

# *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*



**May Issue**

Apr 28, 2023

As Christians we live within our faith that gives us hope for life after this one, as Jesus demonstrated to Thomas and the other disciples after his Resurrection. I'm reminded of this as I was reading various articles and books regarding retirement.

As part of retirement planning, the question comes up "How long do you anticipate living?" How do you answer that? Has anyone found the barcode on us that gives the expiration date? (Please, let me know where it is!)

Recently, I read that a person born in 1956 could expect a life expectancy of age 67. However, if that person makes it to 65, their life expectancy jumps to 77. In addition, if they make it further to age 75 their expectancy jumps to 84! In other words, if you can survive through your reckless, younger years you're may make it a lot further.

Last weekend I gave a talk at the Oregon Council of Machinists and related a story I had heard years ago from a great Union brother, Don Wharton, a retired General Secretary Treasurer of our Union. Don has since passed away, but he was one of those many people I've encountered who are personally inspired to help working people everywhere.

At a conference in Florida many years ago, Don said in his speech, "I have a test for a 'good day'! When I wake up in the morning, before I open my eyes, I stretch out my arms and kick my feet, and if I don't feel the insides of a pine box it's going to be a 'good day'!" Think about that for a second—read it again!

Jesus softly chided his followers not to be worried about tomorrow: "And

which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?" [Mt 6:27] In fact, worrying can be debilitating to your health and reduce a person's span of life.

As many of you know, I start our service each Sunday with "It's a beautiful day!" It always make me chuckle inside when people start looking out the window. I do not connect "It's a beautiful day!" to the weather! It is truly beautiful when I can get up on Sunday and come together with all of you to worship God in a community as God means this world to be—open to everyone regardless of differences.

These ideas of "It's a good day!" and "It's a beautiful day!" collided together in a major train wreck in my head with that idea of "What's my expiration date?" (Sorry, I tend to have some crazy ideas that crash around at times in my inner Solar System of a head!)

If I could somehow hold onto that idea of "It's a beautiful day!" for most of this day, and then repeat it again for the next day and the next day, in time I would start making a collection of "Beautiful Days". Many people collect things: cars, coins, stamps, dolls—even houses! (Take a look at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI). What stops us from collecting Beautiful Days?

The hindrance to Beautiful Days are Legion (reference intended). Too often, we are caught up and twisted up with all sorts of distractions and concerns. Yet any of these myriad of things become miniscule when you reach the end of life and look back.

Imagine, however, reaching the end of this life, and looking back on your proud collection of Beautiful Days! Rather than a regret of what could have been, instead you are comforted with a collection of beauty. In the process of living these Beautiful Days you've also inadvertently passed this optimistic way of living onto those around you. That's part of what Jesus wants us to do with this Hope and Faith we have as his followers.

So, turn off the 24-hour bad news channel, step outside, go to a window, or take a walk. Take some time to smell the flowers, look at the sky, whether cloud-filled or not, listen to the birds or insects, and then give thanks to God for this Beautiful Day. It's in the cries of infants, or the song of bees in a Rosemary Bush, that you can hear a brief echo of the angels in heaven. Peace!  
- Deacon Greg



## ***Salvation Army Shelter Dinner***

The next dinner to be prepared and served at the Salvation Army Shelter will be Sunday, May 14th. The menu will be pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, steamed veggies, milk and dessert. Anyone have a good recipe for some kind of strawberry dessert that could be made to serve 150? Please contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or [lwlowe@outlook.com](mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com).

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

## ***Our Proper Role***

“We’re called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.” This quip may bring a chuckle, but it’s also a good reminder as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord (May 18 this year). Jesus directed his disciples to spread the good news he had taught them: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ...” (Acts 1:8, NRSV).

While professional lawyers and judges certainly have their place in society and can serve God by working for genuine justice for all, we are not called in daily life to judge others’ morality or relationship with God. “Do not judge,” Jesus says, “and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, NIV). And what is one of the most powerful forms of witness to Christ? Forgiveness.

## ***From the Book of Common Prayer***

***Special Prayers, Pg. 818***



### ***For the Election of a Minister***

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for St. Paul's, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## ***Vestry Re-Cap, April 2023***

The Vestry met via Zoom, Thursday, April 27th. Here's a brief re-cap of items discussed:

- ☞ The Minutes for the March Vestry Meeting were approved.
- ☞ The Profit and Loss Statement for February 2023 was approved as presented. Due to continuing generous support from the congregation and careful use of resources, all obligations continue to be met.
- ☞ Jr. Warden's Report-Several issues were addressed over the last few weeks
  1. A new key card system was installed to replace access to church and parish hall.
  2. The toilet in the accessible restroom in the Sunday School room was fixed.
- ☞ Events
  1. May 11-12-Diocesan Camino at St. Paul's, Roberta Bearden co-ordinating homes for participants, dinner to participants will be served at church.
  2. June 10-Succulent Craft Party-see information to come.
  3. Stewardship information coming.
  4. Fundraiser-Information coming about the sale of raffle tickets for a prize to be awarded at Parish Picnic in August.
  5. Dessert Auction-Part of the Parish Picnic in August.

***Please continue to pray for the Vestry/Search Committee.***

### ***Jokes Only a Mother Could Love***

Why is a computer so smart?  
*It listens to its motherboard.*

Why did you chop the joke book  
in half?  
*Mom said to cut the comedy.*

## ***May Ministry Schedule***

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn Dcn. Greg	Rev. Kathie Rev. Kathie	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn
Acolytes	Judy T Claudine	Jim P Annamary	Judy T Claudine	Nancy S Judy T
Lectors	Judy T Ann M	Sarah H Christine J	Nancy S Steph HW	Steph G Barbara V
Intercessor	Judy T	Brandi A	Linda L	Carolyn L
Greeters & Ushers	Ishmael H Carolyn L	Christine J Claudine	Phil M Sarah H	Christine J Linda L
Vestry Rep	Judy T	Brandi A	Linda L	Carolyn L

### ***Improve your car gas mileage***



#### ☞ Go Easy on the Pedal

Speeding, braking, and rapid acceleration waste gas. Depending on the type of vehicle, poor driving habits can negatively affect fuel economy between 15% and 30%. Based on the current national average of \$3.09 per gallon (for regular gasoline), driving sensibly, and not like a race car driver, can lead to an equivalent gas savings of between 31 cents and \$1.24 per gallon.

#### ☞ Slow Down

Gas mileage efficiency tends to decrease above 50 miles per hour. According to fuel economy.gov, for every five miles per hour that exceed 50 mph, drivers pay an equivalent of about 22 cents more for each gallon of gas. While each vehicle has its own optimal speed for fuel efficiency, speeding can result in 7% to 14% reduced fuel economy. Driving at slower speeds can save 22 to 43 cents per gallon.



## *Meetings, News and Needs*

- ☞ St. John the Baptist in Lodi is planning a **BINGO** Event on Saturday May 6th from noon to 4. Tickets are \$20 each and that includes a spaghetti lunch, 10 Bingo games and 2 Bingo cards. Lunch is from noon to 1:30 and Bingo from 1:30 to 4. Call to make your reservations 209-369-3381
- ☞ Judy Teter wishes to thank everyone who donated paper and plastic bags for the Salvation Army Food Commodities Program. We have run out of room to store them so if you can please keep the bags you have at your home for a while, she will let you know when they are needed again. Thanks again!
- ☞ Tai Chi meets in the Parish Hall every Tues. and Thurs. from 9-10.
- ☞ Food Distribution continues in the Parish Hall the 1st Wednesday of every month from 11 to 12 noon.
- ☞ If you are interested in joining our choir, please contact Chuck Sheaffer. Contact info on page 19
- ☞ If you are interested in playing hand bells, please contact Judy Teter. Contact info on page 19
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ Mark your calendars the Halloween party is back! October 28th. More information to come but this will give you some time to start planning your costume.
- ☞ The first Sunday of the month there is a donation box for Interfaith Ministries (Now called The Stanislaus Food Initiative)
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ If you are interested in helping with the food giveaway the first Wednesday of each month please contact Judy Teter.
- ☞ If you are interested in helping with Salvation Army dinners please contact Linda Lowe
- ☞ If you are interested in helping Knit One, Pray Two please contact Gayle Ivy



### *Honor Your Mother*

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom’s favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother’s Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they “symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying.”



## *Prayer and Praise*

*as of 4-24-2023*

- ◆ Arlene Cox went to be with the Lord on Sunday the 16th. Please keep Mike, Pam and the Cox family in your prayers as they navigate through their grief at the loss of Mike's mother.
- ◆ Please pray for all of those who will be traveling El Camino de la Pascua April 22nd through May 13th. See page 12 for more info.
- ◆ Please pray for Charles Palmer, he has a job interview Wednesday. Pray that this is the right position and that the position is offered to him.
- ◆ Please pray for Bonnie Palmer's brother Sam, he is having heart surgery tomorrow. Pray for the Dr's wisdom and for healing for Sam.
- ◆ Please pray for Sheri Tapley (Roberta & Ed Bearden's daughter) she is having hip replacement surgery May 2nd. Pray for strength and healing.
- ◆ Please pray for Zach Statzer (Jeni's son) that his CT scan tomorrow shows the doctors what is going on and that the treatment is simple and noninvasive.
- ◆ **Praise:** Sherene Loree (Mary Griffin's daughter-in-law) has returned home and to church, has no pain and is taking no medication. AMEN! Please continue to pray for her healing.
- ◆ Please pray for healing, comfort, strength and guidance for Susan Sell. Susan is new to the St. Paul's Family.
- ◆ Prayers for healing, comfort and strength as Mike Thorington continues to recover from surgery.
- ◆ Please pray for Ann Mootz's sister-in-law. Pray for strength to endure what is ahead and for her complete recovery. Also, for peace for her family and friends.
- ◆ Darla Davisson has asked us to pray for people who have hate in their hearts.



- ◆ Please pray for Sharon Andrews' son and daughter-in-law for healing, comfort, guidance and strength.
- ◆ Please pray for strength and healing for Elaine Paradis
- ◆ Pray for healing and God's wisdom for Ralph (Linda Lowe's brother)
- ◆ Please pray for healing and comfort for Rebecca, a friend of Eric Sheaffer. Pray also that her latest treatment will be successful.
- ◆ Continue to pray for healing and comfort for the Munroe's.
- ◆ Continue prayers for healing for Rj.
- ◆ Continue to pray for relief from pain, healing, strength, courage and patience for Carol Collier.
- ◆ Update on Christine Judd: Please pray that they will be able to find a good place for her to go upon release from the rehab hospital.
- ◆ Please pray for those who may be alone or struggling in someway.
- ◆ Please pray for our Vestry.
- ◆ Continued prayers for the search committee.

If you have any prayers, praises or updates you would like added, please contact Jeni using the church phone number 209-522-3267.



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.

## *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 for February 2023*

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Operating Income:	18,963.00	12,433.93	15,679.90
Facility Use:	7,050.00	7,950.00	10,900.00
Fundraisers:	0.00	257.66	
Outreach:	0.00		
Restricted Income:	1,491.00	825.00	864.00
Total Income:	27,504.00	21,466.59	27,443.90
Expenses:	24,879.51	22,614.41	34,779.36
Net Income/loss:	2,624.49	-1,147.82	-7,335.46

### *Check Out Our Web Page!*

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

Thank you Zoe!!!



www.<https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/>

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### *Jokes Only a Mother Could Love* part 2

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?  
*Because their kids have to play inside!*

What did the mother rope say to her child?  
*"Don't be knotty."*

## *Life Immortal*

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul."

To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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## *The Power of (God's) Light*

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: "The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Psalm 27:1); "Let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5); "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1:9). Darkness isn't bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we "live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann



**April 22-May 13, 2023**

Join EDSJ as we tour the diocese visiting locations that embody the death, hope and resurrection of Jesus.

Have you seen the signs, or read about the “El Camino de la Pascua”? The journey began April 22nd and will finish May 13th. Roberta Bearden is coordinating homes in the Modesto area for participants to stay in Thursday, May 11th. Anyone who hosts any of the participants will need to give them breakfast and perhaps drive them to the church Friday morning.

Participants and any St. Paul’s members or guests will enjoy dinner in the Parish Hall before going to their assigned home for the night. If you are interested in helping with the dinner, please contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or [lwlowe@outlook.com](mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com).

For complete information about the El Camino de la Pascua, go to [www.diosanjoaquin.org](http://www.diosanjoaquin.org).

# Kid's Page



## Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

*Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.*

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. HEAV           | 6. OGETHE |
| 2. ABLE           | 7. ES     |
| 3. AY OF PENTECOS | 8. ONGUE  |
| 4. ONGUE          | 9. A      |
| 5. PIRI           | 10. IND   |



“When the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> came, they were all \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> came from \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> what seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> of fire that separated and came to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> and began to speak in other \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> as the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> them.”

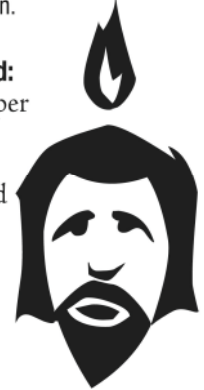
**ACTS 2:1-4, NIV**

# Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

### What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



### What you do:

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind



**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.*

*May Birthdays*

Alexandria Cassagio - 1    Louisa Bryant - 22  
Charlotte DeHart - 9    Charles Palmer - 22  
Nancy Silva - 11    Danielle Verges - 22  
Mary Kinneman - 15    Greg Burnett - 27  
Mikey Statzer - 20



May

*May Anniversaries*

Nancy Silva & Norman VanSpronsen - 25

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



May 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			

- Apr 29 Love Modesto
- May 3 Food Distribution in Parish Hall
- May 4 National Day of Prayer
- May 13 Celebration of Life service for Arlene Cox 10 am
- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 14 Salvation Army Shelter Dinner
- May 18 Ascension Day
- May 20 Armed Forces Day
- May 28 Pentecost
- May 29 Memorial Day

Church office hours  
By appointment only.



**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**

April 28, 2023, Volume 14, Number 05 May

**Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

## *E-mail Addresses*

**Parish Admin. & Facilities Coordinator**

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**Music Director, Organist & Choir**

Chuck Sheaffer, [cbshea@pacbell.net](mailto:cbshea@pacbell.net)

**Bell Choir Director**

Judy Teter, [jltpt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jltpt@sbcglobal.net)

**St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletins**

Cherie Sheaffer, [cbshea@pacbell.net](mailto:cbshea@pacbell.net)

**St. Paul's Web Page & Social Media**

Greg Maszta, [gregmasz@gmail.com](mailto:gregmasz@gmail.com)

**St. Paul's Event Coordinator**

Tracy Pugh, [vinofileincal@gmail.com](mailto:vinofileincal@gmail.com)

**Stewardship Campaign**

Carolyn List and Stephanie Gilmer

**Finance Committee**

Judy Teter, [jltpt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jltpt@sbcglobal.net)

**Safeguarding God's Children/People**

Jeni Statzer and Stephanie Gilmer

## *Vestry Members*

**Senior Warden** - Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937

[lwlowe@outlook.com](mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com)

**Jr. Warden** - Carolyn List & Vickie Winchester

**Treasurer** - Stephanie Gilmer (non vestry)

Brandi Anderson

Roberta Bearden

Sarah Hartmann

Chuck Sheaffer

Nancy Silva

Judy Teter

## **Sunday Services**

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

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

Visit and like us on Facebook

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

