

# *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

## *The Epistle*

*November Issue*



### November Epistle

This month marks the annual celebration in this country of the “First Thanksgiving” representing that idealistic gathering of Pilgrims of the Mayflower and the local indigenous population that were mistakenly called “Indians”. Massachusetts is as far away from India as there can be and calling the native peoples “Indians” was a mistake of bad geography by early European explorers.

A while back I read Nathaniel Philbrick’s “Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War”, which I highly commend to those who may be interested. In this highly researched book, the idealized myth we celebrate today at Thanksgiving is peeled back to bring to life the reality of the religious dissenters now known as Pilgrims.

While the Pilgrims may have been personally motivated by a desire to isolate themselves to start a new religious movement, the journey of the Mayflower itself was financed by corporate funds that expected a return on their investments. In essence, the colony was being outfitted to construct a trading village that would be periodically visited by ships from the company to take back whatever goods the colony could produce, whether from farming, fur trading, hunting, or mining.

Just as modern companies tend to short skirt operations, the Pilgrims landed there low on supplies and facing a long winter. In exploring their initial landing areas on a seemingly unpopulated Cape Cod, they came across an empty native village and a large cache of food. The Pilgrims proceeded to help themselves to the food, returning it to the Mayflower.

Is it any surprise that when the native community returned to the seasonal village and found their food supply cached to survive the winter season, along with the seed for the following year's planting, was missing, they became enraged at these newly arrived strangers? Needless to say, conflict ensued, but far be it from modern mythology to admit the fault lay in the Pilgrims grab and take actions. (It brings to mind the modern-day snatch and grab shoplifters!)

In their first year of building the colony the Pilgrims worked with a religious mindset of a commune, with all people contributing their labors to the community. The result of that first year's efforts was near starvation, only saved by alliances made with a native tribe. The alliances were then used to pit one tribe against another in repetitive wars.

In their second year of farming, the Pilgrims switched to a new economic model where each person cultivated their own patch of land, resulting in an adequate surplus the following winter. The book goes on to describe the lack of supplies from their corporate sponsors, the machinations of colony leaders to reduce the native threat through wars, and the governance of the colony itself.

What struck me in reading this narrative was how the Pilgrims started off with an idealized goal of building a "Christian" colony, but quickly disposed of this "inconvenience" of a fellowship of love under the influence of money and shortcuts to survival.

As I study history, whether in the Bible or more current events, I am struck by how we have advanced so far technologically, but so little individually, particularly as Christians. How might Jesus have met those indigenous peoples in those first landings of the Mayflower? How might Jesus have led those first Pilgrims? How might Jesus ask us as his disciples to live our lives today?

At this holiday of Thanksgiving, let us take pause to remember the native peoples of this country who inhabited these places long before us. Let us remember the corporate sin that continues to place money ahead of people. Let us reflect on how we, in our time, might make better choices in our lives influenced by the Way of Jesus. Yet let us also give thanks for this great country that yearns to live in a fellowship of love while having the courage to examine our past.

May God bless this country with Wisdom in Christ as we celebrate and pray on this Thanksgiving. Amen.

Deacon Greg

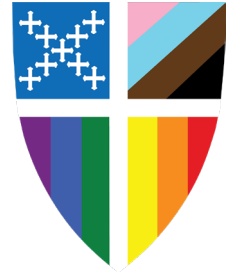
# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto CA

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Website: [www.saintpaulsmodesto.org](http://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org)



## *Members & Friends of St Paul's*

You are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the formal installation of

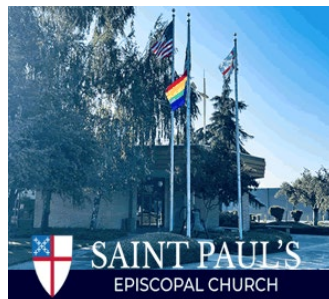
**The Reverend Brian Dawson**

as Rector of our Parish

by The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

**The Right Reverend David Rice**

The service will take place at St Paul's at 10.00 am on Sunday November 10, 2024  
and will be followed by a light lunch.



THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



# Blessing of the Animals - October 6, 2024

The Blessing of the Animals is an event that honors Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment. October 6, 2024, the Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost, we celebrated “Paws in the Pews” with the blessing of the animals by Fr. Bryan. Here are a few pictures of Fr. Bryan blessing the animals.

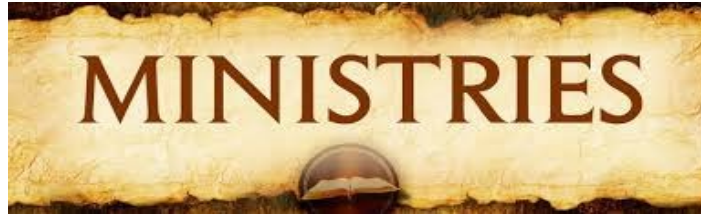


Photo 1:Fr. Bryan blessing the animals on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>.



Photo 2:Fr. Bryan blessing the animals on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>.

## November Ministry Schedule



Dates	Nov 3rd	Nov 10th	Nov 17th	Nov 24th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Bp. David Cn. Anna Rev. Karen	Fr. Brian Dc. Greg	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Judy T. Nancy S.	Jim P. Nancy S.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Nancy S.
Eucharistic Minister	Judy T.	Nancy S.	Stephanie G.	Rex
Lectors	Linda L. Judy T.	Joyce B. Alex S.	Nancy S. Theresa G.	Barbara V. Stephanie H-W.
Intercessor	Linda	Sarah	Ann	Lora
Ushers	Phil M. Claudine R.	David L. Carolyn L.	Ishmael H. Carolyn L.	Greg B. Claudine R.
Greeters	Phil M. Claudine R.	David L. Carolyn L.	Ishmael H. Carolyn L.	Greg B. Claudine R.
Vestry Rep.	Linda	Sarah	Ann	Lora



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

# **Christmas Cookie Walk & Craft Fair**

**Saturday, December 7th 9-3pm  
Sunday, December 8th 11-2pm**

**CRAFT VENDORS  
PICTURES WITH SANTA & ADVENT CRAFTS  
ON SATURDAY**

**\$10 Baker's Dozen**

**Call 209-522-3267**

**for info & tickets or scan QR code**

**Craft Vendors contact: [Jeanandsuzie@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeanandsuzie@yahoo.com)**

**1528 Oakdale Rd | Modesto, CA**





### Cookie Walk, December 7, 8

The annual Cookie Walk is being planned for Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8. This delicious and fun event will feature cookies of all varieties, assorted other baked goods, and multiple vendors. Santa will be visiting and available for photo ops. The sign-up sheets in the lobby include multiple different ways that everyone can be involved: baking, “cookie walker”, plate set-up, ticket taker, set-up, clean-up, baking, baking, and baking. Sign-up for a little time or more. Tickets are available -\$10 for a baker’s dozen of our best cookies.

Questions? Contact Linda Lowe, 209-522-3267 or 209-496-3937

### Salvation Army Shelter Dinner Team

Six times a year a team of parishioners plans, cooks, and serves dinner to 120-130 guests and staff at the Salvation Army Shelter in downtown Modesto. The menu varies with the season and available resources. The menu for October 20<sup>th</sup> was ham and potato casserole, coleslaw, rolls & butter, and pumpkin pie cake with whipped cream, and milk.

Help with this ministry starts with prayer for the team, guests and staff. We accept willing hands for any portion of the ministry: contributions towards the various parts of food, kitchen assistance, and serving at the shelter.

Contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or [lwlowe@outlook.com](mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com) for information or to help.

### St. Paul’s Music Ministry

This year we would like to restart our church choir. Our rehearsals will be at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. We would like to especially prepare for Christmas. When I was in high school, I sang in the church choir. I would like to invite our junior and senior high youth to join. We need sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Please consider joining.

Our Sunday School class sings every Sunday - we hope to have them share their music during the church service. I am also available after the church service to coach our youth who would like help with their musical instrument. We would like to restart our bell choir. Our junior and senior high youth are encouraged to join.

Musically Yours,  
Chuck Sheaffer

## Celebrating Birthdays in November



November 2024 Birthdays	
Sharon Hawley-Crum	November 1
Daniel Marrujo	November 2
Judy Teter	November 7
Carol Collier	November 9
Mary Griffin	November 12
Abel Maestas	November 15
Tom Hampson	November 17
Chad Peters	November 18
Nell Gerber	November 19
Jim Peck	November 22
Jim Bland	November 27
Marti Persons	November 28
Anthony Marrujo	November 29



## Knit 1, Pray 2



Knit1 Pray2 meets the third Tuesday of the month in the youth room in the Parish hall. In January we decide what charity we will focus on. Over the years we have made items for the Children's Hospital in Madera, hats for preemies, Project Linus (blankets for needy children), Ray of Hope (making burial things for stillborn babies). This year we will donate hats & scarves for the Shower Shuttle in Modesto. If you knit and cannot attend our meetings you can make things at home. We have patterns, yarn, and needles. We also have a great teacher, and you can learn how to knit. Love to have you be a part of our Ministry. Gayle Ivy 209 505 3142

## Salvation Army Food Distribution



The U.S. Government Food Assistance Program provides the local Salvation Army with commodities. On the first Wednesday of the month, St. Paul's donates the space and provides the volunteers to help distribute the food to the residents of the 95355/95357 zip codes. We have been doing this for many years. We help register the people and package the food. Since Covid, our clients have been registered and receive the bags of food in their cars. We are in need of more volunteers. This is a rewarding ministry, and we have fun doing it. Please come and join our team.

Thank You

Judy Teter

# *Prayer and Praise*

*November 1, 2024*

## **Updates**

### **Praise and Thanksgiving**

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

- Praise and Thanksgiving for The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry and his family for the years of devoted service as our Presiding Bishop.
- Praise and Thanksgiving for the 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, The Rev. Karen.
- Praise and Thanksgiving for Anthony Coca and his family as they had a fire in their garage, no one was injured, and the cleanup and restoration begin. Prayers for comfort, strength, peace, and gratitude for all.

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 Rev. Karen for healing, comfort, and peace.
- Prayers for Nell Gerber for healing, comfort, and peace.
- Prayers for Alfred Spina for healing, comfort, and peace.
- Prayers for Clare Conrotto for healing, comfort, and peace.
- Prayers for Kelly as he recovers from surgery for healing, comfort, patience, and peace.
- Please pray for his wife Nancy, Family and Friends as this is a very stressful time.
- Prayers for Susan Sell as she faces serious medical procedures. May her healing be swift and may she experience comfort, strength, 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.
- Prayers and Thanksgiving for Cherie Sheaffer, prayer for continued healing,

strength, and comfort. Please pray for the family for strength, comfort, and peace.>...

- Pray for Dennis Fitzgerald for healing, strength, and comfort. Dennis is a parishioner at St. Rafael's in Oakhurst. A loving, devote Child of God.
  - Pray for Dennis Haglan, Gayle Ivy's Son-in-Law, for healing, strength, and comfort.
  - 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. Extra Prayers as Ginny is at Golden Modesto Care Center, previously Hy-Lond Health Care Center, 1900 Coffee Rd., recovering from surgery and rehabilitation.
  - Pray for Brett Wychoff, Munroe's son, for healing, strength, and comfort at this difficult time.
- ◆ Pray for Mike Cox for healing, comfort, and peace he is at home. Please hold additional prayers for Mike and Pam as they adjust to the new medical regime. Prayers for their three Beloved Sons, may they assist Pam with their Beloved Father's care. 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.
    - Pray for Louise McCloskey for healing, strength, and comfort as she is recovering from surgery.
  - ◆ 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.
    - Polly, Beloved Grandmother and Colleen, Beloved Great Aunt of Gabriel for healing, strength, comfort, and peace.
    - Please pray for Gabriel as he continues to job search. May he be granted wisdom, strength, peace, and faith.

- Please pray for Priscilla Abercrombie for healing, strength, comfort, and peace. Priscilla is a new member of St. Paul's, living in Dale Commons of Manteca.

### **Special Prayers**

- Please Pray for Luis for guidance and clarity as he is making an important professional decision.
- Please pray for the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention November 8 – 9, 2024. Pray that all attendees have safe travel and all return home without any illnesses.
- Please pray for Rex Adamson and the Ukraine Project and his mission.
- 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 they journey to and from their destinations.

## **Boy Scout Troop 49 Fund Raiser - Poinsettia sales!**

Calvin Verges and Boy Scout Troop 49 are raising funds for summer camp with poinsettia sales! Plants are \$15 and are from Duarte Nursery in Hughson.



Please have orders in by the December 2nd and Calvin will drop off deliveries after December 10th. Thank you for supporting our scouts!



Scouting America

**HELP SUPPORT OUR TROOP!**

# Poinsettia



fundraiser



November 11 - December 2

**\$15 PER PLANT**

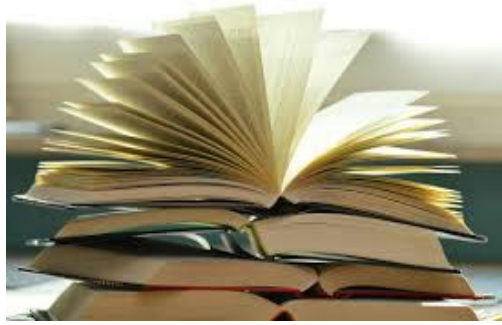
PLANTS ARE PROVIDED BY DUARTE NURSERY IN HUGHSON AND ARE A PERFECT ADDITION FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!

**TAKING PRESALE ORDERS NOW!**

PLANTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY AFTER DECEMBER 10TH



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



## **BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS, WONDERFUL BOOKS!**

St. Paul's Book Club invites you to join us for another year of fellowship, reading, discussion and growth in our faith community.

For 2025, Book Club is changing their times and will be meeting on the first Friday of every month from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Zoom.

Our selection for January is Paul's letter to the Ephesians. We generally read books but once in a while, we read and discuss a selection of Holy Scripture.

Some books we have selected and read in the past are:

1. Love is the Way and Crazy. Christians by our former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
2. Learning to Pray, Come Forth., And Jesus A Pilgrimage by Father James Martin, S.J.
3. Holy. Silence, The Gift of Quaker Spirituality by J. Brent Bill
4. Tattoos on the Heart by Father Gregory Boyle, S.J.
5. The Book of Joy by The Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu

We hope you will join us in January as we embark on a new year filled with fellowship, prayer, good discussion, and a desire to grow in our faith.

For additional information please email me: [jthork2404@aol.com](mailto:jthork2404@aol.com)

Blessings,

Judy Thorkelson

## What's New at St. Paul's

- ✓ **Pledge card ingathering will be Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Bring your pledge card for a special blessing and help St. Paul's continue to meet our obligations.
- ✓ **November 10<sup>th</sup> Fr. Brian will be officially installed as our Rector by Bp. David.** Plan to attend this special service and stay for lunch and a reception afterward.  
*Call the office if you want to contribute a soup or salad for lunch.*
- ✓ **Monday, November 11, 5:30 pm** will be an opportunity to meet the psychiatrists from Ukraine as they complete their trip to the US for a conference. Come to the parish hall for a presentation about their work and to show our support as they assist the citizens of Ukraine. A pot-luck supper will be included. *See the sign-up sheet at church or call the office for more information.*
- ✓ Minutes from the September 26th meeting and the August financial records were approved. Generous and consistent support from everyone has enabled us to meet our obligations.
- ✓ **Sunday School continues to be available for any and all young ones. Contact Chuck Sheaffer (209-765-1214) for information about the weekly study and the fun stuff being planned.**
- ✓ Guidelines for use of the St. Paul's facilities are being reviewed and updated. Want to be part of the committee? Contact Linda in the church office, 209-522-3267.
- ✓ The Annual Cookie Walk will be happening December 7 & 8. See details and the flyer in this Epistle. *Tickets are available! They make great gifts! Contact the church office, 209-522-3267, for more information*
- ✓ Minor repairs were done around the church campus during October. We are in contact with the company responsible for the solar panels to be sure they are working properly.
- ✓ **Opportunities to serve the St. Paul's Family include becoming a member of the Vestry and representing the church at the annual Diocesan Convention.** The requirements are relatively few, and the reward is great! *Contact the church office, 209-522-3267, for more information.*

**Vestry meetings are usually held the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com) for the zoom link.**



# The Epistle

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

November 2024, Volume 15,  
Number 10

**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](mailto:FrBrianDawson@gmail.com)**

**Archdeacon Emeritus, George Cano**

**Deacon Greg Maszta [deacongreg66@outlook.com](mailto:deacongreg66@outlook.com)**

### **Other Important Contacts**

**Music Director, Organist & Choir** Chuck Sheaffer, [cbshea@pacbell.net](mailto:cbshea@pacbell.net)

#### **Hand Bells**

Judy Teter, [jltpt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jltpt@sbcglobal.net)

#### **St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletins**

Cherie Sheaffer, [cbshea@pacbell.net](mailto:cbshea@pacbell.net)

#### **St. Paul's Social Media**

Greg Maszta,  
[deacongreg66@outlook.com](mailto:deacongreg66@outlook.com)

#### **Stewardship Campaign**

Sarah Hartmann

#### **Finance Committee**

Carolyn List, [carolynlist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolynlist@sbcglobal.net)

#### **Praesidium Academy**

Stephanie Gilmer

#### *Vestry*

**Senior Warden** - Linda Lowe -  
209-496-3937 [lwlowe@outlook.com](mailto: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](http://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org)

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

