

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



The Epistle

October Issue

October 3, 2023

An Article From My “Bucket List”

On this breezy September morning, I find myself rapidly approaching four-score and seven on my next birthday. Finding myself at this advanced stage of my life, it might not be altogether improper for me to write an article addressing a subject that has troubled me since hearing of it a few years ago. I guess I might call it a “Bucket List” article. The subject that I am writing about is actually a movement in the Church to make our service “more user friendly.” My response on hearing this idea was and remains: I thought the mission of the church in the past was to make the *users* more friendly. At the center of my despair is what I feel is the central message of the New Testament as expressed by Jesus himself, what Mark’s Gospel calls The First Commandment and others call the Summary of the Law. The pain for me comes from the fact that since the certification of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the Summary of the Law is almost never read unless you attend a Rite I service (pg. 324), although it is read in a Penitential Order: Rite II (pg. 351).

Paige and I were received into the Episcopal Church just months before the first services using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer would begin. Because we were a family of six, time was taken by elder members of the church to inform us that the new Rite II was being introduced as a “family friendly” service to be celebrated at 10 a.m.; of course we would also be welcome at the 8 a.m. Rite I service.

It wasn't long before I became an altar server. In so doing, I served at both services; Rite I at 8 a.m. and Rite II at 10 a.m. I had to study and train to serve at the altar. In my studies I began to see differences in the services (yes, even then I was Curious George.) The language was different; traditional English in Rite I, contemporary English in Rite II. There was also something called The Summary of the Law in the early service which was absent in the later service. I didn't know why The Summary was omitted; its presence seemed to pull all the readings together. It is, of course, rather taxing reading aloud the traditional language of Rite I, but once you become familiar with the differences, the service seems to take on an almost poetic sound and feel. There is also a feeling of contemplative prayer and reverence. Rite I may not be your first choice of service, but it could be something to consider as an aid to renewing our faith when our world becomes too loud, too busy, and too fast. Forgive me for getting a bit off track, but in trying to pull my thoughts together about the Summary of the Law, I began to think of other traditions we have left behind. Be that as it may, let's get back to the Summary of the Law.

The Summary has a long history in our liturgy beginning in 1718, then the Scottish liturgy of 1764, and from there it was adopted by the first American Prayer Book of 1789 as an alternative to the decalogue. The 1928 Book of Common Prayer also kept Jesus' Summary of the Law in the same manner as the First American Prayer Book. The First Commandment, or greatest commandment, or Summary of the Law is recorded in all three of the Synoptic Gospels. The wording is a bit different in each, but there is no mistaking these commandments.

When asked by a scribe lawyer, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus doesn't answer with some new idea or interpretation, he answers straight from the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, The Torah. Jesus begins with Deuteronomy 6:5, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." Next, Jesus quotes from Leviticus 19:18, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." Jesus spoke in truth, he spoke the Father's word given to him. This is why Jesus says, "I came not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it." (Matthew 5:17) Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he said, "I

am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” (John 14:6) Isn’t Jesus talking about The Father’s Way to live our lives, the Truth of the Father’s words, and the Life Everlasting?

I began this article writing about something that upsets me, the “user friendly” movement. Deep in our souls, I don't believe we are looking for an easy way, a short cut, or a free pass. I believe we are all searching for truth, that “strong rock” to hold onto when the storms of life threaten to carry us away; a truth we may teach our children that will help them learn to love God, their neighbors, and themselves.

For me, a “bucket list” is a great container for hopes and dreams. One of my hopes is that we will start using the Summary of the Law preceding the confession as provided for in the rubrics. Perhaps my greatest hope is that we have a revival in the use and study of our Prayer Book, which is much like a “workbook for the Bible and how to live it.”

Here is The First Commandment from Mark’s Gospel:

The First Commandment

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him, there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength.,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself,’ – this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

May our Lord continue to bless us.

Your servant in Christ, Deacon George.

21 YRS+

7 PM - 11 PM

FABULOUS

Freak Show



1528 OAKDALE RD., MODESTO, CA 95355

28
OCT

BARTENDER

COSTUME CONTEST

PRIZES!

DANCE PARTY

MoPride



SAINT PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

\$20 Single Ticket
\$30 Couple Tickets

www.mopride.org

9 PM Costume Contest

We are having the Halloween party this year! Saturday October 28th, Tickets are \$20.00 a person or \$30.00 a couple. I have tickets in the office. This is a 21 & older party.

I am looking for a few volunteers to help in the kitchen, warming and replenishing food. Please let me know if you are available.

I am also looking for desert donations. You can email me or there will be a desert sign up in the Narthex this

Sunday.

This should be a super fun event; I would love your help! Blessings, Jeni





Salvation Army Shelter Dinner

The Salvation Army Dinner Team cooked and served dinner at the Shelter in downtown Modesto, Sunday, September 24th. The menu included roasted pork loin, mashed potatoes with gravy, salad, rolls & butter, watermelon, chocolate chip cookies and milk.

We served 125 guests and staff, who are always very glad to have us bring a variety of lovingly prepared meals. The next dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 5th. Watch for more news about the menu and for opportunities to join the Team.

Please contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com for more information.

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

October Ministry Schedule

	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
Clergy Homily	Fr. Dondi	Rev. Lyn	Bishop David	Rev. Kathie Dcn Greg	Rev. Lyn
Acolytes	Judy T	Judy T Nancy S	Jim P Annamary	Nancy S Judy T	Nancy S Judy T
Lectors	Judy T Steph HW	Christine J Nancy S	Linda L Barbara V	Judy T Ann M	Barbara V Christine J
Intercessor	Linda L	Judy T	Sarah H	Nancy S	Carolyn L
Greeters	Claudine R Ishmael H	Phil M Christine J	Claudine R Carolyn L	Phil M Ishmael H	Christine J Carolyn L
Usher		David L			David L
Vestry Rep	Linda L	Judy T	Sarah H	Nancy S	Carolyn L

LODI'S FIRST
**MULTICULTURAL
FOOD TRUCK
FESTIVAL**



Saturday, October 21st 2023
11:00 am to 6:00 pm
1055 S Sacramento St
Lodi, CA 95240



The Episcopal Church
of St. John the Baptist
www.stjohnsoflodi.org

HEALTH ALERT: FENTANYL is killing Stanislaus County residents

The FACTS about street FENTANYL

There is no such thing as a safe street drug. Know the risks.

Fentanyl is often added to counterfeit pills and other drugs without people knowing.

Fentanyl has been found in:

- Heroin
- Meth
- Fake pills (Oxycodone, Norco, Xanax)
- Cocaine



50-150 times

more potent than

Heroin•Oxycodone•Morphine

Fen•ta•nyl
[fen-tuh-niil]

An opioid narcotic, a prescription drug used for cancer patients in severe pain.

It can be absorbed through the skin. You can't see it, smell it, or taste it.

Pills not obtained with a prescription or from a pharmacy can kill.

WARNING SIGNS OF A FENTANYL OVERDOSE AND POISONING:

- Discolored skin: bluish- purple for light-skinned people, or greyish for darker-skinned people
- Snoring, gasping, or gurgling sounds– also known as the “death rattle”
- Extreme muscle rigidity, to the point of seizures
- Foaming at the mouth
- Blood from nose and mouth
- Weak, barely-detectable pulse



If You Use Substances



Have Naloxone

Overdose and poisoning happens fast. Make sure you and your friends carry Naloxone/Narcan.



Don't use alone

Make sure someone is around. They can give Naloxone/Narcan if an overdose or poisoning occurs.



Call 911

If you think it is an overdose or poisoning, call 911. Be anonymous or stay and offer support.

For local help, resources, and information:
www.StanRx.net or call (209) 525-5316

Christian Symbol

WATER — Water flows through the Scriptures: the Flood, the Red Sea crossing, water springing from a rock to nourish Israelites in the wilderness, the healing of Naaman's leprosy when he washed in the Jordan River, John baptizing Jesus and, chiefly, our baptism into Christ. The water of baptism symbolizes cleansing from sin, the quenching of our spiritual thirst and God raising us from death (drowning in sin) to life everlasting. Just as we cannot live without physical water, neither can we truly live without the living water Jesus gives (see John 4:13-14).



Scones for Scholarships

The parish hall kitchen and fellowship hall will soon be taken over by a group of very busy ladies, baking delicious scones. The proceeds from 1 ½ days of baking will be supporting scholarship opportunities for women of all ages. One of the local chapters of P.E.O. International raises money for a variety of grants, helping women whose educational goals range from certificate to doctoral programs.

Scones are available by pre-order only, and may be picked up at St. Paul's on Wednesday, October 18th after 4 pm. Three varieties are available: plain, cranberry/lemon, and chocolate chip. Each bag includes 9 scones for \$15.00.

To place your order or for more information, contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 **no later than October 11th**.



The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

News about Diocesan events and weekly spiritual encouragement are available at the Diocese of San Joaquin website, <https://www.diosanjoaquin.org>. The "Friday Reflection" is available through the "News and Resources" link. To receive the Friday Reflection directly to your in-box, sign up via the link at the top of the Home page.

St Paul's Stewardship Campaign



THEY SHALL BE LIKE A TREE
PLANTED BY WATER, SENDING
OUT ITS ROOTS BY THE STREAM.
IT SHALL NOT FEAR WHEN HEAT
COMES, AND ITS LEAVES SHALL
STAY GREEN; IN THE YEAR OF

DROUGHT IS NOT ANXIOUS, AND IT DOES NOT CEASE TO
BEAR FRUIT -- Jeremiah 17:8

The most important words to say in Church are “thank you.” Say it often, and mean it, and today we say it to you. Thank you for the many gifts that you share with St Paul’s.

Now, as we approach the season of giving and reflection, we are excited to announce the commencement of our Stewardship Campaign: ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE. Starting on October 15th, we invite you to join us every Sunday to hear and reflect on the stories of your friends and fellow worshippers. These stories are a testament to the incredible bonds that have been forged within our church walls. They serve as a reminder that we are not just a congregation; we are a family, and our roots run deep.

As a special highlight of our campaign, we will be creating a unique St. Paul's family tree. We invite each one of you to come prepared to have your picture taken, capturing a moment in time when we celebrate the unity and diversity that make up our vibrant congregation. Our church family tree will serve as a visual representation of the deep connections and cherished memories we've created together.

Our celebration of the Works, Wisdom, and Wealth you share with this community will be on Sunday, November 5th as we celebrate All Saints Day.

In this season of thanksgiving and reflection, let us remember that it is your dedication and commitment that keep our church flourishing. As we embark on this stewardship campaign, let us all be inspired by the roots that ground us, the abundance that sustains us, and the unity that defines us as St. Paul's.



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

- ☪ Sunday School has started and is held in the room at the back of the church during the Homily.
- ☪ If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild please contact Elaine Paradis or Toni Clark.
- ☪ Choir is still on a break.
- ☪ Tai Chi meets in the Parish Hall every Tues. and Thurs. from 9-10.
- ☪ If you are interested in playing hand bells, contact Judy Teter.
- ☪ Food Distribution continues in the Parish Hall the 1st Wednesday of every month from 10 to 11 (NOTE THE NEW TIME). If you are interested in helping, please contact Judy Teter. If you have grocery bags to donate, please bring on Sunday.
- ☪ The first Sunday of the month there is a donation box on the altar rail 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 joining Knit One, Pray Two, please contact Gayle Ivy. They will be meeting the 3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm in the youth room of the Parish Hall. This years charity is the Seaman's Institute. They are making scarfs, hats, socks etc.
- ☪ There are still free Covid 19 tests available in the Narthex or in the church office.
- ☪ If you are interested in joining a Wednesday Morning Prayer service or our Book Club contact Judy Thorkelson jthork2404@aol.com
- ☪ 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.

Christmas Cards for Ukraine

On Saturday morning, November 18, from 10 AM-12 noon we will have an activity in the Parish Hall at St. Paul's to prepare Ukrainian made Christmas Cards to send to members of the US Congress.



These beautiful cards will have a hand written message thanking each member for their support of Ukraine with humanitarian aid in 2023 and asking for continued aid in 2024, as well as a Christmas blessing for each congressional member. It is easy to forget those in need who are so far away, but the aid from the US has been pivotal in maintaining the Ukrainian economy and providing critical emergency services during the war.

The activity is free to participate and cards will be provided. People can also bring their own Christmas cards to prepare and send should they choose. Children are welcome to come and draw their own cards to send as well. We will have some light treats to eat and coffee.

There will be a basket available for a free-will donation to be collected to cover the cost of postage for the cards in Ukraine, for those that are interested.

The activity is planned by Rex Adamson, 209-595-4935. All are welcome.

Financial Report for August 2023

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Operating								
Income:	18,963.00	12,433.93	15,679.90	16,643.04	18,284.34	13,785.17	16,571.41	14,895.98
Facility Use:	7,050.00	7,950.00	10,900.00	6,000.00	6,300.00	6,000.00	7,380.00	8,061.10
Fundraisers	0.00	257.66	0.00	0.00	72.44	573.80	193.00	42.00
Outreach:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restricted								
Income:	1,491.00	825.00	864.00	810.00	932.24	780.00	705.01	642.00
Total	27,504.00	21,466.59	27,443.90	23,453.04	25,589.02	21,138.97	24,849.41	23,641.08
Expenses:	24,879.51	22,614.41	34,779.36	26,551.43	18,484.40	19,787.42	24,520.33	22,214.60
Net								
Income/los	2,624.49	-1,147.82	-7,335.46	-3,098.39	7,104.62	1,351.55	329.08	1,426.48



Prayer and Praise

as of 10-2-2023

Thanksgiving For:

- ◇ **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry** is now in a standard hospital room. Please continue your prayers for healing, comfort and peace for him and his family.
- ◇ The **Munroe's** as their health is improving, please continue praying for healing and comfort.
- ◇ **James Himes** (Christine Jayne's Son), his vision has shown improvement, please continue to pray for healing.
- ◇ **Craig Persons** for the success of his surgery, please pray for healing, comfort, strength and peace.

Please Pray for:

- ◇ **Theresa Grieshaber**, her surgery went well and she is home recovering.
- ◇ **Michael Thorington** as he starts chemo therapy and deals with a bunch of related doctor appointments over in Palo Alto.
- ◇ Susan Sell's son **Bryce** for strength.
- ◇ Ed & Roberta Bearden's daughter, **Sheri's** hip replacement surgery went well and she's home.
- ◇ **Roberta Bearden** fell in our parking lot this last week and is now home and doing well after being thoroughly checked out at the hospital.
- ◇ **Paige Cano** that her second eye surgery was successful and for healing, comfort and peace.
- ◇ **Canon Anna** for healing, comfort and peace as she recuperates.
- ◇ **Barbara Weeden** for strength, wisdom, and renewed health.
- ◇ **Leslie Littlefield**, recovering from heart surgery. Pray for return of patience, strength, and energy as she recuperates.
- ◇ **Suzy Cano** for healing, comfort, strength, and peace.
- ◇ **Danny Cox** for employment

- ◇ **Robin Magenot**, Deacon George and Paige's daughter, for healing, comfort and strength.
- ◇ **Susan Sell**, please prayer for healing, comfort, strength and guidance as she faces medical challenges.
- ◇ **Sarah Manfredoni**, Deacon George and Paige's, great-grandson's mother, healing, strength, courage and peace. Please pray for the family for loving support.
- ◇ **Theresa Norling-Doede**, Deacon George and Paige's friend, for healing, strength, courage, comfort and peace as she faces a new illness. Pray for the Cano family as they need strength as they pray for Theresa.
- ◇ **Corrine**, prayers of healing, comfort and peace.
- ◇ **Louisa Bryant** will be moving to Texas around October 10th, prayers for safe and peaceful travel.
- ◇ **Suzanne**, the Winchester's daughter, for healing, comfort, and patience.
- ◇ **Ann Mootz's sister-in-law** for endurance, strength and a complete recovery. Please pray for peace for her family and friends.
- ◇ **Elaine Paradis**, please pray for continuing healing and strength.
- ◇ **Carol Collier**, please pray for continuing healing and comfort.
- ◇ **Darla** for permanent housing and healing, peace, comfort and guidance.
- ◇ **Bonnie Palmer** for her healing, comfort and strength.
- ◇ **Aunt Mudge**, Linda Lowe's Blessed Aunt, for healing.
- ◇ **Al Spina**, husband of Kim Gerber Spina and Nell Gerber's son-in-law. Please pray for healing, strength, courage, peace and patience and prayers for his family.
- ◇ The people of **Ukraine** for peace and healing.
- ◇ The people of **Hawaii**, especially the victims of the wildfires on Maui.
- ◇ Pray for the **leaders of all nations** for wisdom.
- ◇ Prayers for the selection of a new priest for **St. Paul's**



Below is the Episcopal Church Care of Creation Covenant. I have found this to be a helpful and guiding document that has helped me when making decisions to care for God's creation.

Care of Creation Covenant



In Jesus, God so loved the whole world. We follow Jesus, so we love the world God loves. Concerned about the global climate emergency, drawing from a range of approaches for our diverse contexts, we commit to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation.

LOVING FORMATION For God's sake, we will grow our love for the Earth and all of life through preaching, teaching, storytelling, and prayer.

LIBERATING ADVOCACY For God's sake, standing alongside marginalized, vulnerable peoples, we will advocate and act to repair Creation and seek the liberation and flourishing of all people.

LIFE-GIVING CONSERVATION For God's sake, we will adopt practical ways of reducing our climate impact and living more humbly and gently on Earth as individuals, households, congregations, institutions, and dioceses.

Over two years ago, St. Paul's took a big step to reduce green house gases GHG. On the parish fellowship hall roof we now have over 70 solar panels that are generating almost all of the electricity for the church. You may not know, but approximately 40% of the electricity provided by MID is generated by burning fossil fuel. Members of St Paul have also made the decision to purchase solar panels. That decision has help to reduce GHG in Stanislaus county and help to also improve air quality. Approximately 10% of Modesto home owners have converted to solar panels. I would like to create a data base that shows how many in our congregation have purchased solar panels, and how much electricity they a generating.

If you have questions about solar panels, you can call me at 209-765-1214. If you already have solar panels, I would like to add you to the data base so our congregation can see the effect of your decision to go solar.

Blessings

Chuck Sheaffer, St. Paul's Care of Creation Diocesan Representative

Cookie Walk 2023

It's time to think about the **Cookie Walk** for this year. Dates for this year are Saturday and Sunday December 9 and 10.

The **Cookie Walk** has been St. Paul's consistent fund-raising activity over the last decade.

Ticket purchasers "walk" along the cookie tables and choose their cookies. We will continue our basic walk for cookies but will offer other baked and prepared items, like cinnamon rolls, pies, and fruit jams. We will advertise on our sign so we should expect walk-ins.

We need **Cookie Bakers**, **Cookie Walkers**, **Backstage Arrangers**, and **Ticket Takers**. But also, volunteers for set up, take down, and decorating. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex by early November.

Cookie Bakers are key. Our goal is 6,000 cookies. This is 200 batches of about 30 cookies each. We have actually exceeded this goal every year. If you can bake but are unable to sign up on the volunteer sheet, please call or text Carolyn List 209 604 2398 or Claudine Romegialli at 209 489 8722.

The price per baker's dozen of cookies will again be \$10 per box and prices for other items will be a multiple of \$5.00 so cookie tickets may be used to purchase other items. Please consider selling or buying at least 5 Cookie Walk tickets. Think about giving a paid ticket to family members or neighbors. When they come to pick up their cookies, they often purchase additional boxes. Boxed cookies also make great gifts.

Vegetable Garden!

We are trying to get a vegetable garden ready to plant but need some help with pulling out the plants that are there and setting up the planting box. The goal is to have a project for the kids of St. Paul's. If you have questions or would like to help, please call Chuck Sheaffer at 209-765-1214.





Vestry Re-Cap, September 2023

The Vestry met via Zoom, Thursday, September 21st. Here's a brief re-cap of items discussed:

- ◆ The Minutes for the August Vestry Meeting were approved.
- ◆ The Profit and Loss Statement for July 2023 was approved as presented. Due to continuing generous support from the congregation and careful use of resources, all obligations continue to be met.
- ◆ Sarah Hartmann reported that the Stewardship Campaign will start in October. See details in another part of the Epistle.
- ◆ Junior Warden's Report: Carolyn List reported that the large branch blocking one of the sidewalks was handled by the lawn service. The issue with the damaged wall in the priest's sacristy restroom will be included with other repairs in the coming months. A plumber was contacted to fix the sink problems in the office and the dishwasher room of the parish hall. Debris will be removed from the church roof to prevent leaking issues.
- ◆ A bid to network the office computers was discussed.
- ◆ The Our Lady of Guadalupe statue will be moved to the main sanctuary.
- ◆ A message from Chuck Sheaffer stated that the start of Sunday School is planned for October 1st.

Events

1. Work Day-Saturday September 23, 9 am-noon
2. St. Paul's and MoPride will be sponsoring a Halloween Party, in the Parish Hall, October 28th. Vickie Winchester volunteered to assist with the plans.
3. Annual Diocesan Convention, November 10-11, at ECCO. Delegates include Claudine Romegialli, Vickie Winchester, and Sarah Hartmann. The Deanery meeting will be Saturday, September 30. The zoom link will be in the Friday Reflection.
4. Cookie Walk will be December 9 & 10. Look for details in another part of the Epistle.

Help Needed

1. Assistant needed for the weekly Livestream of the Services - contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937.
2. Sunday School helpers needed-contact Chuck Sheaffer for details.



St. Paul's was well represented at MoPride in the Park 2023.

Costumes are welcome on the 29th at the service and we will be passing out treats to the children.





Presents

Healthy Aging & Fall Prevention Summit

Friday, October 13, 2023

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Modesto Centre Plaza

A FREE EVENT FOR OLDER ADULTS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS



Health Screenings & Services

Diabetes & Cholesterol Screenings (need to fast prior) | Blood Pressure Checks
Bone Density | Depression Screening | Oral Cancer Screening
Foot Care Screening | Skin Health Assessments | Vision Screenings
Senior Fitness Tests | Drop the Drugs | Medicare Card Lamination
Flu Shots (quantity limited) | Home Modification Display | and more!

First 500 Attendees* can Receive a Bag of Fruits and Vegetables
***One bag per household, must fill out evaluation form**

For more information call Healthy Aging Association at (209)525-4670

Celebrating our 20th year!!!



Gathered as One Body



On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 1, Christians across the globe gather at the Lord's Table for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord's Table stretches around the entire earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Evangelical Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names that are unfamiliar to us — all join in worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: remember him!

“This do in remembrance of me,” Jesus said during the Last Supper with his disciples. Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted the cup of wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice, love and forgiveness for each of us.

As we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace, remember that we are united in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. “In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north. All Christly souls are joined as one throughout the whole wide earth” (John Oxenham).
Thank you, Lord!

Joy in the Word of God



Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows

only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—The Table Talk of Martin Luther

Kid's Page

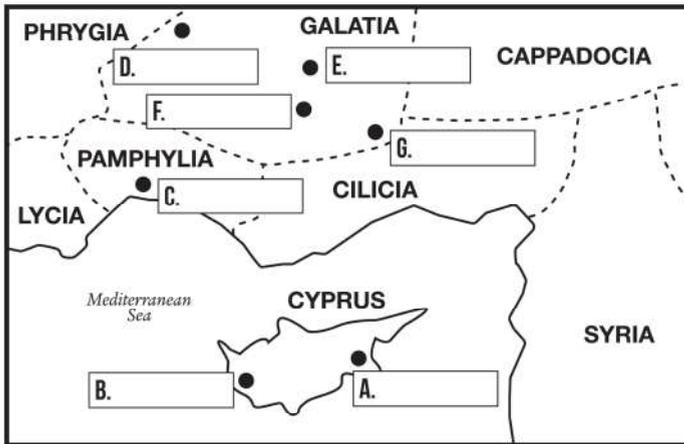
PUZZLE CITY SEARCH

God used Paul to spread the Gospel to many cities during his first missionary journey. Can you find them all?

Directions: From the fragments, guess each city and locate it on the map. Use the Bible references to help.



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. SALAMIS (ACTS 13:5) | E. ICONIUM (ACTS 13:51) |
| B. PAPHOS (ACTS 13:6) | F. LYSTRA (ACTS 14:6) |
| C. PERGA (ACTS 13:13) | G. DERBE (ACTS 14:6) |
| D. ANTIOCH (ACTS 13:14) | |



Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe



CREATION CARE

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 like our vegetable garden.

Starting a Ripple Effect

Shortly before his death, 80-year-old farmer Hody Childress asked his daughter to continue a practice he'd quietly conducted for years: taking a \$100 bill to a local pharmacist on the first of every month. For years, Childress anonymously came to the aid of neighbors in Geraldine, Alabama, who couldn't afford medications. "Don't tell a soul where the money came from," he instructed store owner Brooke Walker. "If they ask, just tell them it's a blessing from the Lord."

Thanks to the farmer's generosity, Walker could fill prescriptions for about 24 uninsured or underinsured people each year. "I was honored he allowed me to do that," she said, "and it really encouraged me to do the same in my life."

Childress wasn't wealthy but "always gave what he could," said daughter Tania Nix. "I think he felt like he couldn't not give," she added. "Giving that way, that just got on his heart." After word spread about Childress' generosity, other people were inspired to perform stealth outreach and a fund was established in his name.

A man in Oklahoma who shares Childress' surname said a story about the farmer caught his attention. They're probably not related, he wrote, but he'd feel proud if they were. "A man like that surely tried to follow the example of Jesus," the Oklahoman wrote, and "[his] story inspires me to be a better man."

—adapted from The Wired Word





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

Armed Forces



- | | |
|---|---|
| Tom Allen , Wyoming Air National Guard | Jenavieve Johnston , U. S. Air Force |
| Melissa Allen , U. S. Air Force | Jorgito Fuentes , U. S. Navy |
| Brandon Alonzo , U. S. Air Force | Johnny Olmos , U. S. Coast Guard |
| Christopher Bradley , U. S. Navy | Cole Medeiros , U. S. Navy |
| T. J. Browning , U. S. Navy | Nate Wallace , U. S. Air Force R |
| Jay Colón , U. S. Air Force | Carson Repan , U. S. Air Force |
| Brandon Cox , Texas Air National Guard | |

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.*

October Birthdays

- Ellen Bell - 6
- Howard Grieshaber - 8
- Rosanne Mountain - 21
- David Lowe - 22
- Daniel Cox - 26
- Victoria Cassagio - 31



October Anniversaries

- Abel & Darcee Maestas - 12

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



Church office hours
By appointment only.

October 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				

- Oct 1 Sunday School starts
- Oct 9 Indigenous Peoples Day
- Oct 13 Healthy Aging Summit
- Oct 15 Start of Stewardship Campaign, Rooted in Abundance
- Oct 28 Fabulous Freak Show
- Oct 29 Reformation Sunday
- Oct 31 Reformation Day
- Nov 1 All Saints Day
- Nov 2 All Souls Day
- Nov 4 Set your clocks back before you go to bed
- Nov 5 Celebration of All Saints Day
- Nov 5 Salvation Army Shelter Dinner
- Nov 18 Ukraine Christmas Card Day 10 to noon
- Dec 9-10 Cookie Walk



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

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Then click on videos.



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





The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Oct 3, 2023, Volume 14, Number 10 October

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267

Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail Addresses

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Chuck Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

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Sarah Hartmann

Finance Committee
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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)

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. You can
find a link to the live stream on our
webpage

Sunday School during the Homily

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

