

# *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*



**July Issue**

June 29, 2023

## *Does God Go On Vacation?*

It's that time of year when many people take vacations from work, whether it's staying home and relaxing, or heading off on trips. Linda and I like to visit the Sonoran Desert in July. Not only is the desert blooming due to the Monsoon Season, but after a few weeks in the Desert the Central Valley doesn't feel that hot by comparison.

As I was daydreaming of our soon-to-be-baking sojourn I wondered if God takes a vacation. (If God did, does everything else fall apart? Does God have an auto-pilot button? Does one part of the Trinity head off to the beach, while the other two cover?)

Some might tell me these are silly ideas, but I would refer them to Jesus telling us we must be more like children in our faith (Mt 18:3 "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.")

After wandering a bit in the random forest of my thoughts, the question came back to me in an upside down response: "Do I take God with me on my vacation?" That made me stop and think!

Usually, vacation is a time to throw out the repetitiveness of daily life, the daily grind, to live for a time in a different, more relaxed way. It's so easy to live life in a rut, but at the cost of losing the wonder of life that whirls around us. In tossing out the daily grind, though, do we mistakenly throw

out our faith lives at the same time?

In the excitement of making our plans to go off on vacation shouldn't we also make a definitive plan to bring God along on our vacation? Our faith tells us that God is walking with us, so would it be surprising to think that God would like to let go of our experience of daily drudgery (and our daily requests for help!), to experience us in our playful mood? Aren't we more like our inner child when we get away for a time? Wouldn't this inner child be someone God would like to also experience in knowing us deeply as we are?

How might we take God on vacation with us? (After all, God needs a break, too!!) Setting aside quiet time for praying, reflecting, or meditating is a place to start. When making lists of the books to bring, whether sci-fi, romance, non-fiction--you name it--is there room for one extra book that focuses on faith? Perhaps there's a movie you can bring along to watch (I recommend "The Way" with Martin Sheen, or "The Shack" with Sam Worthington).

Perhaps when you see something wonderful in your travels, you can take a minute to thank God for the experience of being able to be aware of God's presence in Creation.

Wherever you may travel, may the Spirit of Joy go with you. Amen!

*Deacon Greg*

### *It's a Miracle!*

I believe in miracles. While I believe in the possibility, under God, of any kind of miracle, I am committed especially to the miracle of the changed life.

When a human being goes from despair to hope, when a lost soul comes home, or when a mean and destructive person becomes kind and fruitful, the greatest of all miracles has occurred.

—J. Ellsworth Kalas





## *Stewardship Committee Report*

The Stewardship Committee met on Sunday, June 11th and started our planning for the upcoming stewardship campaign “Rooted in Abundance.” You’ll hear more from us in the coming weeks, but for now please put these two important dates on your calendar:

**Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>** -- Coffee Hour and discission immediately following the service

**Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>** --The annual Parish Picnic will be held on the front church lawn immediately following the service. There will be good food and fun games for all ages!



## *July Ministry Schedule*

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Clergy Homily	Rev. Kathie	Morning Prayer	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Lyn
Acolytes	Nancy S Judy T	Nancy S Judy T	Nancy S Judy T	Nancy S Judy T	Nancy S Judy T
Lectors	Claudine R Barbara V	Steph HW Linda L	Sarah H Joyce B	Ann M Christine J	Nancy S Judy T
Intercessor	Judy T	Linda L	Vickie W	Carolyn L	Vickie W
Greeters	Carolyn L Christine J	Ishmael H Claudine R	Phil M Sarah H	David L Christine J	Phil M Ishmael H
Usher	Claudine R			Phil M	
Vestry Rep	Judy T	Linda L	Vickie W	Carolyn L	Vickie W

## *Prayer for July 4th*

The following lines are from a long prayer, "That America Fulfill the Promise of Its Founding," by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today. (Full text at <https://tinyurl.com/nhc8747x>.)

O God, Who is Liberator and Redeemer, Lawgiver and Judge, ...

May America remain loyal  
to the principles of the Declaration of Independence,  
and extend their application  
to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of oppression,  
persecution,  
and unjust discrimination;  
save us from religious,  
racial and class conflicts;  
may our country be a haven of refuge  
to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together,  
of reconciling differences of opinion  
and averting clashes of interest,  
of helping one another  
to achieve a harmonious and abundant life ...

That the Star-Spangled Banner,  
the symbol of our American democracy,  
may ever wave o'er the land of the free  
and the home of the brave. Amen.





## *Salvation Army Shelter Dinner*

The next Salvation Army Dinner will be Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. The planned menu is Chicken Salad, Rolls, Potato Salad, Watermelon, Chocolate Chip Cookies, and Milk.

For the team, meeting the people and providing delicious meals that are appreciated, is a great blessing. Please contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or [lwlowe@outlook.com](mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com) for more information.

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

## *An Abundance of Gifts*

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you're good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

—Stephanie Martin





## *Vestry Re-Cap, June 2023*

The Vestry met via Zoom, Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Here's a brief re-cap of items discussed:

The Minutes for the May Vestry Meeting were approved.

The Profit and Loss Statement for April 2023 was approved as presented.

Due to continuing generous support from the congregation and careful use of resources, all obligations continue to be met.

By a unanimous vote, the current Money Market Account will be transferred to a new Money Market Account that will gain more interest.

Jr. Warden's Report-Carolyn reported that an electrical issue early in June was handled by Collins Electric replacing the main circuit breaker.

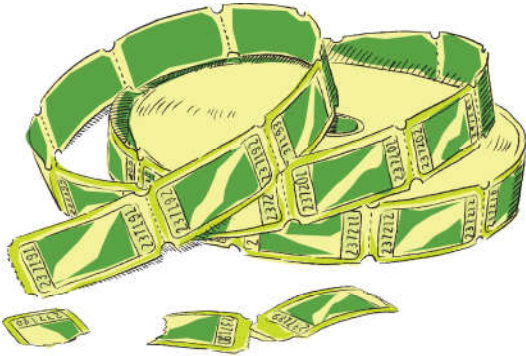
### Events

1. Ordinations at the Cathedral, July 29<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.
2. Stewardship information coming, with the kick-off scheduled for the Parish Picnic in August.
3. Fundraiser-Information coming about the sale of raffle tickets for a prize to be awarded at Parish Picnic in August.
4. 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. Contact Stephanie Gilmer for more information.
3. Coffee Hour-Look for announcements about regular and special Coffee Hours
4. Sunday School helpers needed-contact Chuck Sheaffer for details.

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



## Get Your Tickets!

prizes. However, last time we held our lottery in 2021 we sold over 400 tickets. Just think! Your odds of winning are way, way, way more likely than winning Power Ball or Super Lotto Plus.

### *Fun Fundraiser Coming!!!*

St. Paul's is planning a "lottery" fundraiser. The drawing will be held during the Stewardship Picnic on August 27. Ticket sales will start in July.

Tickets will be \$10 each. The main prize will be \$1000; second and third prizes will be \$150 and \$100 respectively. This means that we will need to sell at least 125 tickets to cover the

### *Finding Freedom*

What does freedom look like to you? In GraceLaced, Ruth Chou Simons lists examples such as running unhindered, viewing a mountaintop overlook and enjoying iced tea with lemon. Because our good, creative God made us each different, our descriptions of freedom vary too. I think of deep breaths, an unhurried pace, genuine smiles, lack of regrets and deep belly laughs.



I love to laugh. Recently, during a demanding season of family celebrations, hardships and surprises, I realized I was laughing less. I felt bound to the next task on my long to-do list, but even good efficiency can shackle our spirits.

A good laugh — beyond a quick chuckle — offers many physical and emotional benefits. According to the Mayo Clinic, laughter relieves stress and pain, boosts the immune system and stimulates organs and endorphins. So today I'm determined to laugh loudly and joyfully while remembering my freedom in Christ.

—Janna Firestone



## *Prayer and Praise*

*as of 6-23-2023*

### **Update**

- ◆ Praise for the Munroe's as their health is improving, please continue praying for healing and comfort.
- ◆ Praise for Jeni as her health is being restored daily, please continue to pray for healing and comfort.
- ◆ Praise for Michael Thorington. Please continue to pray for healing and comfort.
- ◆ Christine Judd is awaiting future testing to determine the next course of action. Please pray for her continued healing and comfort.
- ◆ James Himes (Christine Jayne's Son), no change, please continue to prayer for his eye issue as the treatments continue.
- ◆ Tony Alonzo continued prayers for peace, love and endurance in this difficult time.

### **Praise and Thanksgiving**

- ◆ Praise and Thanksgiving for the Ukraine Presentation last at Coffee Hour by Dr. Rex Adamson.

### **Healing and Comfort**

- ◆ Presiding Bishop Michael Curry for healing, comfort, strength and peace as he is undergoing continuing diagnostic appointments, treatment and follow-up for atrial fibrillation and the episode of internal bleeding. Bishop Curry is at home and unable to travel at this time.
- ◆ Prayers for Rosalie Carmody for healing, comfort and strength.
- ◆ Robin Magenot, Deacon George and Paige's daughter, for healing, comfort and strength.
- ◆ Suzy Cano for healing, comfort, strength, and peace.
- ◆ Joan Miller (St. Francis Parishioner) please prayer for healing, comfort, strength, courage and peace as she goes through treatment.



- ◆ Sam, Bonnie Palmer's brother, please prayer for healing as he is going through treatment for his heart.
- ◆ Zach Statzer, please prayer for his healing as he is going through treatment.
- ◆ Susan Sell, please pray for healing, comfort, strength and guidance as she faces medical challenges.
- ◆ Continued prayers for Ann Mootz's sister-in-law for endurance, strength and a complete recovery. Please pray for peace for her family and friends.
- ◆ Sharon Andrews' son and daughter-in-law as she awaits a transplant, please pray for healing, comfort, guidance and strength.
- ◆ Elaine Paradis, please pray for continuing healing and strength.
- ◆ Carol Collier, please pray for continuing healing and comfort.
- ◆ Vickie Winchester, please pray for her continuing healing as she continues with her physical therapy.
- ◆ Please pray for healing, peace, comfort and guidance for Darla.
- ◆ Please pray for the country of Ukraine and citizens.
- ◆ Pray for Wisdom for all nations leadership.
- ◆ Please pray for Christians in India, and all the people and families that were effected by the train derailment.

### **Safe Travel**

- ◆ Please pray for all travelers as journey on their way.

## ***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/>



## *Meetings, News and Needs*

- ☞ 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.
- ☞ 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 helping, please contact Judy Teter.
- ☞ Choir is on vacation for the summer. We will restart in fall.
- ☞ If you are interested in playing hand bells, contact Judy Teter.
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ There are still free Covid 19 tests available in the Narthex or in the church office.
- ☞ If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild please contact Elaine Paradis or Toni Clark.
- ☞ If you are interested in joining a Wednesday Morning Prayer service or our Book Club contact Judy Thorkelson [jthork2404@aol.com](mailto:jthork2404@aol.com)

## *Financial Report for May 2023*

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
Operating					
Income:	18,963.00	12,433.93	15,679.90	16,643.04	18,284.34
Facility Use:	7,050.00	7,950.00	10,900.00	6,000.00	6,300.00
Fundraisers:	0.00	257.66	0.00	0.00	72.44
Outreach:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restricted					
Income:	1,491.00	825.00	864.00	810.00	932.24
Total					
Income:	27,504.00	21,466.59	27,443.90	23,453.04	25,589.02
Expenses:	24,879.51	22,614.41	34,779.36	26,551.43	18,484.40
Net					
Income/loss:	2,624.49	-1,147.82	-7,335.46	-3,098.39	7,104.62



### ***Knit One, Pray Too***

has been hard at work cleaning out their closet in the Parish Hall. As a result of all this hard work, there is an abundance of yarn that they would like to have put to use. This yarn will be available this Sunday and next Sunday out in the Narthex. Stop by and see if you find anything that you might like to knit or crochet into something. Their project this year is hats and scarves for dock workers. Check it out.



On July 13th Zach Statzer will be traveling to Johannesburg, South Africa to spread the gospel to student athletes. He has partnered with Athletes In Action, a Christian organization, to make disciples in South Africa. Join us in prayer for safe travels and that people would have their hearts and minds open to hearing the gospel in Johannesburg. If you would like to donate to the mission you can do so by giving at [give.cru.org/1194266](https://give.cru.org/1194266). All donations go directly the cost of the mission and are tax deductible. Please keep Zach and all the other missionaries in your prayers.

# Kid's Page



## SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion.  
What does God do for people who fear him?

*Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.*

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	do far EAST	the THIS up as
WEST THAT is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West

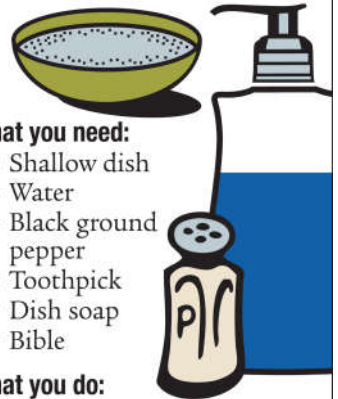


... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

## Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



### What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

### What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12.  
How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.

Answer: As far as the east is from the west



I would like to thank everyone who provided salads and cookies for R.J.'s reception. Also, for all the help serving set-up and cleanup. I was in a panic when I say all the people, but my church family stepped up to the plate to help. Everyone seemed to have a great time & I received a compliment on the variety of salads. I was afraid there was not going to be enough food, but there was. I could not have done this without you. Thank you again. Judy Teter

If you were luck enough to get one of Judy Teter's cookies at RJ's reception before they were all gone, you know how yummy they were. Here is the recipe if you would like to try them yourself. She used butterscotch chips in hers.

### *Potato Chip Cookie Recipe*

1 cup butter (soft)

1/2 cup white sugar

1 1/2 cup flour

1/2 cup crushed potato chips

1 tsp vanilla

1/2 cup of nuts (if desired)

Then you can add any number of things:

chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, crushed candy canes, peanut butter chips, etc.- 1/2 cup of each or a tad more.

You do not need to grease the pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes.

This makes about 35 cookies.

## *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.





**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.*

***July Birthdays***

Ann Mootz - 3  
Keith Munroe - 4  
Claudine Romegialli - 11  
Roberta Bearden - 14  
Brian Cassagio - 14  
Jo Fox - 15  
Christine Jayne - 17  
Anita Machado - 18  
Bonnie Palmer - 21  
Linda Maszta - 23  
Clare Jensen - 30  
Nick Lorenzetti - 30  
Toni Clark - 31

***July Anniversaries***

Nick Lorenzetti & Wil Colón - 18  
Greg & Linda Maszta - 29



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



July 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					

- July 4 Independence Day
- July 5 Food Distribution
- July 16 Salvation Army Shelter Dinner
- July 29 Ordination in Fresno
- July 30 Coffee Hour after service.
- Aug 27 Church Picnic

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

June 29, 2023, Volume 14, Number 07 July

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

**Office Hours: By appointment**

### *E-mail Addresses*

**Parish Admin. & Facilities Coordinator**

Jeni Statzer, [jstatzer@saintpaulsmodesto.org](mailto:jstatzer@saintpaulsmodesto.org)

**Music Director, Organist & Choir**

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

**Bell Choir Director**

Judy Teter, [jltp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jltp@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**

Sarah Hartmann

**Finance Committee**

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

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

