

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

September Issue



Kia ora!

In the land from whence I have come – Aotearoa/New Zealand – kia ora is a little like aloha; a multi-purpose word with a literal meaning (“be well”) that can be used for hello and thank you in both informal and formal settings at any time of day to any number of people. So, in this, my first message for *The Epistle* I say a huge and hearty Kia Ora to you all.

Both Karen and I have been overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity of the welcome we have received. It has often gone well beyond mere kindness and we truly, honestly appreciate it. Moving is always a challenging business but moving halfway around the world to a new country (at an interesting time) with systems and expectations that we are still getting our heads around, well suffice it to say it hasn't been simple, but the support and genuine affection we have received from so many has certainly made it easier.

I have now been Rector of St Paul's for a month, which is a very short time, and as those who have joined us for services in person and online will know, I have used these first few weeks to offer an introduction to the three core values and concepts that lie at the core of my ecclesiology, that is who and what are as Church.

Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga and Kotahitanga are the three terms from the Māori language that I have used to describe the concepts and values of Hospitality, Family and Solidarity. In each case the Māori terms describe something significantly broader and deeper than their English counterparts. It is this sense of breadth and depth that I will be encouraging us to explore in days and months to come as we discover what it will continue to mean for us to be the People of God in this time and place.

And when I say “days and months” I also mean years. There is a television advertisement for cheese in my home country that uses the catchphrase “Good things take time” and it’s true. While there are some things that will look and sound different fairly quickly, I am not in a rush. For starters it is going to take me a little time to get my head around things (including where the best coffee shops are!). But I’m also aware that it has been a long time since you had a parish priest and a few people have carried some heavy loads. We need to look after ourselves and each other if we are to do the same for others – I’ll be talking a little about this in days to come also. Most of all we are going to take some time because that’s what it takes to build real relationships and that’s what we will build. There will be much talking and listening, with each other and with our God, and as your priest I will be working to ensure that happens sensitively and with care. And I won’t always get it right. My door, as they say, is open and I am eager to meet with people, talk with people, hear what people think is great and what they think is not so great. If you have concerns or ideas or complaints or compliments, please let me know. I would be more than happy to meet and listen and perhaps share a little coffee or whatever.

Good things take time, and even after such a short time I know that what we have here in Modesto is a Good Thing. I look forward to discovering more about that with you in the time to come.

Arohanui (Much, deep love)

Brian+



Wicket, adjusting to the change as well.

St. Paul's Coffee Hour to Welcome Fr. Brian

Mid-summer 2024 brought the much-anticipated arrival and start of Fr. Brian Dawson's new ministry at St. Paul's. This new chapter includes the congregation learning Maori words and concepts, and Fr. Brian learning about life in our part of California, including enduring our heat. Fr. Brian and his wife, Rev. Karen Matthews, brought traditions that are new to us, but also familiar as we continue as part of the worldwide Anglican communion. Following are pictures from the special coffee hour we enjoyed. Fr. Brian will be in the office Tuesday through Thursday in Modesto, and available by phone on Fridays as he works from home. Stop by or call to meet and get to know Fr. Brian and Wicket.



Photo 1 – Coffee Hour to welcome Fr. Brian



Photo 2 – Coffee Hour to welcome Fr. Brian



Photo 3 – Coffee Hour to welcome Fr. Brian



Photo 4 – Coffee Hour to welcome FR. Brian

Prayer and Praise

August 23, 2024

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 Fr. Dawson and his Beloved Spouse, Pastor Karen. Please pray for their continued Joy in being in the Diocese of San Joaquin. St. Paul's, St. Matthew's and St. James' have been truly blessed.
 - 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.”
 - Praise and Thanksgiving to God and his blessings for Ralph, Linda Lowe's Beloved Brother as has found new purpose.
 - Praise and Thanksgiving for Bonnie and Charlie Palmer as they have found a new home and will be moving soon.

Healing and Comfort

- Prayers for The Rev. Deacon Terrance Goodpasture for his transitioning August 15, 2024. Prayers for his parents, sister, cousin, and friends at this very difficult time, for comfort and peace.
- Prayers for Anthony Coca as he contracted COVID and needs prayers for healing, comfort, strength, and peace.
- Prayers of Thanksgiving as Jim Peck recovery from his accident is going well. Please pray for continued healing, strength, comfort, patience, and peace.
- Prayers for Rossana, Blessed Daughter of Rossana and Niniv Tamini, for continued healing, strength, comfort, patience, and peace. Prayers for Rossana and Niniv for continued strength, comfort, and peace.
- Prayers for Niniv and Rossana Tamini for the transitioning of Niniv's Beloved Uncle and Cousin for comfort and peace. Prayers for the family for comfort and peace.

- Prayers for Danielle Vergas as she awaits an upcoming surgery for healing, strength, comfort, patience, and peace.
- Prayers for Christine Jayne for continued 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.
- Pray for Dennis Haglan, Gayle Ivy's Son-in-Law, for healing, strength, and comfort.
- Continued prayers for the Remkiewicz family, for the loss of their Beloved Daughter Rebecca. The Celebration of Life was held on August 10, 2024.
- 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. Special prayers for the job search of Danny Cox.
- ❖ 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 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.

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 Travels

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



Celebrating Birthdays in September

September 2024 Birthdays	
Deacon Greg Maszta	September 1
Elsa Bayly	September 2
Jeanette Comegys	September 5
Tony Alonzo	September 6
Hennie Van Konynenburg	September 7
Diane Keller	September 13
Barbara Vassell	September 15
Maggie Su	September 21
Paul Cassagio	September 22
Bob Jensen	September 23

September Ministry Schedule

Dates	Sept 1st	Sept 8th	Sept 15th	Sept 22nd	Sept 29th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Rev. Kathie
Acolytes	Judy T.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Jim P. Nancy S.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Judy T. Nancy S.
Eucharistic Minister	Judy T.	Nancy S.	Stephanie G.	Judy T.	Stephanie G.
Lectors	Stephanie H-W Linda L.	Alex S. Joyce B.	Judy T. Stephanie G.	Ann M. Barbara V.	Christine J. Nancy S.
Intercessor	Judy	Nancy	Sarah	Luis	Ann
Ushers	Lora B. Phil M.	Claudine R David L.	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Greg B. Susan S.	Phil M. David L.
Greeters	Lora B. Phil M.	Christine J. Claudine R.	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Greg B. Susan S.	Phil M. Christine J.
Vestry Rep.	Judy	Nancy	Sarah	Luis	Ann

More pictures from Fr. Brian's first Service at St. Paul's



Photo 5 – Coffee Hour to welcome Fr. Brian



Photo 6 – Coffee Hour to welcome Fr. Brian

Cookie Walk

The old song goes, "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat...." The talented and dedicated bakers of St. Paul's can help that goose with the delicious cookies for which we have become famous.

The 2024 Cookie Walk is in the planning stages. Please begin thinking about how you can be involved: decorating, baking, walking, baking, filling plates, baking, cleaning up, baking, advertising, baking, bringing friends & family, baking, etc. Anyone sensing a theme?

Contact the church office, 209-522-3267, or Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 to get involved. Everyone welcome!



Golden Corral Senior Luncheon Group

Come one, come all to our luncheon. Bring along your wife, partner, or friend. The more, the merrier!



The next monthly luncheon will be Tuesday September 17, 2:30 pm. Luncheon costs \$14.50 including drinks, plus tax. Tip is collected by the group following the meal. Attendees decide future dates. No reservation needed.

Contact Phil and Anita Machado, 209-527-2727, with questions.

Salvation Army Dinner

The Salvation Army Dinner Team will be preparing and serving dinner to the guests and staff of the Shelter, Sunday, September 15th. Dinner will be sliced ham, mac & cheese, green salad, strawberry cobbler, and milk. The Team is always grateful for prayers and donations of ingredients, time, and funds for this ministry. The guests and staff are always very grateful for our gifts and time with them.



To join the fun, contact **Linda Lowe**, 209-496-3937, or lwlowe@outlook.com.

Bags Needed for Monthly Salvation Army Food Distribution

Hello St Paul's Family,

We are once again in need of paper and plastics bags for the Salvation Army food program. Please bring them to church on Sunday mornings and leave them in the narthex or take them to the church office during the week. They are greatly appreciated. Thank You.

Judy Teter





MODESTO MOBEAUTIFUL

DÍA DE LIMPIEZA

**SÁBADO,
21 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2024
8AM - 12PM**

El Día de Limpieza de Modesto es mucho más que recoger basura. Es una oportunidad para que los californianos se unan con personas alrededor del mundo para expresar su respeto por nuestra tierra, para que la comunidad demuestre su deseo de una ciudad hermosa y una oportunidad de reunirse con vecinos, familiares y amigos para lograr algo vital y digno en nombre de nuestro medio ambiente.

¡Planifique una limpieza grupal o recoja la basura en su vecindario!

Podemos proporcionar a las organizaciones de voluntarios con:

- Pinzas para recoger basura
- Chalecos de seguridad
- Bolsas de basura

También podemos recoger sus bolsas llenas.

En colaboración con



Para obtener más información llame al (209) 577-5494 o envíe un correo electrónico a swm@modestogov.com



MODESTO MOBEAUTIFUL CLEANUP DAY

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
8AM - 12PM**

Modesto Cleanup Day is about much more than picking up trash and litter. It's a chance for Californians to join people around the world in expressing their respect for our earth, for the community to demonstrate its desire for a beautiful city, and a chance to come together with neighbors, family, and friends to accomplish something vital and worthy on behalf of our environment.

Plan a group cleanup or pick up litter in your neighborhood!

We can provide volunteers with:

- Litter pickers
- Safety vests
- Trash bags
- Gloves

We can also pick up and dispose of your filled bags.

Registration is required.



Register online at:
[ModestoGov.com/409](https://www.modestogov.com/409)

For more information call
(209) 577-5494 or email
swm@modestogov.com

In partnership with



**MODESTO
RETHINKS
WASTE**

What's New at St. Paul's

- ✓ Minutes from the July 25, 2024, meeting and the June 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.
- ✓ Following the major repairs over the last few months, the last few weeks have been relatively quiet.
- ✓ There was discussion regarding the sound system and how to improve it for those people watching online and for the regular parishioners.
- ✓ October 19-Members of the Diocesan Council will be at St. Paul's to hear from parishioners about their thoughts regarding calling a new bishop in a few years.
- ✓ Mark your calendars for Fr. Brian's official installation, November 10th.
- ✓ Cookie Walk will be happening in December. Watch for news!
- ✓ Help is needed to help count Sunday offerings. Contact Stephanie Gilmer for more information.
- ✓ The annual Stewardship Campaign will kick off October 6th.
- ✓ Blessing of the Animals will happen Sunday October 6th.

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.



New Midweek Eucharist

Thursday, Eucharist service, 10:00 am in the side chapel of the church.
First Thursday of the month, Rite I. All are welcome.
Contact the church office, 209-522-3267, with questions.

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, *Guadalupe Chapel, Parish Hall*

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

Mid-Week Eucharist, Thursday-10 am, *Church Chapel*

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 Tuesday-1 pm, *Parish Hall Youth Room*, Information-Gayle Ivy-209-505-3142



Sunday School



Sunday School

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 8. Students from elementary to high school are encouraged to join us. We will meet in the Sunday School room at the entrance of the church after the reading of the Gospel. Students will return to the church service for the offertory hymn. My thanks to Anne Marie Lorenz who will be sharing teaching responsibilities with me.

We are planning on a "fellowship fun day" in September or October. This is a time to invite a friend and have a fun time together. Last year, we gathered together at John's Incredible Pizza. We are open to suggestions for our next "fellowship fun day" location.

Looking forward to a fun and active year.

Blessings,

Chuck Sheaffer



For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer – Page 829

The Box of Books and the Shower Shuttle

Recently during a "clean the storage room" done by several faithful parishioners, a box of books was found. They were old, slim, slightly dusty, 5" x 7" in size and written in story form. Part were stories of the Old Testament and part were stories of The Son of God. I was asked if the guests at the Shower Shuttle might like them. I, of course, said yes. I took them to the Shower Shuttle and placed them on the Faith Table (a small table where donated items are placed, and guests can come and take them for their use.) The long-forgotten books had found a new home, where one after another, the guests gratefully picked up a book and placed it in their backpack or cart. For some, it might have been the first time, they owned a religious book.

Thank you, St. Paul's, for your continuing support of the least among us.



A quote from 1Samuel: 16:7 "...man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

The Shower Shuttle continues to serve the unhoused and needy in our area. On Wednesday mornings The Laundry Shuttle is at the Gospel Mission and on Thursday, the Shower Shuttle is there. Both are operated by the Church in the Park and supported by local churches, businesses, and private donations. They continue to need toiletries, sox, underwear, safety razors, band-aids.

On Wednesdays there are usually 60 to 70 people there to wash their clothing and bedding. On Thursdays there are usually 80 to 95 people to take showers. There are often mothers with children waiting to shower and many seniors using walkers and canes. There are more and more families sleeping in their cars due to a lack of affordable housing. As I look upon them, I am comforted by Isaiah 40:3 "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

Thank you, wonderful people of St. Paul's for your continued support and generous donations.

Blessings,

Judy Thorkelson



Stewardship 2024



In October we will kick off this year's Stewardship Campaign. Inspired by *Ephesians 5:2*, this year we will highlight opportunities for this parish to **Walk in Love**. Beginning on Sunday, October 6, each week will highlight a select ministry and the good work that they do. You will be able to put a face with a name and learn about how you and your household

might invest your **time, talent, and treasure** into our individual ministries as well as our overall parish operations.

To kick off this event, on **Sunday, October 6th** Fr. Brian invites you to celebrate the feast day of St. Francis with a Blessing of the Animals. Please bring your well-behaved, and well-contained pet to worship and receive a special blessing during mass, and then we will **Walk in Love** for a **Pet Parade** on the parish lawn with treats and raffle prizes for special goody bags. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends to join us to celebrate this unique and inclusive liturgical holiday.

This year we will finish the Stewardship Campaign on **Sunday, November 3** where Fr. Brian will celebrate All Souls Day. During this reverent mass we will honor our departed with solemn prayer and remembrance. You will have an opportunity to request names added to our prayer list for this service.

We hope that you'll be inspired by the vibrant and active ministries at St. Paul's and learn more about ways that you can invest your **time, talent, and treasure** as we **Walk in Love** for the good work we do for our community.



FORBIDDEN RICE SALAD



Salad:

3 cups water

1 ½ cups Forbidden Rice (Lotus Foods)

½ cup each: finely chopped shallot, sliced celery, chopped dried cherries (or dried cranberries), chopped Mediterranean dried apricots and chopped toasted pecans

Dressing:

½ cup extra virgin olive oil

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

1 tablespoon honey

1 tablespoon spicy brown mustard

½ teaspoon dried thyme leaves and garlic Powder Freshly ground black pepper

½ teaspoon salt (or to taste)

Method:

1. Bring water to a boil in a medium saucepan. Add rice and return to a boil; reduce heat and simmer covered for 30 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork. Transfer to a large bowl and cool.
2. Whisk together all dressing ingredients and pour over rice, tossing to coat well. Stir in shallot, celery, cherries, and apricots. Cover and refrigerate for several hours. Sprinkle with pecans before serving.

Treasurer's Report – July 2024

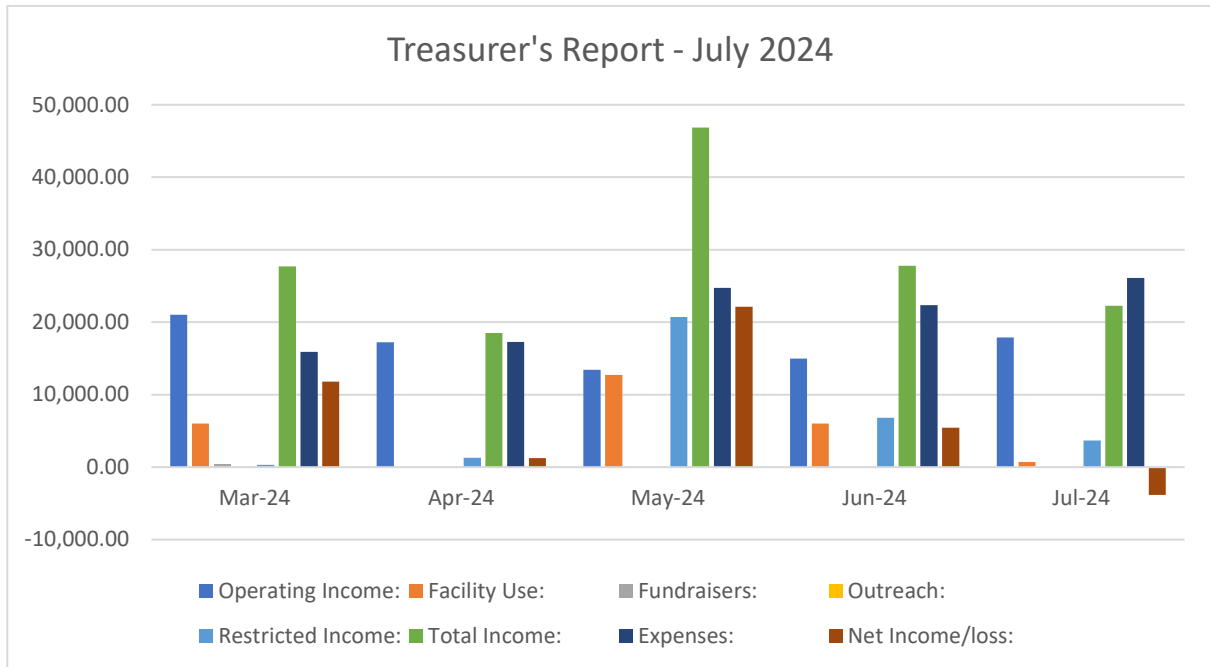


Figure 1: Visual Display of Treasurer's Report – July 2024

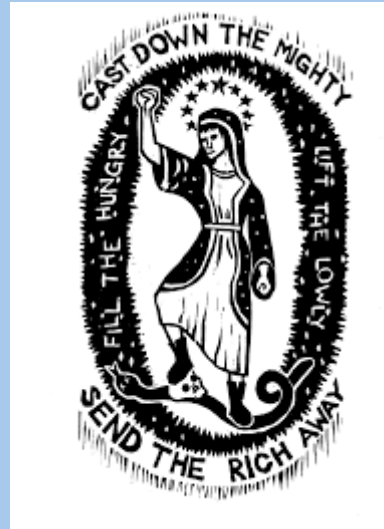
Column1	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
Operating Income:	21,009.17	17,231.30	13,451.08	14,984.56	17,903.13
Facility Use:	6,000.00	0.00	12,719.00	6,000.00	700.00
Fundraisers:	365.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outreach:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restricted Income:	323.00	1,302.17	20,700.00	6,817.00	3,680.00
Total Income:	27,697.97	18,533.47	46,870.08	27,801.56	22,283.13
Expenses:	15,907.71	17,278.79	24,740.78	22,339.56	26,106.13
Net Income/loss:	11,790.26	1,254.68	22,129.30	5,462.00	-3,823.00

Table 1: Treasurer's Report – July 2024

You're invited to the 3rd Annual Women's Retreat!!

Hangin' with Mary

(the BVM)



October 4-6 @ ECCO

Register at: <https://eccoyosemite.org/womens-retreat-registration/>

You must be at least 21 years old and woman-identified to attend

Activities include: yoga, rosary making, Marian spiritual practices, arts & crafts, paint & sip, wine tasting, time for reflection, relationship building



Registration closes September 20th

Single: \$300.40 * Double \$258.40 * Quad \$234.40 * RV rate: \$143.20

(prices include all supplies and activities related to the retreat)



The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

September 2024, Volume 15,
Number 8

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267

Office Hours: 8:30-1:30 Mon – Thurs

Pastoral Team

Fr. Brian Dawson - 209-897-1612 - FrBrianDawson@gmail.com

Archdeacon Emeritus, George Cano

Deacon Greg Maszta deacongreg66@outlook.com

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Organist & Choir Chuck Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

Hand Bells

Judy Teter, jltpt@sbcglobal.net

St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletins

Cherie Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

St. Paul's Social Media

Greg Maszta,
deacongreg66@outlook.com

Stewardship Campaign

Sarah Hartmann

Finance Committee

Carolyn List, carolynlist@sbcglobal.net

Praesidium Academy

Stephanie Gilmer

Vestry

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

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

