### St. Paul's Episcopal Church



We of St. Paul's have found ways to move closer to the end of our Covid isolation. We have supported each other in our pain of losing our beloved priest Father Nick to forced retirement due to restrictions. Along with the loss of our priest, we also lost his mother Olga and his spouse Wil. We now stand at the threshold of a new era in our shared history as we await the call of a new priest. I remembered writing an article about coping with the isolation of Covid. I found that article and thought it might help us focus on where we have been and where we wish to be. Perhaps we might call it a meditation.

-Deacon George

### A Pilgrimage

I'm sure I'm not going overboard when I write, all of us are eager to see an end to our isolation so that we may embrace a time when we can all be together again. All of us are looking for that rainbow in the sky that will tell us we are loved by our Lord and that we may once again come to His house. Many of us are longing the way things were just a short time ago, while others of us are looking for a better life in a changed world; more compassionate, a world where we may all live the promise of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Coronavirus has disrupted our lives and forced is to be creative in our thinking. Physical travel is of course almost out of the question, but what about a journey to our sacred places, the holy places held in our minds? If we travel there, we might call ourselves pilgrims on a pilgrimage. A pilgrim may be defined as one who travels to a shrine or holy place as a devotee. Following that train of thought, might we not look at this alone time as a retreat, an inward journey of spiritual growth? In my research of the words "pilgrim" and "pilgrimage" I ran across this quote from National Geographic: "Indeed, historians have argued that the Black Plague paved the way for a new wave of opportunity, creativity, and wealth from which would flourish the art, culture and ideas of the Renaissance, and the beginning of a recognizable modern Europe."(April 23, 2020) How might our thoughts change if we used this quote as a meditation during our solo retreat? Continuing in that vein, what would be the site of your inward pilgrimage? The steps cut in the side of a sandy bluff along our beautiful coast, that would end in the flat plane of the bluff where you could wander to see that place where the ocean and sky become one? Perhaps the pilgrimage could be a climb up a stone mountain in our Yosemite Valley, with the reward at the end of the climb being the unobstructed vision of forests, meadows, streams and waterfalls? I am unable to even venture a guess as to where your pilgrimage might take you. I only know the space where, for me, all negative thoughts vanish, and the presence of our Lord fills my mind.

My pilgrimage is to a place high in the Sierra Mountains, a place only visited once by Paige, myself, and our dear friends of 40 plus years. It was a June day, and yet it was still more than cool and very near to cold. Some hundred yards from the narrow road on which we had traveled was a fast rushing stream, now swollen with the thawing snow and ice. The five of us agreed that this was something special and that we should all walk alone to be able to take in the grandeur, and later share our experiences. As I approached this stream that had turned into a river. I saw a boulder: smooth, round, and taller than a two-story house. I just knew I must try to climb to the very top so that I might see the full power and beauty of this wonder. With great effort and a few pains I would not appreciate until later, I scratched my way to the very top of the hugeness, and what a sight to behold. So fast was the river before me rushing down the incline of the moun-

tain, that the water was churned white and the air was filled with mist. Along the banks of this new river there were patches of snow still hidden from the sun by overhanging bushes. The roar from this surging water was deafening. If one of my friends had been near and standing five feet away, he or she could not have heard me if I shouted full out. As I stood there in awe of the sight before me, I let my eyes travel upstream. I could not see very far because the mist was so heavy that the thundering waters were hidden. I then looked downstream, and there also the view was blocked by mist. Caught in the moment and in the awe of the grandeur of God, I threw my arms outward, one pointing upstream, the other downstream. In the next instant I shouted as loud as possible, "Lord, you are from never-ending to never-ending."

This is my sacred place, my holy pilgrimage; a destination where there is more of our Lord and less of me. As I wrote this last sentence, my pen froze in my hand. All along I had thought of myself as writing an invitation to share the meditation I had experienced. The Psalms (Songs) of Ascent\*; Psalms sung by pilgrims as they traveled the roads leading to the temple and sung again as they ascended the fifteen steps bringing them into the Temples common area. My thoughts took another path with the writing of these last few words, "where there is more of our Lord and less of me."

Those words, for me, are about learning to be humble. Isn't that what pilgrimage and retreat are all about? Contained in both is a desire to remember, and a desire to find that touchstone that the Prophet Jeremiah proclaims vrs. 24:7, "I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart." I am humbled by Jeremiah's words, and that is a good thing because fear and uncertainty are no match for "I am the Lord; and they shall be my people."

May Our Lord continue to bless us.

Your Servant in Christ, Deacon George

<sup>\*</sup>Psalms 120 through 134; Psalm 139



### Search Committee Update

It has been over 18 months since Fr. Nick Lorenzetti retired and that the Vestry/Search Committee has been working to discern who may be the next rector for St. Paul's. During that time a profile of our congregation and community was written and distributed

through various networks that are known to Cn. Anna and Bp. David. From those contacts the Committee interviewed 5 candidates, at various times, via Zoom, with 3 visiting for in-person interviews. Those 3 interviews were done in Spring 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023. Following each interview, a call was issued, but declined in each case, for a variety of reasons. A major challenge is that for every priest looking to discern their next step, there are 10 vacant pulpits, several within our diocese.

The profile has been updated and sent out to the networks again by Cn. Anna. Before the Committee can interview any potential candidates, they must be vetted by Cn. Anna and Bp. David. The Committee is waiting to hear about any candidates and is ready to continue seeking God's person for St. Paul's.

The Vestry/Search Committee members are happy to answer questions about the process but cannot answer specific questions about the candidates. We're grateful for continuing prayers, including using this one found in the BCP, pg. 818:

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.

Please contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or <a href="mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com">lwlowe@outlook.com</a>, with any questions.

### June Ministry Schedule

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25	
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn	Rev. Kathie Dcn. Greg	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn	
Acolytes	Nancy S Judy T	Jim P Annamary	Judy T	Nancy S Judy T	
Lectors	Sarah H Joyce B	Judy T Steph HW	Barbara V Steph G	Ann M Christine J	
Intercessor	Vickie W	Roberta B	Sarah H	Nancy S	
Greeters	Carolyn L Phil M	Ishmael H Sarah H	Phil M Christine J	Claudine R David L	
Vestry Rep	Vickie W	Roberta B	Sarah H	Nancy S	

### Summer Solace

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

—Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl





### Salvation Army Shelter Dinner

Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Salvation Army Dinner Team prepared and served pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, steamed vegies, milk and strawberry cake with whipped cream to 130 guests and staff. It was very well-received

with guests lining up for second helpings and a promise of sharing the cake recipe. For the team, meeting the people and providing delicious meals that are appreciated, is a great blessing. The next dinner will be July 16<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more news and the ways that anyone can help. Please contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or <a href="mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com">lwlowe@outlook.com</a> for more information.

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

### Divine Dance

Using the fancy word perichoresis (from Greek for "around" and "contain") may win you admiring — or strange! — looks. But since the 7th century, people have used it as a beautiful image of the Persons of the Holy Trinity containing and permeating one another. A more familiar word, choreography, has led to recent understandings of perichoresis as the divine and eternal dance of love.

Picture three dancers' synchronized yet independent movements. Weaving gracefully in and out, each seems to know what the others will do next. They may touch lightly but don't constrain or impede one another. Though distinct individuals, they move so fluidly together that they are, in a sense, one entity.

Even more profound: Jesus invites us into the dance! "If you love me," he says, "you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth. ... I will come to you. ... I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you" (John 14:15-20, ESV). As the actions of Jesus, the Father and the Spirit interweave in Scripture and in the world, may our lives too be drawn into the loving dance.



### Vestry Re-Cap, May 2023

The Vestry met via Zoom, Thursday, May 25th. Here's a brief re-cap of items discussed

- The Minutes for the April Vestry Meeting were approved.
- The Profit and Loss Statement for March 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. No major repairs to report.
  - 2. An issue with a leak under a sink in the school will be assessed.

#### Events

- 1. Month of June special offering to be collected for SJRAISE See page 13
- 2. June 10 Succulent Craft Party-sign-up by June 4. See page 15
- 3. Coming soon-Report from Rex Adamson and his recent trip to Ukraine -special Coffee Hour to be announced.
- 4. Ordinations at the Cathedral, July 29<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. See page 14.
- 5. Stewardship information coming, with the kick-off scheduled for the Parish Picnic in August.
- 6. Fundraiser Information coming about the sale of raffle tickets for a prize to be awarded at Parish Picnic in August.
- 7. Dessert Auction-Part of the Parish Picnic in August.

### Help Needed

- 1. Assistant needed for the weekly Livestream of the Services-contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937.
- 2. Counting Teams Substitute counters needed for the weekly offering.
- 3. Coffee Hour Volunteers to assist with set-up and clean-up perhaps once per month. Pot-luck with refreshments.

Please continue to pray for the Vestry/Search Committee.

### A Week of Tributes to Dad

To celebrate the special man in your life, use a quote a day the week before Father's Day, or honor him with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative!

- Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate his love and show him yours.
- "The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature." —Antoine F. Prévost
- "To the world you are a dad. To our family you are the world." Unknown
- "The best fathers have the softest, sweetest hearts. In other words, great dads are real marshmallows." —Richelle E. Goodrich
- "Dad: a son's first hero, a daughter's first love." —Unknown
- "A good father is one whose only reason for putting down a laughing baby is to pick up a crying one." —Linda Poindexter
- "My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do be there." —Max Lucado
- "I love my father as the stars. He's a bright shining example and a happy twinkling in my heart." —Terri Guillemets





Solution № June 3rd is the Black Rainbow Prom, My Chemical Imbalance (MoPride) for 14 to 20 year olds, dance and drag show. It will be from 6pm-10pm in the Parish Hall.

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.

- → Tai Chi meets in the Parish Hall every Tues. and Thurs. from 9-10.
- Solution Food Distribution continues in the Parish Hall the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month from 11 to 12 noon.
- → If you are interested in joining our choir, please contact Chuck Sheaffer.
- → If you are interested in playing hand bells, please contact Judy Teter.
- Solution Paint and Succulents Day is on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The first Sunday of the month there is a donation box for Interfaith Ministries (Now called The Stanislaus Food Initiative).
- 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.



### Prayer and Praise

as of 5-31-2023

- Please pray for our rainbow prom this weekend. We are expecting a crowd! Pray that our guests feel excepted and loved by our church community and those that don't know Jesus will feel the urge to know him.
- Please pray for Vickie Winchester as she recovers from an unexpected surgery. Pray for strength, healing and comfort.
- Please pray for Jeni Statzer as she recovers from an emergency appendectomy.
- Please keep Tony and his family and friends in your prayers on the passing of Rj.
- Please continue your prayers for the Vestry and search committee.
- Pray for healing, comfort, strength, patience and guidance for The Rev. Deacon Nancy Key as she recovers from heart surgery.
- Leslie Littlefield (St. Francis's parishioner) that she receives the transplants she needs.
- Joan Miller (St. Francis's parishioner) healing, comfort, strength, courage and peace as she goes through her cancer treatment.
- **Update**, Christine Judd had a CT scan to determine if the infection in her body has cleared. Please continue to pray.
- Update, James Hines (Christine Jaynes's Son) has an optic nerve blood clot, treatment has begun. Please pray that the treatment is swift and successful.
- Please pray for the Christians in India, they are under attack of the enemy. 7,000 people have lost their homes and 45 churches have been destroyed.
- Please pray for Bonnie Palmer's brother Sam, for healing and recovery from his heart surgery.

- Please pray for Zach Statzer (Jeni's son) that his treatment will be successful.
- Please pray for strength and healing for Elaine Paradis.
- 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 Michael 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.
- Please pray for Sharon Andrews' son and daughter-in-law for healing, comfort, guidance and strength.
- Continue to pray for healing and comfort for the Munroe's.
- Continue to pray for relief from pain, healing, strength, courage and patience for Carol Collier.
- Please pray for those who may be alone or struggling in someway.

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

### Recycling at St. Paul's

CREATION CARE

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.

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

### Financial Report for April 2023

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23
Operating				
Income:	18,963.00	12,433.93	15,679.90	16,643.04
Facility Use:	7,050.00	7,950.00	10,900.00	6,000.00
Fundraisers:	0.00	257.66		
Outreach:	0.00	2		
Restricted				
Income:	1,491.00	825.00	864.00	810.00
Total		s		89
Income:	27,504.00	21,466.59	27,443.90	23,453.04
Expenses:	24,879.51	22,614.41	34,779.36	26,551.43
Net	7	2		
Income/loss:	2,624.49	-1,147.82	-7,335.46	-3,098.39

### 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/

### Finding Freedom



Juneteenth, America's newest federal holiday, marks the official end of slavery in the nation. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Applying only to the states in the Confederacy, it declared "that all persons held as slaves are, and henceforward shall be free." But news of freedom didn't reach Galveston, Texas, until June 19, 1865, when 2,000 Union troops arrived to enforce the decree. The U.S. Constitution's 13th Amendment, which bans slav-

ery, was ratified a few months later.

Just as freedom and justice came in fits and starts to the Israelites, so it comes to our own country and around the world, where the pursuit for justice continues.

—adapted from The Wired Word



SJRAISE, San Joaquin Refugee and Immigration Support and Empowerment, a ministry of the Diocese, is looking for assistance from the members of each church. For the four Sundays in June, a can with the SJRAISE logo will be on the altar rail near the offering plates, to accept any donations from our members. The collection will be sent to the Diocese in July. For more information about this ministry, go to the Diocesan website, www.diosanjoaquin.org.



### God Willing and the People Consenting

### The Right Reverend David Cappel Rice

Bishop of San Joaquin

# Will Ordain Jessica Louise Harmon Luke Aaron Martinez David D. Wooten (LT, CHC, USN)

To the Sacred Order of Priests
In Christ's One, Holy,
Catholic and Apostolic Church on
Saturday, the Twenty-ninth of July Two Thousand Twenty-Three at
Ten O'clock in the Morning.

St. James Cathedral 4147 E. Dakota Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Your prayers and presence are requested

To RSVP:

Reception to follow

Clergy: Red Stoles



### PAINT POTS & PLANT SUCCULENTS

JUNE 10, 2023 | 1:00 -3:00

LOCATION: ST. PAUL'S PARISH HALL

\$25

Sign Up by June 4 to Linda Lowe 209-496-3937 email: lwlowe@outlook.com



## Kid's Page



### **JESUS' FAMILY TREE**

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham.

Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

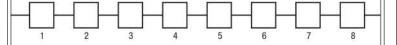
Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah





How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?



Answer: FOURTEEN

### A timeless timeline

Explore your history while compiling this family timeline.



#### What you need:

- Paper
- Clear tape
- Ruler
- Pencil

#### What you do:

- 1. Tape together at least 3 sheets of paper horizontally.
- 2. Draw a straight line across the center of the long paper. Label dates at regular intervals to keep the information organized. For example, each page you add could represent 10 years.
- Gather information for the timeline. Start with your birth year and memorable events in your life. Interview family members to learn what year they were born and when key things in their life happened. Include notes and photos.
- Add pages as needed. Carefully roll up the timeline to keep for generations to come.

### Seasonal Humor

### For summer weddings:

- ♦ The wedding was so beautiful, even the cake was in tiers.
- Did you hear about the two spiders who got engaged? They met on the web.
- ♦ Two cell phones got married. The reception was terrific!
- Why did the King of Hearts and the Queen of Hearts get married? They were perfectly suited.

### For baseball season:

- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit
   me.
- What did the baseball glove say to the ball? "Catch ya later!"
- Why are frogs good baseball players? Because they're good at catching flies.
- Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team? She ran away from the ball.

### And for Father's Day, some dad jokes:

- My dream job is to clean mirrors because I can really see myself doing that.
- We're renovating the house. The first floor is going great, but the second floor is another story.





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

### **Armed Forces**











Tom Allen, Wyoming Air National Guard Cheryl Edelman, U. S. Army 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

Jenavieve Johnston, U. S. Air Force **Iorgito 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.

### *June Birthdays*

Stephanie Gilmer - 2 Calvin Verges - 3 Carolyn List - 4 Vicky Diaz - 6 Jeni Statzer - 7 Ginny Munroe - 8 Lizzy West - 9 Zach Statzer - 12 Alexander Su - 14

Isaac Su - 14 Paige Cano - 16 Samantha Bland - 18 Rossana Tamimi - 19

Ann-Marie Lorentz - 20 Evie Heron-Olds - 21

Ed Bearden - 24 Chris Verges - 28



Jeni & Mike Statzer - 21 Mike & Pam Cox - 23 Gayle & Murray Ivy - 29



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



June 2023									
S	М	Т	W	Т	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				

- June 3 Black Rainbow Prom, My Chemical Imbalance
- June 4 Trinity Sunday
- June 7 Food Distribution
- June 10 Paint Pots & Plant Succulents
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 18 Father's Day
- June 19 Juneteenth
- June 21 Summer begins
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 5 Food Distribution
- July 16 Salvation Army Shelter Dinner
- July 29 Ordination in Fresno

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.

YouTube St. Paul's Episcopal Church Modesto CA

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBABwgOZphWFUZVjnc7eFgw



www.https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/





### The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
May 31, 2023, Volume 14, Number 06 June

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267 Office Hours: By appointment

#### E-mail Addresses

Parish Admin, & Facilities Coordinator Jeni Statzer, jstatzer@saintpaulsmodesto.org

Music Director, Organist & Choir Chuck Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

**Bell Choir Director** Judy Teter, jltpt@sbcglobal.net

St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletins Cherie Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

St. Paul's Web Page & Social Media Greg Masztal, gregmasz@gmail.com

St. Paul's Event Coordinator Tracy Pugh, vinofileincal@gmail.com

Stewardship Campaign Sarah Hartmann

**Finance Committee** Judy Teter, 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

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

Visit and like us on Facebook St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

