

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

August 2024 Issue



Last month Linda and I vacationed in Tucson, AZ, a time of year when most people are leaving the heat, but a time when we like to experience the monsoon season for the thunderstorms and the resulting bloom of the desert.

One of our cherished activities is the 8-mile loop drive inside Saguaro National Park which takes you to parking areas with views, some with picnic tables and benches, and others with trail heads that take you from the paved path. While hiking is definitely off our list in 110-degree temperatures, stopping at the picnic areas to just sit in the quiet is an experience we enjoy.



We turn off the car, grab our hats and water bottles (having smothered ourselves in sunscreen), and just go sit on a bench or picnic table to soak in the desert with our senses. Within a few minutes of quiet listening the insects and birds start singing—or maybe they were already singing but it took a few minutes for us to hear them!

Then we start noticing the lizards running about and doing pushups. A roadrunner scurries by apparently late for an appointment. A scorpion may wander about looking for a mid-morning snack (feet up in the air for us—not us, please!). We might see a cactus wren flittering in and out of its hideaway in a giant Saguaro Cactus.

The smell of the desert air after a rain is absolutely beautiful. The sound of creation around you alive in a seeming deserted place is entrancing. The feeling of the warm sun gives you new appreciation for the Native Americans who wandered the Sonoran Desert long before us. The taste of the dryness is a reminder of how critically important fresh water is for humans. The green of the plantings around us in this desert is a beautiful sight to behold.

In other words, the five senses are filled with the Creator's beautiful Creation, all experienced in the 15 or 20 minutes of quiet contemplation.

Suddenly in the midst of our meditation on Creation, desert life suddenly stops as a truck pulls up in the parking lot next to us, the driver hops out without turning off the vehicle leaving a diesel engine idling with its incessant knocking, takes a few pictures, looks at the seemingly crazy people sitting out in the desert, and then hops back in their truck to drive away. In a few short minutes they probably posted their video in a display of "Look! I was here", without realizing they missed 90% of the wonder that was standing right in front of them.

I realized that, too, was an example of God's Creation, but maybe not in the way life was intended. In the modern hurry of the point and click world, the 24-hour instant news blurbs, the 2-minute videos, the continuous scrolling looking for images—in other words, modern life as most people are experiencing it in front of screens—we have lost the awe and wonder of slowing down to listen to God acting in Creation in our very midst. How often have you stopped to listen recently?

One of my favorite times on vacation (other than spending time with my wife) is morning prayer in the small cactus garden. At the first light of dawn the birds start singing, the crickets are finishing their odes of the night, and a slight wind brushes lightly on the leaves of the trees. I take pauses in between prayers and readings to notice the Creation



around me. Even the three-barrel cacti and couple of desert grass plants have a plumpness from the summer rain and seem to be meditating on their own part in this corner of God's planet.

It is this quiet solitude that reconnects us with God, as we were meant to be in that first Garden of Eden. What if we are living right in the midst of the Garden, but it's our own focus on human distractions that leaves us sitting on the threshold, but lost in the doorway? I wonder how often Jesus and his disciples sat in the desert or wilderness looking up at the stars and listening to God and God's Creation around them.

Vacations are a respite from ordinary work for those who can afford it, but immersing ourselves in God's Creation is available to everyone of Jesus' followers. Is it a plant sitting right next to you in your home? Or a bird fluttering by your window? Or the contemplation of a tree, a sentinel and evidence of the beauty of God? With God's Kingdom within our hearts, God's Creation is just a mindfulness reach from our souls.

Peace,
Deacon Greg

Linda's Mixed Berry Jam 2024

Back by popular demand! Jam made from some of the best berries our valley produces! While supplies last, get an 8 oz. jar of jam for the bargain price of \$5. Also, a very limited supply of Mixed Berry Syrup in the 8 oz. jar for the same low price! Such a deal! Sorry....no Venmo or American Express cash or a check made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church with "jam" in the memo section. Contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com today!



Greetings Friends,

Well after many months of praying, planning, and preparing, here I am. It's been quite a move from New Zealand to California, not least in terms of temperature! But finally, I am here and ready to burst into action as the new Rector of St Paul's.

You will be hearing lots from me over coming weeks and months, but for now I just want to say a huge thank you for the warm welcome that my wife Karen, our fluffy dog Wicket, and I have received. We are already beginning to feel like we are home.

For those who don't already know, here's a quick bio:

Fr Brian Dawson, Episcopal Priest for the past 25 years. Coming from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia. Married to Rev'd Karen Matthews who is Priest in Charge at St Matthew's San Andreas and St James' Sonora. We have three adult children, all still in New Zealand but we're accompanied here by our Keeshond Wicket whom you will no doubt meet at some point.

Blessings to all as we embark on this new adventure together. I look forward to getting to know each other.

Grace and Peace

Fr Brian

Thank You Rev. Lyn Morlan, Fr. Dondi, Rev. Kathie Galicia

It has been over 2 ½ years since Fr. Nick Lorenzetti retired from his ministry at St.



Paul's. Thanks to Bishop David Rice and Canon Anna Carmichael for their direction to bring Rev. Lyn Morlan, Fr. Edward Dondi, and Rev. Kathie Galicia to St. Paul's. Their prayerful consideration and direction helped us complete the search and call Fr. Brian Dawson as our new Priest-in-Charge.

During those years we have been encouraged, fed spiritually, inspired, and blessed by the ministries of these servants of God. They served along

with Deacon Greg Maszta, Deacon George Cano, and the willing parish volunteers to be able to continue our various ministries in the church and in the community.

They have helped us weather the usual challenges of parish life and helped us continue to care for each other and our community. Because of their time with us we are poised to see how God will continue to use us as lights to the Modesto region, and beyond, projecting God's love to our spiritual and larger community.

As each priest served for the last time, we took the opportunity to thank and honor them at receptions following their last services at St. Paul's. Here are a few pictures of those celebrations.



Rev Lyn as St. Paul's say Thank You!



Rev. Kathy and family as St. Paul's say Thank You!



What's New at St. Paul's

- ✓ Minutes from the June 27, 2024, meeting and the May 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.
- ✓ Help is needed to help count Sunday offerings. Contact Stephanie Gilmer for more information.
- ✓ The project to repair the flooring in the accessible restroom in the church, the priest's restroom, and the restroom in the office has been completed.
- ✓ Replacing the roofs of the school buildings is in process, thanks to a grant from the Diocese and a generous donation.
- ✓ Emergency and unexpected repairs included the equipment in the men's rooms in the church and parish hall. Other repairs needed recently were for the freezer in the parish hall and the water heater in the kitchen.
- ✓ Fr. Brian Dawson, his wife, Rev. Karen Matthews, and their dog, Wicket have arrived in CA. They will be living in Angel's Camp so Fr. Brian will be able to serve in Modesto, and Rev. Karen will serve in San Andreas, and Sonora. Wicket will divide his time between the churches.
- ✓ The annual Stewardship Campaign will be starting soon. Watch for news about our plans for the future.

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.

Salvation Army Shelter Dinner, Sunday July 21st

The Shelter Dinner Team served dinner, July 21st to 140 guests and staff at the shelter for unhoused people. The menu included chicken salad, macaroni salad, rolls & butter, watermelon, chocolate chip cookies, and milk. The chicken salad included chopped baked chicken, celery, peas, mayonnaise, and seasonings. The word was that it was another one of our best meals. One of our team was told by a guest that they love to see us come because we always bring delicious food! We are the ones that continue to be blessed by the pleasure our food brings to the guests and staff.

The next time we will provide dinner will be September 15th. Prayer support, with various forms of assistance, is always greatly appreciated.

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

St. Paul's Calendar

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, Guadelupe Chapel, Parish Hall

Morning Prayer, Wednesday-10 am, 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

Celebrating Birthdays in August

August 2024 Birthdays	
Courtney Smith	August 1
Cherie Sheaffer	August 2
Philip Diaz	August 6
Sarah Hartmann	August 6
Joyce Bell	August 9
Pam Cox	August 10
Ruth Serre	August 18
Stephanie Howlett-West	August 20
Genanne Hill	August 24
Kevin Winchester	August 26
Nancy Harrison	August 30

Ministry Schedule – August 2024

Dates	August 4th	August 11th	August 18th	August 25th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Judy T. Nancy S.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Jim P. Nancy S.	Judy T.
Eucharistic Minister	Judy T.	Rex A.	Nancy S.	Rex A.
Lectors	Stephanie H-W Nancy S.	Judy T. Joyce B.	Alex S. Christine J.	Ann M. Barbara V.
Intercessor	Sarah	Ann	Lora	Linda
Ushers	Greg B. Claudine R.	Phil M. David L.	Carolyn L. Susan S.	Phil M. David L.
Greeters	Greg B. Claudine R.	Christine J. Phil M.	Carolyn L. Susan S.	Phil M. Christine J.
Vestry Rep.	Sarah	Ann	Lora	Linda



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.



In nearly every Episcopal liturgy in which I have participated the celebrant quotes from Ephesians 5:2 to invite the offerings of our time, talent, and treasure to be placed on the altar. “Walk in love,” the offertory sentence begins, “As Christ loved us...” These words are said at the pivotal moment in our liturgy as we move from the reading of and response to the

Word into the sacrament of Holy Communion. It is poignant to observe that we mark this moment of transition with an invitation to walk in love.

When we walk in love, there is clarity and purpose. We move in alignment with each other and with our values. Walking in love is also something we cannot do alone - by definition it implies connection, community. Whether we walk with our children or our spouse, or form an orderly line, or rely on the help of a friend or a neighbor to come to chancel we carry with us all with whom we are in communion, and they carry us with them. Our journey is one made by millions, over thousands of years. A cycle of sharing and invitation.

What a way to bring our gifts forward: first the bread and wine followed by the offering plates, and finally ourselves - walking in love! When we gather in love, bless, break, and share our gifts and ourselves with the world, we bring healing and transformation to our world.

This year you are invited to join in the timeless call to walk in love as you share your wealth, works, and wisdom with a world in need.

The above is the introduction to our 2024 Stewardship Campaign! Get ready for a fun, interactive, and engaging time as we discover the ways we Walk in Love at St. Paul's. If you would like to share your talents and time and become a member of the Stewardship Committee, please contact Sarah Hartmann at 215-917-8477 or shartmann1@charter.net.

Prayer and Praise

August 2, 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.
- Praise and Thanksgiving for the blessed leadership of our Presiding Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry as he guided us with love, grace, humility and mercy through these last 9 years. Our prayers of love, gratitude and compassion go with the Bishop Curry and his family.
- Praise and Thanksgiving for the next Presiding Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, our prayers go with Bishop Rowe and his family as they embark on this new journey.
- Praise and Thanksgiving for the arrival of Fr. Brian Dawson and his Beloved Spouse, Pastor Karen. Please may they enjoy preparing their new home.
- To quote Thomas Merton, a favorite Catholic Monk and Author, " – about proceeding in faith despite uncertainty. "You do not need to know precisely what is happening" to embrace challenges "with courage, faith and hope", he said.

Healing and Comfort

- Prayers for Danielle Vergas for healing, strength, comfort, patience and peace.
- Prayers for Christine Jayne as she has been released from the hospital to a rehabilitation center for healing, strength, comfort, patience and peace.
- Prayers for Michael Thorington for healing, strength, comfort, patience and peace.
- Prayers for Craig and Marti Persons for healing, strength and comfort.
- Pray for Howard Grieshaber for healing, strength and comfort.
- Pray for Cherie Sheaffer for healing, strength and comfort. Please pray for the family for strength, comfort and peace.
- Prayers for the Remkiewicz family for the loss daughter, healing, comfort and strength.
- Pray for Terrance Goodpasture for healing, comfort and strength.
- Pray for Christine Judd for healing, strength and comfort.
- 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 Keith and Ginny Munroe for healing, strength and comfort.
- Pray for Brett Wychoff, Munroe's son, for healing, strength and comfort at this difficult time.
- Pray for Pam and Mike Cox for healing, comfort and peace. Please hold additional prayers for Mike and family.
- 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 healing, comfort, and peace.
- 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 Bonnie Palmer and Charles Palmer as they search for a new home.

Special Prayers

- Please pray for Canon Anna for safe travel, she will be traveling to South Africa on July 31, returning August 31. Please pray for her safety and health while she is on her Sabbatical (Pt 1).
- Please pray for all the peoples of Kazakhstan especially the Christians as they face lack of religious freedom and have become targets of persecution. Please remember the Adamson family, Rex's brother and sister-in-law and their Christian community.
- 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 and safe travel for Deacon Greg and Linda.





The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

Message from the Standing Committee of the Diocese

Dear Friends:

As we begin the process of **looking for our next Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin**, we are entering a time of discernment where we listen to God's call on our lives and our community. Part of this discernment is looking at where we are at this place in time and where we would like to put energy in the future. The 20-minutes needed to complete the "Landscape" Diocesan Survey is time well spent as your responses will help us to best determine who is a good fit to lead us on our path as our next Bishop Diocesan. The "**Landscape**" **Diocesan Survey** created for EDSJ by Holy Cow! Consulting will be a vital tool to collect information and your opinions as a member of the diocese. Information gathered through the Survey will be the foundation of the Diocesan Profile that is created to inform potential candidates during our Bishop Search.

Sharing our journey,

Diocesan Standing Committee

The survey will be open for all responses until Thursday, August 29. The Survey is available in both English and Spanish and all responses are anonymous. Reminders will be sent each week with the QR codes and links to make sure everyone has a chance to respond. **The link and codes will be sent directly to anyone who receives the Friday Reflection from the Diocese. To get on the Diocesan mailing list go to: diosanjoaquin.org/friday-reflection and follow the link: Join Our Email List.**

If you want to participate but prefer not to join the Friday Reflection list, contact the church office, 209-522-3267. The survey can be printed and completed with paper and pencil and submitted by anyone who accesses the link.

Contact the church office with any questions: 209-522-3267

Peace,

Linda Lowe, Senior Warden, and Parish Administrator

Episcopal Church marks 50th anniversary of the Philadelphia 11 ordinations

On July 29, 1974 – the feast day of Mary and Martha of Bethany – at Philadelphia’s Church of the Advocate, eleven women were ordained as priests in The Episcopal Church. This event, which came to be known as the ordination of the "Philadelphia Eleven," was a significant and controversial moment in the history of the church and the broader movement for women's rights. Although the canon law of The Episcopal Church did not explicitly prohibit the ordination of women, prevailing church policies and the decisions of diocesan standing committees and bishops had consistently blocked women's paths to priesthood. As a result, these women’s ordinations were deemed "irregular," and they were initially barred from serving in any official capacity within Episcopal churches.

The historical context of this event is rooted in the social and political upheavals of the 1960s and 1970s, a time marked by the civil rights movement, the feminist movement, and significant changes within religious institutions. The feminist movement was gaining momentum, advocating for equal rights and opportunities for women in all areas of society, including religious leadership. The civil rights movement, which sought to end racial segregation and discrimination, also influenced other social justice movements, including those fighting for gender equality.

Within the church, there was growing pressure to address gender disparities and reconsider traditional roles. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) in the Roman Catholic Church had also sparked discussions about modernization and reform across various Christian denominations, including The Episcopal Church. Despite resistance from many church leaders, there was a growing belief among progressive clergy and laity that the ordination of women was a necessary step toward equality and justice.

The ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven challenged the status quo and provoked a wide range of reactions within The Episcopal Church. Supporters saw it as a prophetic and courageous act of defiance against unjust exclusion, while opponents viewed it as a breach of church order and tradition. The event spurred intense debate and eventually led to the formal approval of women’s ordination in The Episcopal Church at the General Convention in 1976. This decision paved the way for women to fully participate in the ministry, altering the landscape of the church and reflecting broader societal shifts toward gender equality.

Corn and Pepper Salad Recipe



Ingredients:

- 3 c. corn-canned or frozen
- 1 zucchini-diced
- 2 sweet peppers-green, red, or orange or combination-chopped
- 1 lg. onion, chopped

Dressing: (much more than is needed but great for other salads)

- 2 t. salt
- 2 T. honey
- 1 T. mustard
- 2/3 c. olive oil
- 1/3 c. lime juice or vinegar
- 1 T. poppy seeds

1. Combine vegies in a bowl.
2. Blend dressing ingredients with as much as you like.
3. Serve chilled.

This salad works well served the day it is made or after the flavors have melded together.

Linda Lowe



The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267

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Archdeacon Emeritus, George Cano

Deacon Greg Maszta deacongreg66@outlook.com

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Jr. Warden - Judy Teter

Lora Burnett

Sarah Hartmann

Luis Martinez

Ann Mootz

Chuck Sheaffer

Nancy Silva

Judy Teter

Treasurer - Stephanie Gilmer (non-vestry)

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List

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 web page.

Sunday School during the Homily

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

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

