



The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

February 27, 2023, Volume 14, Number 03 March

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, jltpt@sbcglobal.net

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Stewardship Campaign
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Finance Committee
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Jeni Statzer and Stephanie Gilmer

Children's Sunday School
Zach Statzer, youthstpaulsmodesto@gmail.com

Vestry Members

Senior Warden - Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937
lwlowe@outlook.com

Jr. Warden - Carolyn List,
Treasurer - Stephanie Gilmer (non vestry)

Brandi Anderson

Roberta Bearden

Sarah Hartmann

Chuck Sheaffer

Nancy Silva

Judy Teter

Victoria Winchester

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



St. Paul's Episcopal Church



March Issue

Feb 27, 2023

All of us have been affected in the last year by the rise of inflation, causing prices to rise at the same time that product content seems to be magically reduced. Recently this issue intruded itself into our worship life!

Last month I talked with my good friend Toni (Altar Guild) who explained that the 7-day candles we purchased for the red lamp by the altar were only lasting 5 or 6 days. This resulted in one of the members of our Altar Guild having to drive to the Church on Friday or Saturday just to replace the candle! In looking for different suppliers we found that the candles had increased to nearly \$6 each!!

At first, I wondered how a "7-day" candle could be sold for \$6, but it only lasted 5 or 6 days. Since the only users of 7-day candles are churches or faith groups, it would seem that the supplier and manufacturer would deal in a more honest manner, but we shouldn't be surprised we live in the age of greed, just as Jesus did.

My next thought, though, was to take a step back and think about the reason for keeping a candle lit when no one was in the Church most of the week!

The tradition of keeping a candle lit in a red container goes back centuries. In times past, when Churches were left open for anyone to stop in and pray, the red candle was the sign that the reserve sacrament, blessed at Eucharist,

was present in the Tabernacle. This gave people a reminder that the Church is still a sacred space even during the quiet times.

In these “modern” days, leaving the Church doors open for anyone to walk in during the week would be an invitation for vandalism, theft, or much worse. The respect of sacred space by the civic community as a whole seems to have been lost in this age of violence, when even people who are peacefully praying in their own faith tradition become targets of violence and hate.

In discussing this candle issue with Toni I realized that a tradition from a past age was in need of a revision in practice. Rather than leave a candle burning when no one is around (probably not a good idea from a fire risk perspective!) the Altar Guild could light it before any service in the Church, and then extinguish it before leaving. In this way, we still practice the tradition of keeping the candle lit as a reminder of sacred space, while saving the burning of fossil fuel, protecting the Church from fire, and saving the parish \$6 per week. (I must say this last part gladdens the Scottish part of me!)

As I’ve thought about the meaning and tradition of this sacred red candle, I think it’s a good time to call to mind the sacredness of the place we share together each Sunday. This space of worship isn’t sacred because we call it a Church, but because we come together as a parish family to worship God and share the Word and the Sacred Bread that gives new life to all of us. In my Celtic beliefs, this repeated coming together in worship and love results in a buildup of divine energy that brings this space closer to the veil that separates this world and the next.

Many of our parishioners come early each Sunday to sit in the quiet praying and meditating, while, perhaps unknowingly, soaking in the feeling of sacred place that surrounds the altar. It is easy each Sunday, as we see each other, to react with joy and excitement in greeting our brothers and sisters. I suggest, however, that you save the greeting for after the service, and instead sit down in the quiet to soak in the love we share and this sacred space we call St. Paul’s.

May the Spirit of God walk with you in this time of Lent.
Peace, Deacon Greg

Upcoming Events

Church office hours
By appointment only.



- Mar 1 - Food Distribution 11:00 a.m. - Noon
- Mar 2 - Beyer Spaghetti Feed, Parish Hall
- Mar 3 - World Day of Prayer
- Mar 11 - Beyer Crab Feed, Parish Hall
- Mar 11 - Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed
- Mar 12 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick’s Day
- Mar 20 - First day of Spring
- Mar 24 - Bingo at 6:30 p.m. Parish Hall
- Mar 25 - MoPride Dance, Parish Hall
- Mar 26 - Salvation Army Dinner
- Apr 29 - Love Modesto

March 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	



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/)





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

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

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.

March Birthdays

Christine Judd - 1
 Andy Su - 1
 Connor Verges - 1
 David West - 2
 Rex Adamson - 3
 Judy Thorkelson - 8
 Lynelle Hains - 11
 Chuck Sheaffer - 17

Mary Beth West - 19
 Luis Martinez - 25
 Elijah Maestas - 26
 Brandi Anderson - 27
 William Solazzo - 27
 Mike Thorington - 29
 Jean Bertoloso - 30



March Anniversaries

Danielle & Chris Verges - 17
 Rex & Yvonne Adamson - 23

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

Vestry Re-Cap, February 2023

The Vestry met via Zoom, Thursday, February 23rd. Here's a brief re-cap of items discussed:

- ♦ The Minutes for the Annual Meeting and the January Vestry Meeting were approved.
- ♦ The Profit and Loss Statement for December 2022 was approved as presented. Due to generous support from the congregation and careful use of resources, all obligations have been met and the church finished the year in the black.
- ♦ Fundraisers-Information about the sale of raffle tickets will be forthcoming, with the drawing tentatively scheduled for the August picnic. Another possible fundraiser in August will be a desert auction.
- ♦ Jr. Warden's Report-The fire sprinkler system and HVAC system each required repair. The wooden cross on the north side of the parking lot will be replaced.
- ♦ Zoe Statzer is working on re-vamping the St. Paul's website.
- ♦ The annual Parochial Report, required by the Diocese, has been submitted.

Please continue to pray for the Vestry/Search Committee.



Remember to set
 your clocks ahead 1
 hour before you go to
 bed on Saturday
 March 11th





Salvation Army Shelter Dinner

The next dinner to be prepared and served at the Salvation Army Shelter will be Sunday, March 26th. The menu is still being discussed but will surely include the ever-popular Chocolate Chip Cookies. We also like to serve fresh fruit with the cookies. If anyone is still picking oranges or tangerines, and want to donate to this ministry, please contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com.

Prayer support, cooking, serving and donation assistance are greatly appreciated.



Paddling Through Lent — and Life

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

Kid's Page



PUZZLE

A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.

 plants grow here	 seeds are planted in this
 to coil and jump (also a season of the year)	 when watered, these make plants
 to expand and get bigger	 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____
come up and a _____ causes
_____ to _____, so the
Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise _____ up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring

SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!



BINGO! Night

Ready for some early Spring family fun? Come to St. Paul's Parish Hall, Friday, March 24, 6:30 pm.

Admission - Free with a non-perishable food item to donate to The Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus.

Refreshments - Finger Foods-Appetizers and Sweet Treats

Help Needed - Set-Up & Clean-Up, Bingo Caller, Number Recorder, Favorite Appetizer or Favorite Sweet Treat to Share. If any of these opportunities interest you, contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com.

See you there!

Missing Birthdays

I've noticed, when I'm working on the Epistle, that I am missing many members birthdays. If you have been going to St. Paul's for a while and have seen your birthday listed in the Epistle, no need to worry, I have your dates. If you started attending in the last 3 or 4 years, then I probably don't have your birthday or anniversary dates. It is nice as a church family to be able to celebrate these special days, so please send me an email message (cbshea@pacbell.net) with your dates, or catch me sometime after church, because I would love to be able to enter your names in the Epistle so we can all celebrate your special days with you!

Thanks, Cherie Sheaffer



Christian Symbols

SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



40—In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

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.



Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Get Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests This Winter

Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests.

Before you throw out “Expired” tests Check to see if your COVID-19 tests’ expiration dates have been extended.

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>

Order Free At-Home Tests <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Need help placing an order for your at-home tests?

Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489)

If you would like to see the whole article, you can find it here.

<https://www.covid.gov/tests>

Thanks to Barbara Vassell for this information

*We are looking for someone to volunteer to run the
live streaming of our service on
Sunday mornings. If you are interested,
please contact Joyce Bell at 215-275-6502.*



✧ Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to St. Paul’s by purchasing “Linda’s Mixed Berry Jam 2022”. For those who thought that their chance to enjoy the yumminess and contribute had ended, have no fear! While supplies last the jam is available in both sizes—8 oz for a donation of \$5, and 16 oz for \$10 donation. Contact Linda Lowe at lwlowe@outlook.com or 209-496-3937. Cash or check made to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, please.

Why We Lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up this much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for Time, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

“Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”

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, Linda Lowe.



Meetings, News and Needs

- ✧ There is a parish member living in the Coffee & Sunrise area who needs a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Please call Jeni if you can help.
- ✧ Beyer High School will be having a Spaghetti Feed in the Parish Hall on March 2nd and a Crab Feed in the Parish Hall on March 11th. Jeni has the details on time and how to get tickets.
- ✧ The Salvation Army commodities program at the church is in need of paper & plastic shopping bags. Please bring them to church on any Sunday or drop them off at the office any Monday from 9-12.
- ✧ Tai Chi meets in the Parish Hall every Tues. and Thurs. from 9 to 10.
- ✧ Food Distribution continues in the Parish Hall the 1st Wednesday of every month from 11 to 12 noon.
- ✧ Book Study - Rex Adamson is hosting a weekly book study during Lent to examine the instruction of Christ given in the Gospel of Matthew to, "Go and make disciples of all nations...". The discussions will center around the book, Is The Commission Still Great by Steve Richardson. The study will be at the home of Rex and Yvonne Adamson, Thursday evenings, 7-8:30, February 23, March 2, 9, 16, and 23. The book will be provided for free and registration is required. Call Rex at 209-595-4935 to register and for full details.
- ✧ BINGO - Mark your calendar on March 24th at 6:30 pm for an evening of *Bingo!* Invite your friends for an evening of fun for all ages!
- ✧ Paint and Succulents Day - Want to create something beautiful for all seasons? Need help or encouragement with painting and planting? In June come paint a flower pot guided by a local artist and fill it with lovely succulent plants while learning about them. All materials will be included to decorate the pot and finish it with a variety of plants. More details to come, including the date and time.

Prayer and Praise

as of 2-27-2023

- ♦ Please pray for Ann Mootz's sister-in-law, that her surgery went well and for healing.
- ♦ Please pray for Sharon Andrews' son and daughter-in-law for healing, comfort, guidance and strength.
- ♦ Please pray for healing and comfort for Rebecca, a friend of Eric Sheaffer.
- ♦ Please pray for David West's continued healing.
- ♦ Pray for David McKinsey (friend of David West) he is having a serious heart issue and needs prayers for healing, guidance and strength.
- ♦ Vickie Diaz is asking for prayers for healing, strength and comfort.
- ♦ Please pray healing, strength, comfort and peace for Niniv Tamimi
- ♦ Continue to pray for healing and comfort for the Monroe's.
- ♦ Pray for healing for Claudine Romegialli. May the reason for her failing health be found and treatment started. Prayers for strength, healing and comfort.
- ♦ Prayers for continued healing for Jean, Sarah Hartmann's friend.
- ♦ Pray for strength, comfort and healing for Deacon Amy Larson.
- ♦ Continue prayers for healing for Rj.
- ♦ Continue prayers for Carol Collier for healing, comfort and peace.
- ♦ Update: Christine Judd is still receiving infusions of antibiotics. Prayers for healing, courage, strength and peace.
- ♦ Please pray for those who may be alone or struggling in someway.
- ♦ Please pray for our Vestry.
- ♦ Continued prayers for the search committee.



March Ministry Schedule

	Mar 5	Mar 12	Mar 19	Mar 26
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi Rev. Dondi	Rev. Kathie Dcn. Greg	Rev. Dondi Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn
Acolytes	Jim P Annamary	Nancy S Judy T	Nancy S Judy T	Jim P Annamary
Lectors	Judy T Linda L	Ann M Steph G	Ann M Steph HW	Nancy S Barbara V
Intercessor	Sarah H	Judy T	Brandi A	Linda L
Greeters & Ushers	Phil M Carolyn L	Sarah H Vickie W Kevin W	Phil M Carolyn L	Sarah H Vickie W Kevin W
Vestry Rep	Sarah H	Judy T	Brandi A	Linda L



Palm Sunday

Sunday April 2nd at 10:00 a.m.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday April 6th at 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday

Friday April 7th at 12:00 noon



Easter Sunday

Sunday April 9th at 10:00 a.m.



The chart to sign up for flowers for 2023 is in the narthex. Now is your chance to sign-up for the dates you want before they are taken.



Members of our Vestry at ECCO for a workshop and training session in February.



Boxes and Baskets

There will be a basket in the narthex for the Shower Shuttle, they always need underwear and socks! We will also be putting together hygiene kits and need two-blade razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel Kleenex, combs and q-tips. Clothes soap and dryer sheets are also a big need.

There will be a clothing donation box for MoPride in the narthex. We will be collecting clothing year around. They are also in need of feminine hygiene products. Also, watch for upcoming events we will be sponsoring and consider attending to show our love.



Financial Report for January 2023

	Jan-23
Operating Income:	18,963.00
Facility Use:	7,050.00
Fundraisers:	0.00
Outreach:	0.00
Restricted Income:	1,491.00
Total Income:	27,504.00
Expenses:	24,879.51
Net Income/loss	2,624.49



Check Out Our Web Page!

Our web page has been re-designed!. Zoe Statzer has done an amazing job in re-doing St. Paul's webpage. It is still in the same place and looks wonderful!

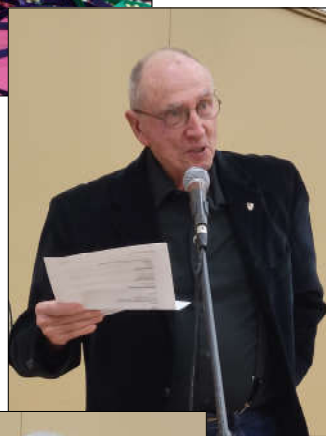
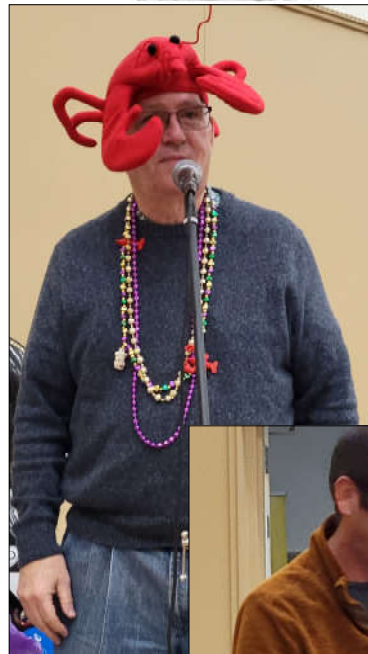
Thank you Zoe!!!



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



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Talent Show



Oh my goodness!!! The pancakes were so yummy!!!! Thank you Jim and Annamary and everyone who helped with the preparations, decorating, set-up, serving, clean-up and anything else that I forgot to mention.



What talent we have!!!!

