaiah.

May you have a blessed and refreshing summer.

Faithfully,
Christopher

Thanks from Kevin

Kevin Sobalvarro, youngest of the Richard-Ana Olive extended brood, came to St. Paul's Sunday, June 26, to thank the congregation for its prayers and support. Kevin sustained five pelvic fractures
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**June 9 Feast of Pentecost
NO 10am Service at St. Paul's**

**Service will be celebrated at
10:30 am
at Nativity Church (333 Ellen Dr.)
With Festive Reception to Follow**

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

Downing Library Book of the Month

by Tom Witt

Over the years, at one point or another, most of us have heard Christopher pay kindest homage to one of his spiritual mentors, the late, great Rev. Gordon Cosby.

The respect is understandable. Cosby blessed the lives of many.

During World War II, Cosby served as a chaplain and first lieutenant in the 101st Airborne Division. He was part of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. He helped pull wounded soldiers to safety. He ministered to the dying. He buried hundreds of brave, fighting men, including his best friend. For his valor, he was awarded a Silver Star Medal.

In 1947, the Virginia native co-founded Church of the Saviour, an ecumenical congregation in Washington D.C. – one of the first interracial churches in the then-segregated nation’s capital.

Rev. Cosby spent his life advocating for social justice. But arguably, his greatest legacy was to call believers into a deeper commitment of faith, to become mature Christians actively involved in shared ministry to the poor, the homeless, the disenfranchised. He formed a constellation of over 40 mission groups, many of which are still active to this day. He preached on the vital importance of small discipleship groups and what he identified as six requirements for a thriving church. And in time, his life’s work helped spawn or inspire various contemporary movements, including the Missional Church, the Emergent Church and Christopher’s own Restoration Project, based on *The Rule of St. Benedict*.

This month, the Downing Library is pleased to spotlight Gordon Cosby’s compendium of inspiring sermons, *By Grace Transformed: Christianity for a New Millennium*. It is a visionary read.

St Paul's Book Club

St. Paul's Book Club will continue to meet during the summer. We meet at 4 p.m. on the third Friday of the month. Here is the reading list for summer 2019.

- **June 21** *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle
- **July 19** *Night of Miracles* by Elizabeth Berg
- **August 16** *The Death of Mrs. Westaway* by Ruth Ware

Everyone is welcome Contact Joy (415)479-6930 for more information.

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.

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: To learn more about the ministry and get involved, please contact Richard (415.259.9198 or 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 John
Thursdays 6:15-7:15pm: Isaiah
- **Spiritual Forum:** Sundays 9-9:40am: Coleridge's Rime of the Ancient Mariner. Duncan Hall.
- **Christian meditation:** 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7pm in the Upper Room.
- **Discipleship Groups:** small groups with a longer term commitment focused on spiritual maturity and loving community with the poor.

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

St. Paul's Forward: Dollars & Cents

by Pat Curtis

I am a novice when it comes to Financial Stewardship at St. Paul's. As a retired banker, I think of money in dollars and cents. How much

do I earn, how much do I spend, how much do I invest, how much do I owe? I am without a doubt emotionally attached to my money.

I am learning to think about Financial Stewardship as How do I Give Generously and Graciously? I have often chided my husband Tim for tipping too much, spoiling our grandchildren by giving them more than is necessary or for giving too much to the charities he supports. I'm sure I took away some of his Joy of Giving.

We are surrounded by Gracious and Generous Givers at St. Paul's. I am doing my best to learn from them. They feel deep Gratitude to God and see Giving as part of their spiritual relationship with God. They feel deeply privileged to be a member of the St. Paul's Community, to love and serve each of us and to do Good Works always.

The goal of Christian Stewardship is the faithful management of all that God gives so that God can use our gifts to transform us spiritually and extend Jesus' transforming love to others. Join me in my journey to become emotionally attached to God who gives us our money, not to money itself. I am working hard to escape the trap of being a self centered banker of God's Gifts and to become, instead, a Gracious Giver of the Gifts that I have been Given. I have a feeling we will all be greatly enriched as we propel St. Paul's Forward together.



Children and Youth at St. Paul's

We are wrapping up the year for family programming at St. Paul's.

June 2nd is our last Godly Play - with Chloe storytelling and Sara greeting

June 9th will be our last hurrah - and at **Nativity** with a child-centric service - service is at **10:30am!**

AUGUST 10th St. Paul's Second Annual Beach Day at Heart's Desire in Tomales Bay

And lastly, don't forget, Karin is taking over coordinating next year! August 1st will be her first official day. :)

To a glorious summer!

All my blessings,

Kati kdombrosky@gmail.com

415-846-1700

Why are these people smiling?

Because on June 1, at Grace Cathedral, they took a bold step in their faith, witnessed by hundreds of their Christian brothers and sisters, in a beautiful and powerful service of Confirmation.

Congratulations to Sara, Zoe, John, Dylan and Kati!

May God continue to bless you abundantly and may you always remember that you are part of the body of Christ!



THANKS FROM KEVIN, Cont'd

and serious injuries to his right hand last December when his motorcycle was struck by a car near his home in Miami, Fla. He was hospitalized for two months and not cleared for weight-bearing on his feet until mid-March, a month after being discharged from the hospital.

Early in May Kevin and Ana walked a 5K course in Miami and were celebrated at the finish by family members and friends.

Kevin thanked Father Christopher and Nancy Skinner, keeper of the prayer list, specifically. "I feel like I'm here walking because of the support from all of you," he told the church. The accident and following weeks were a "real test," Kevin said, "but it means so much to me that all of you were there with me."

Bring in your Books!

St. Anne's Guild is starting to prepare for their annual book sale on October 5th and 6th. They welcome your donations of gently used books. (No yearbooks, please) Please drop them off near the back storage closet in Duncan Hall. Thank you!

Thank you from Death Row

Maurice Steskal, one of 14 inmates in contact with the Death Row Ministry, has extended thanks to St. Paul's "for all your help in the last year."

He wrote: "Thank you everyone for sending me so much money. There are some things I wanted to do for quite some time, and now through your help God has made it possible ... Your kindness has not helped just me, but will be used to change another person's life permanently."

St. Paul's provides an annual stipend of \$250 for each of most of the inmates visited or in correspondence with the ministry, which now includes 19 volunteers in three Marin County churches.

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1123 Court St.
San Rafael, CA 94901