

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



January Issue

Dec 30, 2022

I was driving up the highway a few weeks ago heading to one of my favorite cities to visit: Portland, OR. I had just left Mount Shasta, CA that morning and was going along I-5 when I found I had wasted an hour or more ruminating on an injustice I had suffered a month before. I can't count the number of times I have found myself doing this, revisiting events or situations like I'm stuck on the worst-ever merry-go-round. Has this happened to you?

As I was driving, I suddenly realized what I was doing and recalled the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday where Jesus tells his followers to pray continually to God for justice. The outraged part of me thought, "Maybe I should pray for justice!", but the Deacon side of me wondered if praying for revenge was a suitable request for the Holy One who loves each of us. (Remember the Apostles who wanted to call down fire on a village that had rejected Jesus' message? You may recall they were quickly rebuked!)

In the midst of this inner debate, (one that I somehow often lose—I can't figure that out—How do I lose a debate with myself?), I woke up to the view I had been driving through this entire time.

I had been driving through beautiful mountains covered with green trees, with the smell of pine trees floating in and out of the windows. I descended into valleys with green fields and picturesque farmhouses, some with col-

lections of old cars, trucks, and tractors. The sky was a mix of blue skies with white, cottony clouds floating along. Occasionally you would catch sight of birds, horses, cows, and deer. The traffic was light, the driving was easy, and the view was gorgeous.

I realized I had spent over an hour riding the merry-go-round of irritation and consternation, and lost over an hour of a good day. As some self-help people like to say, “Why rent space in your mind to people who treat you badly?”

Why, I asked myself, do I want to keep riding that awful merry-go-round when so much of God’s creation and God’s people are in the here-and-now? It’s nothing more than a bad habit that I keep falling into, but it’s also part of the way the evil one tries to continually tear us down and keep us blinded to a world where we live in the light.

If we allow ourselves to spend our time being irritated, then we will reflect that irritation out into the world around us. If we focus on spending our time in gratitude, that gratitude for God’s creation will reflect out into the world instead.

You would think, by now, that this Deacon would be able to live a more consistent light-driven existence, but the truth is, like everyone else, I keep falling off the path. In persistence, though, and with the inspiration of the Spirit, I continually find my way back onto the path of life. May the Spirit keep helping you back onto this path, too. God loves us because followers of the way are always persevering in prayer and in struggles.

Peace,

Deacon Greg





Salvation Army Shelter Dinner

The Salvation Army Shelter Dinner Team continued the ministry to the guests and staff at the Shelter in downtown Modesto in 2022. We prepared and served dinner three times throughout the year: March, July and October. Each time we included a protein, vegetables and/or salad, bread, dessert, and milk or juice.

The menu varied according to availability of resources and the time of year. The guests and staff are always very appreciative of the meal and, oddly, the fact that we try to clean up as we are serving.

The Team is always happy to have anyone help with any of the many ways to be part of this ministry. Ways to help include: praying for the Team and the guests at the Shelter; donating funds toward the costs of purchasing the various ingredients; donating particular parts of the menu; baking or cooking prior to the dinner (i.e.-chocolate chip cookies, ground beef, cornbread, etc.); preparing the meal the day of the dinner-done in the church kitchen; serving at the Shelter. Reservations for dinners in 2023 have been made for 6 Sundays: January, March, May, July, September, and November.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this ministry possible in 2022 and we are excited to be continuing it in 2023. Contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com, for details about the individual dates and how you might be available to help.

Recycling at St. Paul's

Every Sunday, collection cans for recycled aluminum cans and CA redeemable plastic are in the church entrance. Please **rinse and drain** your recyclable plastic and aluminum cans before putting them in the bins. The money from recycling will go to fund "Creation Care" projects.



Financial Report Through November 2022

	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	YTD
Operating Income	13,284.22	12,279.44	17,847.0	11,927.45	11,654.88	16,908.13		173,050.21
Facility Use	12,000.00	2,700.00	6,000.00	9,000.00	500.00	12,150.00		64,416.10
Fundraisers	0	0	0	37.84	65.00	1,168.25		1,451.09
Outreach	142.41	483.63	165.09	45.79	91.97	183.11		1,911.99
Restricted Income	962.09	1,085.00	62,455.76	37,018.73	761.25	674.63		109,760.42
Total Income	26,388.72	16,548.07	86,468.15	58,029.81	13,073.10	31,084.12		362,251.97
Expenses	20,251.94	17,189.88	56,843.34	29,823.30	66,442.83	18,292.57		322,701.73
Net Income/Loss	6,136.78	-641.53	29,624.81	28,206.51	53,369.73	12,791.82		39,547.52



While St. Paul's is in a period of time without a permanent priest, if you are in need of any services from the church, the protocol is to contact Jeni Statzer our Parish Administrator. If Jeni is on vacation or otherwise unavailable, please contact our Senior Warden, Joyce Bell.

Prayer and Praise

as of 12-29-2022



- ◆ Rosalie Carmody is home from the hospital, please continue to keep her in your prayers for healing.
- ◆ Please pray for the Steffen family at the passing of Scott Steffen.
- ◆ Please pray for Jean, a friend of Sarah Hartman who is having open heart surgery the first part of January.
- ◆ Please continue to pray for healing, comfort and peace for Christine Judd.
- ◆ Please pray for a successful heart surgery and a quick recovery for Carol Collier. She also needs prayers for her chronic pain!
- ◆ Please pray for healing, comfort and peace for Jeanette Comegys.
- ◆ Rich Desbien's operation was a success, continue to pray for healing.
- ◆ Bruce Aschenbrenner (Bob Jensen's brother in-law) needs prayers for healing, patience, peace, comfort and guidance for the family as they care for him.
- ◆ Prayers for Jo Fox for complete healing and God's peace knowing he is in control.
- ◆ Please pray for Rick Ballesteros, he had surgery on the 24th for cancer of the colon and intestines. Pray for his family for strength, comfort and blessings.
- ◆ Please pray for healing and comfort for Nel Gerber.
- ◆ Continued healing for Rj.
- ◆ Please pray for our current Vestry and for possible new candidates.
- ◆ Please pray for those who maybe alone or struggling in some way during these holiday times.

If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church office.

January Ministry Schedule

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
Clergy Homily	Fr. Dondi	Dcn. Greg Morn. Prayer	Rev. Lyn	Fr. Dondi	Rev. Lyn Dcn. Greg
Acolytes	Nancy S Claudine	Judy T Jim P	Nancy S Claudine	Judy T Jim P	Nancy S Claudine
Lectors	Sarah H Judy T	Nancy S Annamary	Barbara V Steph G	Eric G Ann M	Judy T Steph HW
Intercessor	Carolyn L	Roberta B	Judy T	Brandi A	Linda L
Greeters	Phil M William S	Sarah H Eric G	Phil M Luis I	Carolyn L William S	Sarah H Joyce B
Vestry Rep	Carolyn L	Roberta B	Judy T	Brandi A	Linda L



PLEASE consider singing in our church choir. Contact Chuck Sheaffer if you are interested. All voices are welcome!

Dates to Note

There will be a Celebration of Life Service for Scott Steffen, a former parishioner of St. Paul's later this week. As of the time this bulletin was printed, the date was tentatively set for Friday, January 6th in the afternoon.

There will be a Celebration of Life Service for Don Sanford at St. Paul's on Tuesday, January the 17th at 10:00 a.m. The service will be followed by a light lunch in the Parish Hall. If you wish to send a card to Don's family, his daughter Francine Wister's address is 321 Las Palmas Ave. Modesto, CA 95354.

Upcoming Events at St. Paul's

These are some of the upcoming events planned at St. Paul's. If you are interested in chairing an event, please contact Joyce Bell.

Event	Date	Person(s) in charge
<u>January:</u> Pasta night with Band	TBD	Claudine Romegialli Jim Peck Stephanie Gilmer
<u>February:</u> Shrove Tuesday & Talent show and Raffle	2/21/2023	Jim Peck (pancakes) Chuck Sheaffer (talent) Carolyn List/Brandi Anderson (Raffle)
<u>March:</u> Bingo night & bring Hors d'oeuvres to share	TBD	Linda Lowe
<u>April:</u> Easter/egg hunt	4/9/20223	
<u>May:</u> Spring Tea	TBD	
<u>June:</u> Craft night	TBD	Linda Lowe
<u>July:</u> Vacation Bible School	TBD	
<u>August:</u> Volunteer appreciation desert	TBD	



January 7th is our work day to clean the church. Please bring dust rags, small vacuums and websters (if you have them). We will be dusting, removing cobwebs and vacuuming the pew chairs. Just a general cleanup.

All are encouraged to come. Let's make this fun. It will be a good time to work together and make our facilities look nice. If any questions, please call Judy Teter.



I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Fresh Starts

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That's why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, "With me you can always start afresh."

—Ada Lum

Kid's Page



Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

God made wild animals and livestock.



God said, "Let there be light."



God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.



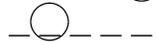
God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky."



God created plants and trees.



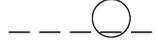
God separated the light from the darkness.



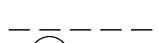
God made the water teem with living creatures.



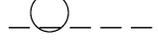
God made the sun and moon.



God made birds fly above the earth.



God made stars.



God created mankind in his own image.



God aw all tha he ad ma e, an t was ve y g od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
 - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
 - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
 - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
 - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
 - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
 - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth; God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.



Michael B. Curry, our Presiding Bishop
David Rice, our Bishop & **Anna Carmichael**, our Canon

Armed Forces



Tom Allen, Wyoming Air National Guard
Melissa Allen, U. S. Air Force
Brandon Alonzo, U. S. Air Force
Christopher Bradley, U. S. Navy
T. J. Browning, U. S. Navy
Jay Colón, U. S. Air Force
Brandon Cox, Texas Air National Guard

Cheryl Edelman, U. S. Army
Jenavieve Johnston, U. S. Air Force
Jorgito Fuentes, U. S. Navy
Johnny Olmos, U. S. Coast Guard
Cole Medeiros, U. S. Navy
Nate Wallace, U. S. Air Force R
Carson Repan, U. S. Air Force

Please pray for all of our sisters and brothers in Christ.

God of wisdom and love, help me and all others who are struggling with difficult circumstances find direction and strength to face our challenges. Give us the assurance that underneath us are your everlasting arms, which will sustain us through everything we face day and night. In Jesus' name. Amen.

January Birthdays

Phil Machado - 10
John Cox - 12
Gabriela Maestas - 13
Janet Armstrong - 21
Olga Lorenzetti - 23
Darcee Maestas - 23
Eric Goosens - 31

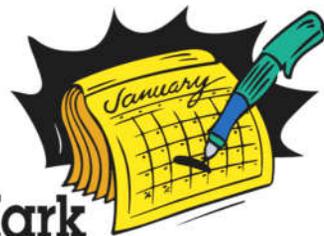
January Anniversaries

Charles & Bonnie Palmer - 16

If your birthday or anniversary is in January and you aren't listed here, please let Cherie Sheaffer know. We don't want to leave anyone out.



Upcoming Events



**Mark
Your Calendar!**

Church office hours:
The church office is closed
until further notice.

- New Year's Day January 1, 2023
- Epiphany, January 6, 2023
- Baptism of our Lord, January 8, 2023
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16, 2023
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2023

January 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

If you have any updates or new names for the Armed Forces list, please let Cherie Sheaffer know.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Episcopal-Church-of-Modesto-CA-106952012668211/>

Then click on videos.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Modesto CA

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBABwqOZphWFUZVjnc7eFqw>



[www.https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/](https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/)





The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

December 30, 2022, Volume 14, Number 01 January

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267, st.pauls_episcopal@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours: Closed till further notice, call if you need assistance

E-mail Addresses

Parish Admin. & Facilities Coordinator

Jeni Statzer, stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

Music Director, Organist & Choir

Chuck Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

Bell Choir Director

Judy Teter, jltp@sbcglobal.net

St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletins

Cherie Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

St. Paul's Web Page & Social Media

Greg Maszta, gregmasz@gmail.com

St. Paul's Event Coordinator

Tracy Pugh, vinofileincal@gmail.com

Stewardship Campaign

Carolyn List and Stephanie Gilmer

Finance Committee

Judy Teter, jltp@sbcglobal.net

Safeguarding God's Children/People

Jeni Statzer and Stephanie Gilmer

Children's Sunday School

Zach Statzer, youthstpaulsmodesto@gmail.com

Vestry Members

Senior Warden - Joyce Bell, 215-275-5502

bellj1@charter.net

Jr. Warden-Claudine Romegialli 209-489-8722

msgialli06457@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Stephanie Gilmer

Brandi Anderson

Roberta Bearden

Stephanie Gilmer

Carolyn List

Linda Lowe

Jim Peck

Judy Teter

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist at 10 am in the church and live
streamed on Facebook

Children's Sunday School -online with Zach

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Visit and like us on Facebook

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

