

THE EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Following Jesus together in prayer, worship and service.

From the Rector

Dear Friends-

There are three big events coming soon at St. Paul's and I want to be sure you have in mind all three:

1. **The Annual Meeting** on Sunday, February 2nd, following the 10am Service. Come celebrate the year that has past, elect leaders for our community and orient yourself to the year to come.
2. **Ash Wednesday** on Wednesday, February 26th. Not only is this the beginning of the season of Lent, it is also the first night I teach "With Gladness and Singleness of Heart." On all the Wednesday evening of Lent I'll be teaching a series of playful practices building on a simple daily prayer, "O God, send me this day to do the work you have given me to do, with gladness and singleness of heart, through Jesus Christ my Lord."
3. The **PrayWorshipServe Retreat** from Thursday, March 5th to Sunday, March 8th. This is the second time we will host people from around the Bay Area and the country who are either in Discipleship Groups or are interested in this way of being a member of the Jesus Movement.

Throughout the coming months, I invite you to join with me in embracing a petition from our prayers of the people from Christmas, a brief prayer that is particularly appropriate for this time of the year and for those of us who worship in a church in the Carpenter Gothic. "O God, whose love extends from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross." May you be filled with God's self-emptying love in the months ahead.

Faithfully,

Christopher

Annual Meeting

Sunday 2/2/2020

11:00

Duncan Hall

Lunch will be served

PrayWorshipServe 2020

A Lenten Retreat for Lay Leaders and
Clergy
St. Paul's San Rafael, CA
March 5-7, 2020

Join Christians nationwide in this Lenten Retreat - a reunion of friends you've never met! Together we will explore Christian formation programs that lead to Discipleship Groups, the
(continued on page 2)



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

PRAYWORSHIPSERVE 2020

(cont'd from page 1)

revised Seven Core Christian Practices vow that used to be about “call,” the results of a nationwide Discipleship Group Survey and the care and feeding of Discipleship Groups. Our structure and our Practices develop strong disciples and vigorous churches.

Fee: \$299 for locals/St. Paul's members, includes all classes Friday-Sunday; breakfast, lunch, dinner Friday -Saturday and breakfast on Sunday; \$100 for Saturday only and includes breakfast, lunch and childcare; \$599 includes three nights' accommodations at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo.

For details and to reserve your spot: prayworshipserve2020.eventbrite.com

St Paul's Book Club will meet on Jan. 17th at 4 p.m. in Duncan Hall. The book we will be discussing in The Little Book of Lykke: Secrets of the World's Happiest People by Meik Wiking, CEO of the Happiness Research Institute, Copenhagen. This book explains why Danes are the happiest people on earth and how you can be happier too. All are welcome. Contact Joy Moss (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. 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: 415-559-7659 or hornlocker@comcast.net.

San Rafael Health Care: On the 1st and 3rd 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: Members of our congregation have committed themselves to a range of service associated with St. Paul's Death Row Ministry, including correspondence and visitation with inmates and hosting family members of inmates coming from out of town for visits. 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 the latest news.

What is Your Next Spiritual Step?

- **Morning Prayer:** Tuesdays at 7:30am in the church.
- **Bible Studies:** Wednesdays 10-11am Duncan Hall.
Thursdays 6:20-7:20pm Duncan Hall.
- **Spiritual Forum:** Sundays 9-9:40am Duncan Hall.
- **Christian meditation:** 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7pm Duncan Hall.
- **Discipleship Groups:** small groups with a longer term commitment focused on spiritual maturity and loving community with the poor. Speak to Christopher.

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

Downing Library Book of the Month by Tom Witt

In this first month of 2020 (happy new year and new decade!), it's no overstatement to say that we are living in a highly disruptive time, especially

given recent events in global politics.

To shed some light on the turmoil, St. Paul's Book of the Month is **Rupture: The Crisis of Liberal Democracy** by Manuel Castells.

In this short book, Castells examines some of the causes of our collective unrest, including the effects of globalization, media politics, the internet and the increasing corruption of power-grabbing, money-hoarding politicians. He examines the impact of global terrorism and war on the xenophobia and racism that are fuelling the surge of extremism among a growing proportion of the population.

As Castells contends, the majority of people in the world today don't trust their political representatives, their political parties or their governments. This crisis has been fueled by various events, including the unexpected election of Donald Trump, Brexit, the election of a political outsider in France, the transformation of the political system in Spain, the rise of the extreme right in Europe and the nationalist challenges that threaten the European Union.

If "the past is prologue" as Shakespeare wrote, then surely we must be in for a tempestuous future.

Fortunately, St. Paul's has a resource to help us thoughtfully prepare for it: the Downing Library.

To explore this and other well-told reads, visit 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.



Children and Youth at St. Paul's

Happy New Year, St Paul's Families! After we begin this season of Epiphany with the beloved children's play, we will be spending time with Jesus' parables during Godly Play through January and February. Next

Sunday (the 19th) we will listen to the story of the Good Shepherd, followed by the parable of the Good Samaritan on February 2nd and the Pearl of Great Price on February 16th.

A few of us are working to put together a mini-retreat for the mothers of St Paul's in the next couple of months, so stay tuned!

It is exciting to begin this new year with you and your children, growing in the light of Christ!

Karin Holsinger, Children's Ministry Coordinator
karina.holsinger@gmail.com 719-358-1549





Death Cafe

Sunday, January 12

3-5 pm

Duncan Hall

All are welcome for an open and uplifting conversation about death and dying, life and living.

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP: chloedmartin@comcast.net

Death Row Ministry News

Deacon Bernie O'Halloran of St. Anselm's Catholic Church, San Anselmo, attended the bimonthly meeting of Death Row Ministry at St. Paul's January 8, bringing to four the number of churches with parishioners involved in the outreach effort to San Quentin.

At least 10 members of St. Paul's, besides Rector Christopher Martin, are involved in the ministry's work — i.e., visiting and writing to 20 inmates. Many began their participation by exchanging letters with one or more inmates, which is a more limited involvement open to any who may be interested.

Over recent years Christopher has encouraged sending Christmas cards to inmates engaged with Death Row Ministry, a practice that has grown dramatically. Members of Grace Church of Marin joined the effort last month; Christopher reported that more than 80 cards from St. Paul's parishioners were mailed.

St. Paul's longtime engagement in Death Row Ministry is a response to Jesus' call (Matthew 25:31-40) to visit the prisoner. Anyone interested in the ministry may call Christopher, Brigitte McCulloch (415) 497-5469 or Richard Olive ((415) 259-9198.

They also are welcome to attend a regular meeting of Death Row Ministry at St. Paul's, 5:30-6:30 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every odd month.

The next meeting is March 11.

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1123 Court St.
San Rafael, CA 94901