

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

June Issue



Last month I travelled to Connecticut for two weeks for work, a place where I grew up. While I was there, I had a chance to visit the high school I attended, and, of course, to visit the graves of my dad and my sister, Mel.

Back in my youth over 50 years ago (although I continue to celebrate my 39th birthday ala Jack Benny) Middletown was separated into different immigrant communities: the Irish, the Italians, the Polish, etc. Each had their own Roman Catholic Church, and each Church had its own cemetery. As time went on love overcame these boundaries and the lines between communities slowly began to blur and fade.

As I drove through the cemetery to visit family graves, I noticed all the family names I recognized from my youth. I could see the faces of people from these families from a community I had known over 50 years ago. As it's said, "Time marches on."

I also noticed the occasional Italian or Irish names on the tombstones, and the younger, Polish-raised youth in me wondered, "How did they get in here?" Isn't it funny how these ethnic distinctions from long ago can still sit in the shadows of one's mind? How trivial these distinctions now seem a half century later, and how meaningless as one walks through a graveyard. It surely doesn't matter to God which community these people belonged to!

Each of these immigrant communities came to this country with a sense of pride in who they were, yet looking to be a part of the American Dream that enticed them to work hard to make something of themselves and build a new life for their families.

All these communities suffered discrimination, ridicule, and exploitation by other immigrant communities who had come before. Yet each had persevered to build a new life, and to build this country. In contributing to this country these communities also contributed the

ultimate sacrifice of many of their children who went on to fight and die in the Civil War, WWI, WWII, and so many other conflicts.

As I walked through the field of tombstones that day it occurred to me that over time the children of these immigrants eventually dissolved the barrier between communities, not through an enforced assimilation, but through the simple love between men and women, a love that was given to us by our Creator. It is not man-made rules that win in the end, but only the love God showers on each one of us.

When I look around today at recent immigrants who live around us, I see the same work ethic that drove my father to build a new life for our family. While I'm frustrated with the brokenness of our immigration system, I'm compelled by God's law to welcome all strangers around us while praying that politicians will one day find a solution that will allow all those who are contributing to the common good of our society to remain here as citizens.

A walk through a graveyard, a memory of things past, and a recognition of how things have changed have opened for me a new understanding of the ultimate wisdom of God. May every one of you be touched by the Spirit of Wisdom.

Peace,
Greg



Cemetery in Middletown CT – Source Wikimedia Commons

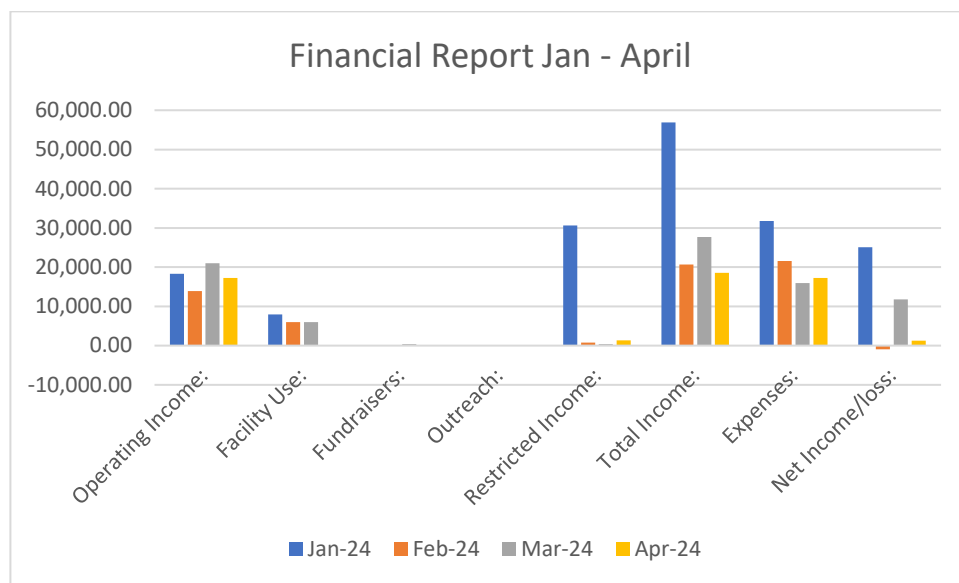
Ministry Schedule, June 2024

Dates	June 2nd	June 9th	June 16th	June 23rd	June 30th
Clergy	Fr. Dondi	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Kathie Dc. Greg	Rev. Lyn	Bishop David
Acolytes	Judy T.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Nancy S. Judy T.	Jim P. Nancy S.
Eucharistic Minister	Judy T.	Nancy S.	Nancy S.	Judy T.	Stephanie G.
Lectors	Stephanie H-W Ann M.	Alex S. Barbara V.	Stephanie H-W Christine J.	Linda L. Barbara V.	Stephanie G. Alex S.
Intercessor	Luis	Nancy	Lora	Sarah	Ann
Ushers	David L. Susan S.	Claudine R. David L.	Carolyn L. Greg B.	Carolyn L. David L.	Phil M. Claudine R.
Greeters	Susan S. David L.	Christine J. Claudine R.	Carolyn L. Greg B.	Christine J. Carolyn L.	Phil M. Claudine R.
Vestry Rep.	Luis	Nancy	Lora	Sarah	Ann

Financial Report

April 2024 Approved Budget Summary

	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24
Operating Income:	18,280.01	13,865.82	21,009.17	17,231.30
Facility Use:	7,950.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Fundraisers:	0.00	0.00	365.80	0.00
Outreach:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restricted Income:	30,630.00	792.00	323.00	1,302.17
Total Income:	56,860.01	20,657.82	27,697.97	18,533.47
Expenses:	31,753.31	21,581.32	15,907.71	17,278.79
Net Income/loss:	25,106.70	-923.50	11,790.26	1,254.68



Graphical display of financial report, January -April 2024



UC Berkeley Graduate



Picture taken from UC Berkeley graduation 2024

The UC Berkeley 2024 graduation ceremony was a memorable and joyous occasion, marking the culmination of years of hard work and dedication by the students. Held at the renowned Zellerbach Hall, the ceremony celebrated the achievements of graduates across various disciplines.

The event featured inspiring speeches from university officials, esteemed alumni, and guest speakers. There were heartfelt moments as graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, cheered on by family, friends, and faculty members.

One of the standout graduates was Clara Cahoon Silva, who graduated with honors in both history and political science. Clara's dedication to her studies and her exceptional academic performance were recognized and celebrated during the ceremony. Graduating with honors in two demanding majors is a remarkable achievement, I am incredibly proud of her success.

Congratulations to Clara and all the graduates of the Class of 2024!

Extremely proud Grandma, Diane Keller

Salvation Army Shelter Dinner, Sunday May 26th

The Shelter Dinner Team cooked and served dinner, May 26th to 130 guests and staff at the shelter for unhoused people. The menu included chicken pot pie, salad, rolls & butter, peach casserole with whipped cream and milk.

Prayer support, with various forms of assistance, is always greatly appreciated.

For the team, meeting the people and providing the meals is a great blessing. One comment that we received included a statement that the guest could tell that the meal was made with love. Another comment came from a woman that has digestive issues. She stated that she was pleased that she could eat everything on the menu. These guests each said they hope we come back soon.

The next dinner will be July 21st. Please contact [Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937](mailto:Linda.Lowe@salvationarmy.org) or lwlowe@outlook.com for more information.



Graduations and Celebrations

Let's all celebrate everyone that has completed their studies or is ready to start a new chapter in their life. Send information and pictures about graduations and other special events to the church office, stpaulsmoestoca@gmail.com, or 1528 Oakdale Rd, Modesto, 95355.



What's New at St. Paul's

- ✓ Minutes from the April 25, 2024, meeting and financial records were approved. Generous and consistent support from everyone has enabled us to meet our obligations. That support will be even more important as we begin to pay Fr. Brian.
- ✓ Fr. Brian joined the meeting and shared plans for his and Rev. Karen's move to our area in a few short months. See information about those plans on another page.
- ✓ The church roof has been repaired, including sealing an area where a leak occurred. The gutters on the school buildings have been cleaned and debris cleared from the parish hall roof.
- ✓ A grant from the Diocese will be used to replace the school roofs in late July.
- ✓ Repairs were made in the Men's Room in the Parish Hall.
- ✓ June 19-Juneteenth will be celebrated Diocesan-wide via a link to be provided.
- ✓ June 30-Bishop David will make his annual visit to St. Paul's. A special Coffee Hour will celebrate his time with us.
- ✓ Discussion regarding insurance policies-Several parishioners continue to need assistance with getting to church. Other parishioners are generously providing transportation and must understand that they are assuming the safety risk. Though they may be attending a church function, use of their personal car is not covered by the church insurance.

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.



Bibles and Inspirational Books

Recent “spring cleaning” around the church has revealed a treasure trove of Bibles and other inspirational books that are available to find their way to a good home. Available in the north bay through June 30th.....while supplies last!

The Vestry



Senior Warden: Linda Lowe

Jr. Warden: Judy Teter

Vestry Members: Sarah Hartmann, Ann Mootz, Luis Martinez, Ismael Huggins
Nancy Silva, Lora Burnett, and Chuck Sheaffer

Fr. Brian Dawson - News

In a few short weeks, Fr. Brian Dawson, his wife Rev. Karen Matthews and their dog, Wicket will be moving to the USA from New Zealand. Fr. Brian will be our new rector at St. Paul's while Rev. Karen will be serving the congregations in San Andreas and Sonora.

Considering the locations of the three congregations, they are looking at potential homes between Modesto and the Sierra foothills. They will be bringing only essential things with them-no furniture, etc. Their household needs will be dictated by the home that they find to rent. Anyone doing any spring cleaning and looking to relocate appropriate things? Contact the church office, 209-522-3267, before mid-July.

June 2024 – Birthdays

Stephanie Gilmer	June 2
Calvin Verges	June 3
Carolyn List	June 4
Vicky Diaz	June 6
Jeni Statzer	June 7
Isaac Su	June 14
Alexander Su	June 14
Paige Cano	June 16
Samantha Bland	June 18
Rossana Tamimi	June 19
Ann Marie Lorentz	June 20
Evie Heron-Olds	June 21
Ed Bearden	June 24



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Pride Month 2024



As our Welcoming Statement says, “We affirm that each person is a child of God, and that those of every race, ethnicity, creed, age, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation and gender identity are called to be one of us”. We celebrate Pride Month gladly.

Saturday, June 8th St. Paul’s was the scene for MoPride’s Pride Prom for local teenagers. Around 100 grateful teens danced, visited, and enjoyed a great Drag Show in the St. Paul’s Parish Hall. The staff and volunteers from MoPride transformed the hall into a magical space including a rainbow arch to welcome everyone, photo booth, lots of balloons, brightly decorated tables, food, “mocktails”, and great music.

One of the performers thanked the church for flying the Rainbow Flag, and was pleased to hear that we fly it year-round, not just during Pride Month. Other comments included appreciation for the safe space for the teens to enjoy themselves.

MoPride in the Park-September 28, 2024: Mark your calendars to help celebrate MoPride’s 10th Anniversary at this fun-filled event at Graceada Park, Modesto.

Linda Lowe

St. Paul's Calendar

June Events

Bishop David Rice Visit-Sunday, June 30, 10 am Worship Service, Coffee Hour

Regular Events

Tai Chi, Tuesday, and Thursday-9 am, Parish Hall-[Information - Healthy Aging Association, 209-525-4670](#)

Mid-Day Prayer & Jump Start Bible Study, Noon-Tuesday, *Guadalupe Chapel, Parish Hall*

Morning Prayer, Wednesday-10 am, *Zoom, St. Paul's Office, 209-522-3267* for [Zoom link](#)

Jump Start Bible Study, Thursday-2:30 pm, *Zoom, St. Paul's Office, 209-522-3267* for [Zoom link](#)

Book Club, First and Third Friday-10:30 am, *Zoom, St. Paul's Office, 209-522-3267* for [Zoom link](#)

Vestry Meeting, Fourth Thursday-6:30 pm, *Zoom, St. Paul's Office, 209-522-3267* for [Zoom link](#)

Ministries

Food Distribution, First Wednesday-10 am, *Parish Hall, [Information- St. Paul's Office, 209-522-3267](#)*

Knit One, Pray Too, Third Monday-1 pm, *Parish Hall Youth Room, [Information-Gayle Ivy-209-505-3142](#)*



Memorial Day

We meet early on Memorial Day, gather flowers, those we have grown are best, ferns and Baby's Breath, lament the lack of Hollyhocks, grandma's favorite, although once again it was we who didn't plant them, and make the rounds. The old cemetery first, hunting for graves the way we always do, "Is it in the third row or the fourth? ...must line up with that tree... remember? ... from last year." Then, our homage done, we drive to the new place, new still, my father counting all the graves he's bought and paid for, all the relatives he's buried at his own expense. "I should have bought an acre," he says, "when they opened this place up." And so we visit, place flowers, some in cans of water between headstones of those who once were parents or grandparents. It's a comfort somehow. Each year remembering the same things in the same way. Wondering aloud when we find a grave with flowers already placed, who it was had beat us there, were first, as if that were an unfair thing to do and not an honest care. Then, our visitation done, of aunts and uncles, ancestors now at peace, the infant niece, still grieved by young parents who will grieve the death forever, our little tribe begins to spread out, wandering the even rows of graves of strangers, remarking, "Here's one who served in WWI, and there one who died too soon," as one by one we go from graves that hold our oldest memories, to those we never knew at all. And holding nothing of the past, they bring us to the present, where we reclaim our lives again.

Ed Bearden



Prayer and Praise

May 26, 2024

Updates

- ◆ Praise and Thanksgiving to God and His work and blessings in Linda Lowe's brother, Ralph's life.

Praise and Thanksgiving

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

Healing and Comfort

- Pray for Howard Grieshaber for healing, strength, and comfort.
- Pray for Cherie Sheaffer for healing, strength, and comfort. Please prayer for the family for strength, comfort, and peace.
- Pray for Christine Judd for healing, strength, and comfort as she is facing new challenges.
- Pray for Ryan Anderson, for healing, strength, and comfort. Please keep Brandi in prayer for strength, comfort, and peace
- Pray for Mary Kinnaman continued healing, strength, and comfort.
- Pray for Deacon George Cano for continued healing, strength, and comfort.
- Pray for Claudine Romegialli, for continued healing, strength, and comfort.
- 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.
 - Pray for Pastor Joshua Trautmann for healing, comfort, strength, and peace.
 - Pray for peace, comfort, and success in Ally's job search.
 - Pray for peace, comfort, and success in Gabriel's job search
- ◆ 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 healing, strength, comfort, and peace.
- ◆ 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 Ismael Huggins for healing, comfort, and peace as he is dealing with health issues.
- 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.



Thank You Note from The Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus

Dear St. Paul's, Episcopal Church,

This will acknowledge your donation to The Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus in the amount of \$94.00 received on April 9, 2024.

Thank you for your generous support of our mission to feed and clothe the needy in our area.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wight, Chief Executive Officer



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
Frederick Campbell U.S. Air Force
Jay Colón, U. S. Air Force
Brandon Cox, Texas Air National Guard

Jorgito Fuentes, U. S. Navy
Jenavieve Johnston Campbell, U. S. Air Force
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 Linda Lowe know.



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.



The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

June 12, 2024, Volume 15, Number 5

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267

Office Hours: 8:30-1:30 Mon – Thurs

Pastoral Team

Archdeacon Emeritus, George Cano

Deacon Greg Masztal

deacongreg66@outlook.com

E-mail Addresses

Music Director, Organist & Choir

Chuck Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

Bell Choir Director

Judy Teter, jltpt@sbcglobal.net

St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletins

Cherie Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

St. Paul's Web Page & Social Media

Greg Masztal,

deacongreg66@outlook.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

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

