

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



November Issue

November 9, 2023

November 1st marks All Saints Day on the liturgical calendar of the Church, and the evening before is known as All Hallows' Eve, or All the Holy Eve. While the commercialized world has turned Halloween into a time of decorations, parties, costumes, and over-consumption of food and drink, I prefer to think of the original meaning of All Saints Day as a time to remember all of the saints that have gone before us.

Many may think of Saints as certain people whom the Church has recognized over the millennia as worthy of their spot in the Kingdom of Heaven, but St. Paul considered all of those people following the Way of Jesus as Saints: "To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints..." [Romans 1:7]

I've been thinking recently of a classmate of mine who journeyed with me through 8 years of Catholic grammar school, and 4 more years of an all-boys Catholic high school. Tom Smith was the shortest boy in our grammar school class, and I was the 2nd shortest, so when we lined up he was always first and I was second.

To overcome his shortness of stature Tom was driven to be the best in whatever sports and games he focused his energies on. In high school he played football with an all-out attitude, and in track he ran his heart out.

In grammar school once he challenged me to a race on the ¼ mile track next to the school. I said sure, and he yelled "Go!" While I was pacing my-

self running at a comfortable rate anticipating a long run and catching up to him, Tom ran like it was the 100 meter dash. Half way around the track, rather than me catching up to Tom, he was already across the finish line and threatening to lap me before I crossed the line. Increasing my speed, I ended up barely finishing ahead of Tom's 2nd lap!

When we graduated high school, I was drifting along trying to overcome my broken experience of childhood, while Tom joined the Marines—just the place that challenges you to be your best. Over the course of the next 7 years Tom excelled in the Marine Corp rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant—quite the feat as I've heard from other Marines.

In service to his country, Tom was sent on a peace-keeping mission overseas. He was one of the 221 Marines killed by terrorists in the embassy bombing in Beirut, Lebanon on October 23, 1983, 40 years ago last month. Tom gave his life serving our country while trying to stop a senseless war in a Middle Eastern country ravaged by terrorists.

Tom took his desires and talents and used them the best he could to serve others in a broken world. Tom is surely one of those many Saints already in the next life.

I also think of my sister Mel, who suffered with me through a difficult childhood, developed juvenile diabetes, lost her eyesight, and had kidney failure in her early 20's. At age 25 Mel was the only survivor out of 10 people who had experimental surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital to replace her kidney and pancreas. Mel was unable to work and suffered numerous health problems but used her time to advocate for the elderly citizens of our town who lived with sub-standard living conditions and care. Mel died in 2007 but is surely one of the many Saints in the next life.

Author David Viscott wrote "The purpose of life is to discover your gift; the work of life is to develop it; and the meaning of life is to give your gift away." Isn't this what Tom and Mel did? This seems to me to be the work of all of us living Saints who follow Jesus: to find how each one of us can make a difference of some kind in the life of this broken world.

Let us take the time to remember all the Saints, even those we know, and then take inspiration to follow in the Way of Jesus. Amen.

Deacon Greg

November Ministry Schedule

	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn	Rev. Kathie Rev. Kathie	Rev. Kathie Dcn. Greg
Acolytes	Judy T Nancy S	Judy T Nancy S	Nancy S Jim P	Jim P Annamary
Lectors	Barbara V Steph G	Sarah H Judy T	Ann M Steph HW	Linda L Christine J
Intercessor	Nancy S	Sarah H	Linda L	Roberta B
Greeters	Ishmael H Susan S	Christine J Claudine R	Phil M Sarah H	Claudine R Christine J
Ushers	Ishmael H Phil M	David L Claudine M	Phil M Sarah H	Claudine R David L
Vestry Rep	Nancy S	Sarah H	Linda L	Roberta B



Salvation Army Shelter Dinner

The next time that the Salvation Army Dinner Team will cook and serve dinner at the Shelter in downtown Modesto will be Sunday, November 19th. We will be making one of our favorite casseroles, Hot Chicken Salad. Dinner will include rolls, steamed mixed vegies, apple dump cake and milk. We continue to serve 120-140 guests and staff, regardless of the weather.

For the team, meeting the people and providing delicious meals that are appreciated by all is a great blessing. 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.

Vestry Member Announcement

In a few short months we will convene the Annual Meeting to do a variety of important things in the life of the parish. One of the parts of the Meeting is to elect new Vestry Members. There will be several openings for 3-year terms, beginning in January 2024.

To be elected to the Vestry a member must:

- ◆ Be a baptized and confirmed or received member of the church
- ◆ Pledge financially to support St. Paul's, with a commitment to fulfill that pledge
- ◆ Agree to complete the Praesidium Academy on-line program
- ◆ Participate in the life of the church with regular attendance and assist with ministries

Contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com for more details and to receive an application.

Financial Report for September 2023

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-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	11,817.04
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	8,500.00
Fundraisers:	0.00	257.66	0.00	0.00	72.44	573.80	193.00	42.00	97.00
Outreach:	0.00	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	50,998.43
Total Income:	27,504.00	21,466.59	27,443.90	23,453.04	25,589.02	21,138.97	24,849.41	23,641.08	71,506.41
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	18,171.69
Net									
Income/loss:	2,624.49	-1,147.82	-7,335.46	-3,098.39	7,104.62	1,351.55	329.08	1,426.48	53,334.72

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.

Munchies are needed for this event. If you can help, please contact Linda Lowe 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com to sign up.



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.

Take Time to Recharge

“Then Jesus said, ‘Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.’ He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat” (Mark 6:31, NLT). Can you relate? Especially during the holidays, we’re “coming and going” so much that we often run out of steam.

As an introvert, I learned an important lesson while navigating a busy graduation season for my son. I was happy to host a celebration for family and friends, but about 20 minutes into the party, fatigue clouded my spirit. My social battery was empty and desperately needed charging.

I sought out my cousin — who “gets” me — and admitted I needed a break. He kindly replied, “Then go into another room and just be. We’ve got things covered.” I was heard and assured that it was okay to press pause. Even Jesus and his disciples sought privacy and rest.

In what ways do you need a break today? Even if you’re an extrovert, how can you care for your whole self during the holiday rush? Pay attention and give yourself permission to proactively recharge your battery.

—Janna Firestone





• 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.

Knit 1 Pray 2

Winter is coming and now is the time to learn how to Knit or Crochet.

Come join us during the Coffee Hour after the Sunday Service, on Nov 19th to learn how to make a bookmark. We have yarn, needles and an excellent teacher. Come and have fun and join our group at Coffee Hour Nov 19th

Gayle Ivy



Halloween Party Photos





Prayer and Praise

as of 11-9-2023

- ☞ Praise that Deacon George is feeling stronger.
- ☞ Please pray for healing and comfort for the following people:

Charles Palmer & Colby
Theresa Grieshaber
Craig Persons
Pam, Mike and John Cox
Christine Judd
Suzy Cano
Elaine Paradis
Carol Collier
David West
Susan Sell
Linda's Aunt Mudge
Deacon George (he is doing better)
Robin Magenot

Sarah Manfredoni
Winchester's daughter Suzanne
Ann Mootz's sister-in-law
The Munroes
Bonnie Palmer
Michael Thorington
Barbara Weeden
Leslie Littlefield
Al Spina, Hospice
Sheri, the Bearden's daughter
Claudia Miller's daughter in Hospice
Darla Davisson
Sharon Andrew's daughter-in-law

- ☞ Susan Sell's son Bryce for strength.
 - ☞ Please pray for those in war torn areas everywhere; Ukraine, Holy Land, Gaza, Palestine and Afghanistan.
 - ☞ Please pray for the country of Ukraine and all the residents for peace and healing.
 - ☞ Please pray for the people of Hawaii, especially the victims of the wild-fires on Maui.
 - ☞ Pray for the leaders of all nations for wisdom.
- Please see Jeni's weekly email for the entire list.

Shower Shuttle

Thank you to all who have and hopefully will, bring donations for the Shower Shuttle. What is the Shower Shuttle/Laundry Shuttle? The Shower and Laundry Shuttles are operated by The Church in the Park and are retrofitted very large vans that allow people to shower and to wash their clothing. The Shower Shuttle is available on Tuesday mornings at the Modesto Gospel Mission and the Laundry one on Wednesday mornings. Our donations help to serve the people who use their facilities - the underserved and the unsheltered. They arrive by foot, bike, pushing carts, pulling wagons, and in cars they are sleeping in. The Church in the Park staff provide some toiletries for them as well as new sox and underwear when they are available. They serve approximately 35 to 45 people each Tuesday and Wednesday. Our donations help with that mission - to provide people the opportunity to brush their teeth, shave, and put on a fresh pair of sox after showering etc.

There is a laundry basket on the table by the Church's front door for donations. Items such as safety razors, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sox, underwear for men and women are always appreciated.

In addition, two St. Paul's parishioners are preparing 100 gift packs to be given out during the holidays to the unsheltered. If you would like to join in the blessing of giving out a gift pack to someone living on the street, please let me know and I would be happy to provide you with a gift pack.

Thank you again for your continued generous support for the least among us.

Blessings, Judy Thorkelson,
jthork2404@aol.com/209-531-5513



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, October 2023

The Vestry met via Zoom, Thursday, October 26th. Here's a brief re-cap of items discussed:

- ◇ A ministry named "Outreach to the Unsheltered" currently being done by Judy Thorkelson and Rex Adamson, with donations of supplies from parishioners, was approved as an official ministry of the church.
- ◇ The Minutes for the September Vestry Meeting were approved.
- ◇ The Profit and Loss Statement for August 2023 was approved as presented. Due to continuing generous support from the congregation and careful use of resources, all obligations continue to be met.
- ◇ The CD that came due earlier in the month was approved to be rolled into a new CD that will give a higher interest rate.
- ◇ Assistance with doing the Sunday Offering Count is needed. Contact Stephanie Gilmer for more information.
- ◇ Sarah Hartmann reported that the Stewardship Campaign has started. The In-gathering celebration will be November 5th.
- ◇ Junior Warden's Report: Carolyn List reported that the chains to close off the front parking lot except during church events have been installed. The front glass doors of the church have been replaced and other doors have been repaired.
- ◇ A bid to network the office computers was approved.
- ◇ Sunday School has started! Helpers are always needed. Contact Chuck Sheaffer for details.

Events

1. Annual Diocesan Convention, November 10-11, at ECCO. Delegates include Claudine Romegialli and Sarah Hartmann.
2. 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.

Please continue to pray for the Vestry/Search Committee.

Kid's Page



THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

This becomes a plant _____



Willing to give _____

The result of planting seeds _____



The act of gratitude _____

Food made from wheat _____



Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also



supply and increase your store of _____ and will enlarge the _____



of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

_____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



in _____ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV



Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!



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

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.

November Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sharon Hawley-Crum - 1 | Norm vanSpronsen - 18 |
| Daniel Marrujo - 2 | Nell Gerber - 19 |
| Murry Ivy- 3 | Jim Peck - 22 |
| Judy Teter - 7 | Mike Cox - 23 |
| Carol Collier - 9 | Jim Bland - 27 |
| Mary Griffin - 12 | Marti Persons - 28 |
| Abel Maestas - 15 | Anthony Marrujo - 29 |

November Anniversaries

- George & Paige Cano - 2
- Luis & Doug - 11
- Ed & Roberta Bearden - 25

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



UPCOMING EVENTS



Church office hours
8:30-1:30 Mon-Thurs

November 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		

Gentle Reminder

- 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 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov 18 Ukraine Christmas Card Day 10 to noon
- Nov 19 Salvation Army Shelter Dinner
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 26 Christ the King Sunday
- Dec 9-10 Cookie Walk

Jeni Statzer, our Parish Administrator, keeps track of the calendar for all church events. If anyone wants to use any part of the facility, please contact Jeni at the church office, 209-522-3267. Jeni's hours are 8:30-1:30, Monday-Thursday, and she is always happy to talk with you all. This applies to events on weekdays as well as week-ends. It is always wonderful to have our facility used..... coordination is essential. Thanks for everyone's cooperation.



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

Nov 9, 2023, Volume 14, Number 11 November

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267

Office Hours: 8:30-1:30 Mon - Thurs

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, jltp@sbcglobal.net

St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletins

Cherie Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

St. Paul's Web Page & Social Media

Greg Maszta, gregmasz@gmail.com

St. Paul's Event Coordinator

Tracy Pugh, vinofileinca@gmail.com

Stewardship Campaign

Sarah Hartmann

Finance Committee

Judy Teter, 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

Jr. Warden - Carolyn List

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

