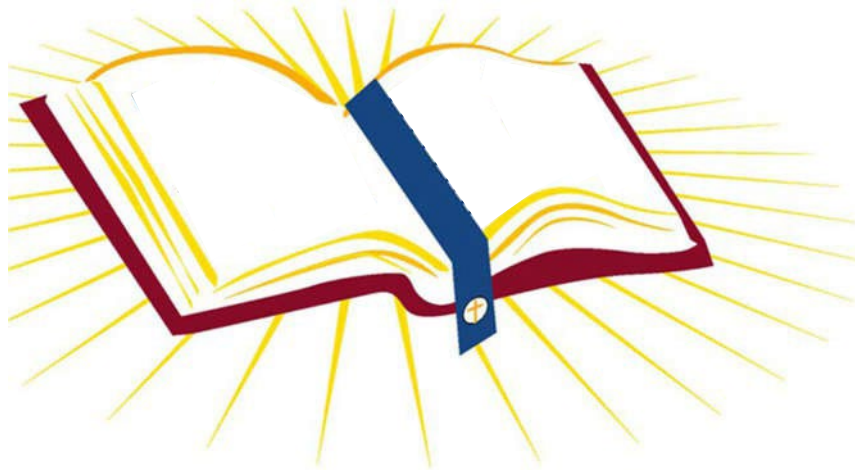


St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

April Issue

April 14, 2024



Easter Practice

I wrote the following when we were still in the Lenten Season, but even now it still makes me think:

A couple days ago I was attending a meeting and during the break the question came up “For the Roman Catholics in the room, what are you giving up for Lent”. One said they were giving up candy, another that they were giving up on-line gambling, and the one who had asked wasn’t sure (four weeks into Lent!?).

I didn’t answer since the line of questioning intentionally left me out, as the group knew I was a Deacon in the Episcopal Church, but it made me realize the change in my own practice of Lent since “crossing the Tiber” (as they say when you switch from Roman Catholic to Anglican).

For years I struggled with Lent in my old Roman faith, failing to see the point of “giving up” something during Lent, and then rushing back into it once Easter hit. It felt like someone who had given up drinking, and then once reaching a certain calendar date going on a binge for a week. It felt like there was somehow a flaw in the practice, but I couldn’t see what the flaw was.

Since moving to the Episcopal Church my perspective of God has changed, along with my practice of Lent. Whereas the old way was about giving up something, my new practice is promoting an internal change by working on my relationship with our Creator. Rather than setting something aside, I have come to “adding something” into my spiritual practice.

Each morning I pray the Daily Office, enjoying the readings of the psalms and parts of Scripture while trying to hang onto some piece of the readings of the day. A few months back I came across a prayer book for the Liturgy of the Hours from the Roman Rite, which our own Daily Office was developed from.

For Lent I decided to add the Office of Readings from that Rite onto my Morning Prayer, which has been challenging since the Office of Readings service is spread across multiple sections of that book. (Think the BCP on steroids!) After weeks of flipping, I was able to find the flow of the prayer thanks to an app on my phone.

The extra time I've spent in conversations with God have been remarkable. I'm praying through two traditions, but that difference makes my usual way of praying seem like something new, as if taking a break from meat and potatoes every night by eating chicken makes the meat and potato taste that much better.

Lent isn't about "giving up" something, as much as it is about taking something on, specifically, deepening our relationship with our brother Jesus. Having a God who cares so much about humanity that She sends her only Son Jesus to face the same tribulations and trials we face in this life brings us a relationship that is on a person-to-person basis. God cares deeply for each one of us, and fully understands the troubles we live through.

Loneliness and despair are diminished when you have a grip on our brother Jesus. In our Easter season it's not too late to take something on that deepens your faith.

Dcn. Greg



Altar Flowers For 2024

The 2024 altar flower donation list is now posted in the narthex. You may sign up on the list or send a request to carolynlist@sbcglobal.net.

The donation amount remains \$35.00. When you donate, your name and the memory, celebration, or honor of your person or event is printed in the weekly Service Bulletin so the congregation can observe with you.



I'm thrilled to share the latest updates from the Anti-Racism Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin. As we press forward on our path towards justice and inclusivity, the commission is boldly addressing systemic racism to cultivate a more equitable and compassionate community within our diocese.

Launched in October 2020 under the guidance of Bishop David and Canon Anna, the Anti-Racism Commission (ARC) has been meeting consistently. Bishop David set the tone at our inaugural meeting, instructing us to identify local advocates in each faith community, connect the commission's work to congregations, provide education and advocacy opportunities, offer resources, and support to local congregations, and encourage action rooted in the gospel. Over the past three years, commission members have tirelessly responded to the bishop's call.

To extend our reach beyond church walls, we're actively collaborating with local community organizations that share our dedication to anti-racism. By working together, we aim to magnify our impact and foster positive change in the wider community. The Commission has established partnerships with the Northern California Vivian Traylor Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians to celebrate the Feast Day of Absalom Jones in February and Juneteenth annually. Additionally, we observe Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March, with open invitations to the diocese. Our commitment extends to providing financial support for the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta, Georgia.

Here's how you can be part of this crucial journey:

1. **Participate in Webinars and Events:** Join services and events hosted or promoted by ARC to deepen your understanding of racism and its implications. Keep an eye out for announcements in your parish newsletter or on the diocesan website.
2. **Support Community Initiatives:** Stay informed about local anti-racism initiatives and actively support organizations working towards justice in our community.
3. **Engage in Dialogue:** Foster open and honest conversations about racism within your faith community. Listen to diverse perspectives and work towards understanding and unity.

Looking ahead, the Anti-Racism Commission is energized by the positive changes already occurring within our diocese. Nevertheless, we recognize that the work is ongoing, and there is much more to be done. Together, as a faith community, we can shape a more just and inclusive Diocese of San Joaquin.

We encourage you to reach out to our commission with your thoughts, questions, and ideas. Let's embark on this journey together, hand in hand, as we strive to build a church where all are truly welcome.

In Christ's love,
Barbara Vassell, Anti-Racism Commission 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.

Fr. Brian Dawson Update

We continue to be excited about calling Fr. Brian Dawson to be our new priest. As stated previously, the Diocese must go through the process of requesting a work visa for Fr. Brian. The required documents have been filed with the federal government, Fr. Brian is handling the requests on his end, and we are in a waiting period.

We are looking forward to the start of his contract with St. Paul's by mid-summer.

Warm Feet at the Shower Shuttle



Thanks to the generosity of people at St. Paul's, over 85 unsheltered men and women had warm socks for the holidays. I was blessed to bring a very large box of a great variety of socks to share with the guests at the Shower Shuttle. Because there was an abundance, guests were able to choose their own pair. Eyes were bright and smiles large as they looked through the many styles, colors, and textures. The toiletries and other items were also greatly appreciated.

Thank you, St. Paul's, for your continued support and caring for the least among us.

Blessings,

Judy Thorkelson



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 future vegetable garden.



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The Shepherd (John 10:3-5)

The sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:3-5)

Financial Report

	Jan-24	Feb-24
Operating Income:	18,280.01	13,865.82
Facility Use:	7,950.00	6,000.00
Fundraisers:	0.00	0.00
Outreach:	0.00	0.00
Restricted Income:	30,630.00	792.00
Total Income:	56,860.01	20,657.82
Expenses:	31,753.31	21,581.32
Net Income/loss:	25,106.70	-923.50

April Ministry Schedule

Dates	April 7th	April 14th	April 21st	April 28th
Clergy	Fr. Dondi	Morning Prayer- Nancy S	Rev. Kathie	Rev. Lyn Dc. Greg
Acolytes	Judy T. Nancy S.		Judy T. Nancy S.	Jim & Annamary P.
Eucharistic Minister	Rex A.		Stephanie G.	Judy T.
Lectors	Stephanie H.-W. Ann M.	Alex S. Barbara V.	Stephanie G. Christine J.	Linda L. Rex A.
Intercessor	Judy T.	Lora B.	Nancy S.	Luis M.
Ushers	Claudine R, Greg B	Phil M, David L	Carolyn L, Claudine R	Phil M, David L
Greeters	Claudine R, Greg B	Phil M, Christine J	Carolyn L, Claudine R	Phil M, Christine J.
Vestry Rep	Judy T.	Lora B.	Nancy S.	Luis M.

The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 10:11-18



P E P F E L D W S R L G F T T
 T B F L O C K P K M I U W E J
 Q V C Q K N O W F L F R I A Y
 L N B F O O H P J O E Q U T I
 Z G N L Q R I D Q V U C W N S
 A A I G O O D S T E T S A L S
 O S T M S J C N H S S D M L T
 B F G S R C Y Y Z E V R S I K
 D W E O H C A R E S E K H S A
 A O Q J B E O T M V C P C T K
 P L D V E F P Q T A R E T E T
 E F O O D H E H T E P K H N V
 N B G I S C U T E Q R A Y B S
 K G E C G B A O T R L S C V V
 U M R E Q O A T H D D D K X W

LISTEN	SHEEP	LOVES	WOLF	FLOCK
ATTACKS	CARES	PEN	GOOD	RUNS
SCATTERS	VOICE	SHEPHERD	LIFE	KNOW

What's New at St. Paul's

- ✓ The zoom meeting with Fr. Brian Dawson occurred Saturday, March 23rd. Fr. Brian introduced himself, his wife Rev. Karen Matthews, and dog, Wicket, to 35 attendees. They are looking forward to their time in Central California, potentially beginning August 1st. Prayers for a smooth immigration transition are greatly appreciated.
- ✓ Cables across the front parking lot have been upgraded and are functioning as expected. Other building issues have been handled.
- ✓ The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show on February 13th was delicious, fun, and enriching. Thanks to the kitchen crew, Chuck with his jokes and talents, and all who came to celebrate St. Paul's members. It was a special time.
- ✓ The Sunday School participants enjoyed pizza, fun and fellowship, March 2nd.
- ✓ Rex Adamson, his wife Yvonne, and volunteers wrote and addressed Ukrainian Easter cards to members of the U.S. House of Representatives. These cards thanked the representatives for their support for Ukraine.
- ✓ Holy Week and Easter services were a blessing for all who attended in person and via the web.

Vestry meetings are usually held the 4th Thursday monthly at 6:30 pm and are open for anyone to attend. The meetings are virtual meetings. Contact Linda Lowe in the church office, 209-522-3267, or @stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com for the zoom link.





Prayer and Praise April 13, 2024

Updates

- Praise and Thanksgiving to God and His healing and blessings for our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Please continue to pray for the Bishop and family.
- Praise and Thanksgiving for Michael Thorington's healing.
- ♦ Praise and Thanksgiving to God and His work and blessings in Linda Lowe's brother, Ralph's life.
- Praise and Thanksgiving to God for His healing and blessings for Ed Bearden. Please continue to pray for Ed and family.

Praise and Thanksgiving

- ♦ Praise and Thanksgiving for the Beloved Community of St. Paul's.

Healing and Comfort

- Pray for Cherie Sheaffer for healing, strength, and comfort. Please prayer for the family for strength, comfort, and peace.
- Pray for Ryan Anderson, Brandi Anderson's husband, for healing, strength, and comfort. Please keep Brandi in prayer for strength, comfort, and peace
- Pray for Mary Kinnaman for healing, strength, and comfort on her health journey.
- Pray for Deacon George Cano for continued healing, strength, and comfort.
- Pray for Claudine Romegialli for continued healing, strength, and comfort.
- ♦ Pray for Enrique Perez for continued healing. Please continue to pray for Enrique's family for healing, comfort, and strength.
- Pray Mary Griffin for healing, strength, and comfort.
- ♦ Pray for Pam and Mike Cox for healing, comfort, and peace. Please hold additional
- ♦ prayers for Mike and family.
- ♦ Suzy Cano prayers for healing, comfort, strength, and peace.
- ♦ Continued prayers for Ann Mootz's sister-in-law for endurance, strength, and a complete recovery. She is awaiting to be placed on the transplant list. Please pray for peace for her family and friends.
- ♦ Elaine Paradis, please pray strength.
- ♦ Prayer for Aunt Mudge, Linda Lowe's Blessed Aunt, for healing and comfort.
- ♦ Please pray for the those in war torn areas everywhere; Ukraine, Holy Land,

Gaza, Palestine, and Afghanistan.

- ◆ Please pray for the people of Hawaii, especially the victims of the wildfires on Maui.
- ◆ Please pray for Ken and Trish Hart for healing, comfort, and peace.
- Please pray for Kristina and Rozy Frias for healing, comfort, and peace. Pray for Kristina for success in her job search.
- Please pray for Ismael Huggins for healing, comfort, and peace as he is dealing with health issues.
- Please pray for Mary Su's Mother, thanksgiving for her continued healing, comfort, and peace.
- Please pray for Melanie Mayfield a prior parishioner for a new living arrangement and healing for her husband John.
- Please pray for the American people to listen to Gods will on their hearts and do unto others as they would want done to them and their families.

Safe Travel

- ◆ Please pray for all travelers as journey to and from their destinations.

Prayers for Thanksgiving for our Priest due in August.

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



I would like to update the Armed Forces name list, so if you have a name on the list, please check it out and let me know if they are no longer in the armed forces. If you have a family member that has joined the armed forces and their name isn't on the list, please send me the information so I can add them.



The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

April 12, 2024, Volume 15, Number 3 April

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267

Office Hours: 8:30-1:30 Mon – Thurs

Pastoral Team

Archdeacon Emeritus, George Cano
Deacon Greg Masztal
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E-mail Addresses

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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, deacongreg66@outlook.com

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

Stewardship Campaign
Sarah Hartmann

Finance Committee
Carolyn List, carolynlist@sbcglobal.net

Safeguarding God's Children/People
Stephanie Gilmer

Vestry Members

Senior Warden - Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937
lwlowe@outlook.com

Jr. Warden - Judy Teter

Treasurer - Stephanie Gilmer (non-vestry)
Lora Burnett

Sarah Hartmann

Ismael Huggins

Luis Martinez

Ann Mootz

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 Modes

