

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

April 2025 Issue



Broader & Deeper

“Broader and deeper” has been the theme for my Lenten sermons this year. In truth it has been the overarching theme for most of what I’ve done and focused on since arriving last August. Partly it’s about encouraging us to explore more deeply our faith and what it leads us to, but in a very practical sense it’s also about broadening the number of people involved in the many activities and ministries of our parish and deepening the commitment we have to them all.

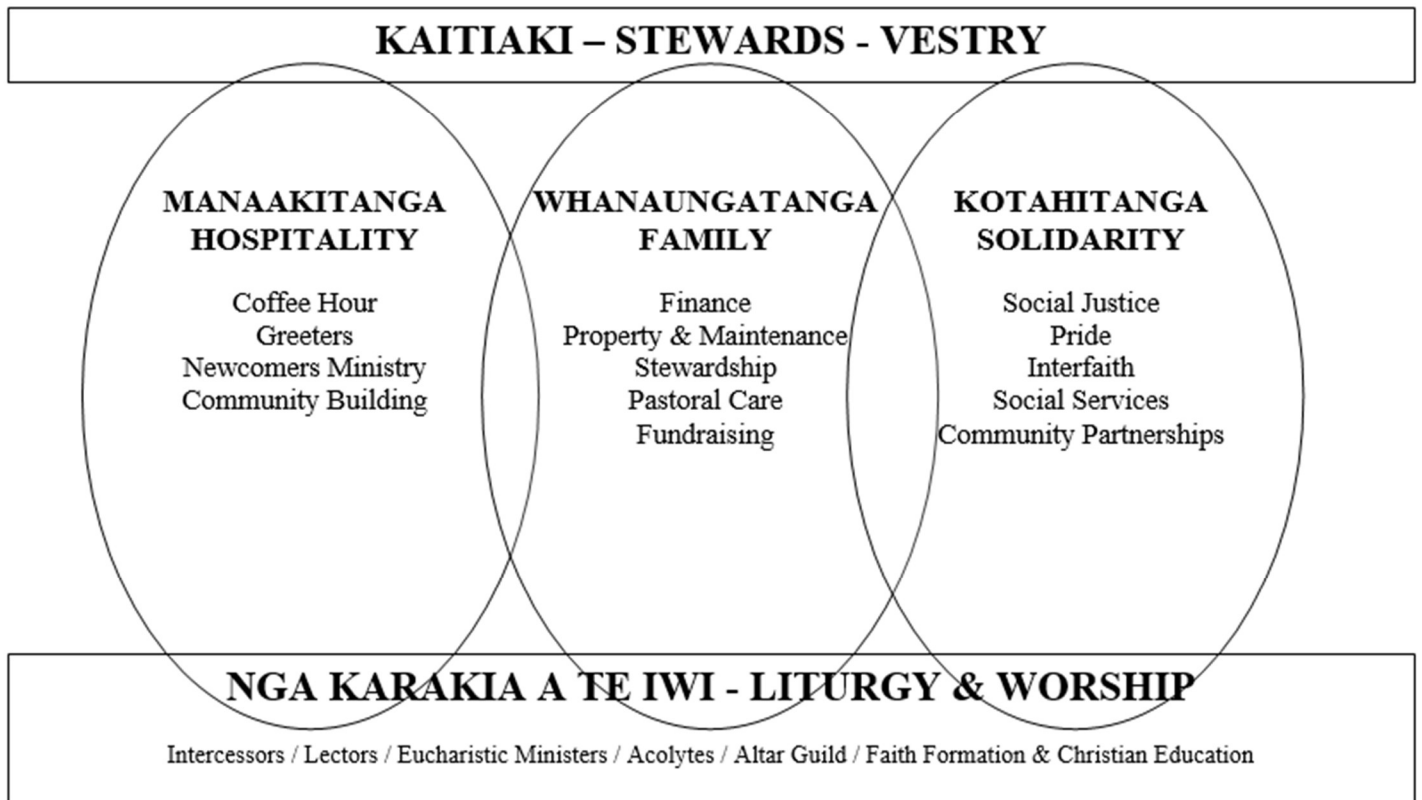
On the last Sunday of March, we gathered for our first 5th Sunday Forum. These semi-regular gatherings are part of Vestry’s commitment to include the wider parish family in our conversations and decisions. At this first gathering we focused on two quite different but related topics.

The first was a presentation by Deacon Greg on the Diocesan Budget process. As well as being our Deacon, Greg is also the Diocesan Treasurer, and his presentation graphically illustrated the commitment our Diocese has to its parishes. The great bulk of Diocesan spending goes towards assisting and enabling parish ministry. As a priest who has had experience in various parts of the Anglican Communion, I can assure you this is not common.

The second part of our forum was an introduction to the Mission and Ministry model that Vestry has adopted to shape our approach to how we work together as a parish. The model groups our parish life into three interconnected streams; Hospitality (welcoming friends and strangers), Family (what we need to do to keep our household functioning) and Solidarity (how are we

standing with those we are called to help and serve). Each stream is overseen by one of our parish leaders and incorporates a number of working groups. At the forum I both invited and encouraged everyone who is able, to join one of these groups. Every member a minister was a common church catch-cry some years ago and the principle remains sound. Each and every one of us has a role to play and a ministry to undertake as we grow into the community of faith God has called us to be in this place.

OUR MINISTRY & MISSION



Of course, it's the 'faith' part of that which sets us apart. We are not a service club or a not-for-profit, we are Church. And as Church our ministry and mission is always built on a foundation of worship and liturgy. As has been said, the Eucharist is the font from which and into which all else flows. Our liturgy, music ministry, faith formation and all that goes into each of them maintains the rhythm of our worship and undergirds our parish life as a whole, and as with the rest of that life these are not aspects that only a precious few contribute to. As part of my mission to take us broader and deeper we will be hosting a training session after Easter for those interested in possibly becoming Eucharistic Ministers (who serve at communion) and Eucharistic Visitors (who extend that communion to those not able to join us physically at the table). There will also be opportunities for those interested in being Acolytes and of course Chuck would welcome more members to join our newly reformed choir, and Judy would love to introduce you to the ministry

of bell ringing. There are, in other words, LOTS of opportunities and ways in which ALL of us can get involved and help to take our parish broader and deeper into our faith, our Church, our neighbourhoods and the many and varied ways and places that God leads us to serve.

St Paul's is OUR family, with a warm welcome and room for all to come, to learn, to grow and to thrive. Let's all commit to making that even more so.

Fr Brian Dawson

Holy Week April 13th – 20th

Palm Sunday

10 am Palm Sunday Eucharist with Confirmations & Yellow Bag

Collection *Bishop David visiting*

5.30 pm Zoom Lenten Book Study & Night Prayer

Holy Tuesday 1 pm Diocesan Chrism Mass at St James' Cathedral Fresno *All invited*

Holy Wednesday

7.15 am Eucharist

Noon Final Lenten Book Study

5.30 pm Final Zoom Lenten Book Study

Maundy Thursday

Eucharist at 10 am

5 pm Agape Meal including Eucharist, foot washing & vigil

Good Friday Way of the Cross at noon

Holy Saturday 7 pm Easter Eve Vigil (*with St Francis Turlock at St Paul's*)

Easter Day 10 am Easter Eucharist & Easter Egg Hunt



Bishop David's Visit



The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

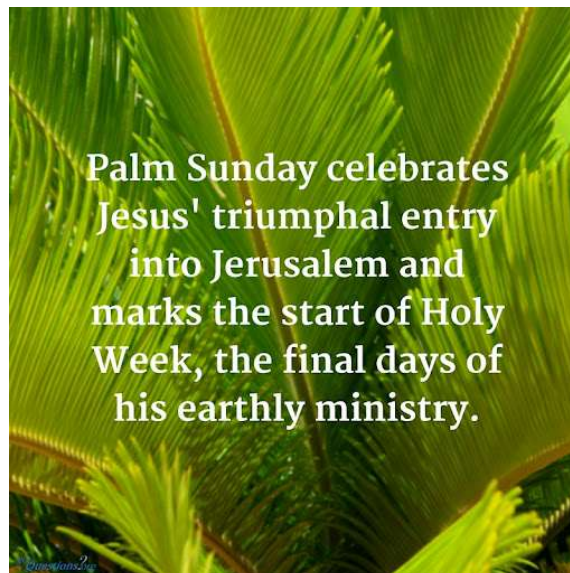
Palm Sunday-April 13-Bishop David will bring greetings from the Diocese, confirm four of our members, and enjoy a light lunch reception after the service. He also will be encouraging us to continue to bless our community by filling and distributing Yellow Bags.

We will also have the opportunity to contribute to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund and envelopes will be provided for this special collection. Anyone who chooses to contribute may make checks out to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund and place the envelope in the offering plate.

Lunch Reception:

We will celebrate Bishop David's visit and honor Alex, Ally, Gabe and Jose with a potluck lunch. For anyone who wants to contribute something for lunch, sandwiches and finger foods will be welcome. A cake will be ordered.

Contact the church office with any questions at: 209-522-3267, or stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com



Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Calling all baseball fans! The almond blossoms are done, daffodils are blooming, and the “boys of summer” are back! The Modesto Nuts will be part of spring and summer for one more year and we can cheer them on as a group. Attending the game includes a kid zone area, fun & silly games between innings, ballpark food (yum!), and the chance to participate in a Modesto tradition that will be changing soon.



Dates being considered are May 14 or 15, or June 18 or 19.

We will need to purchase at least 25 tickets to get them for \$8 for the grandstand area or \$11 for lower box seats.

Contact Linda Lowe to sign up or for more information. Church office, 209-522-3267, stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com.

Easter Lilies

We will soon be celebrating Easter, including decorating the sanctuary with lilies. Please contact the church office to sponsor and dedicate lilies for our worship space.

The deadline to list names in honor of loved ones will be April 15th.

St. Paul's office, 209-522-3267, or stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com.



Eucharistic Ministers & Eucharistic Visitors

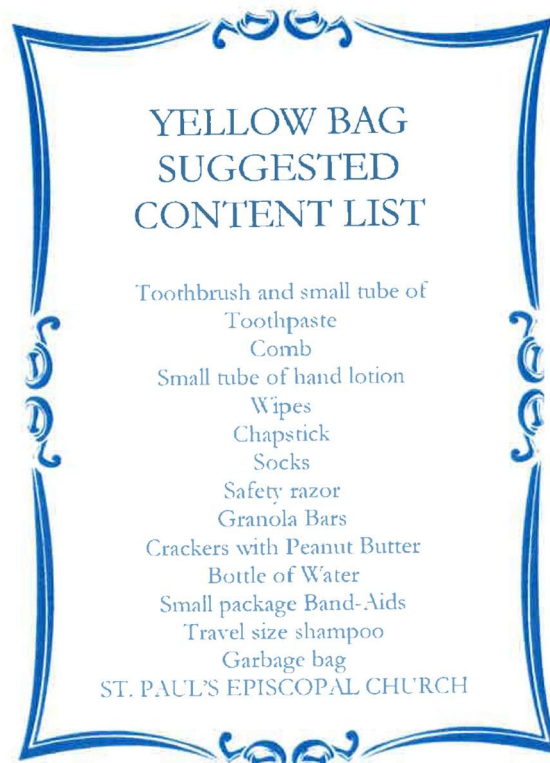
Are you interested in finding out more about these important ministries? A training day will be happening at St. Paul's on Saturday April 26. The day will include people from several parishes in the northern part of our diocese.

If you are interested in finding out more, talk to Fr. Brian or drop him a line at: FrBrianDawson@gmail.com

Yellow Bags

One of the Diocesan Ministries has been the Yellow Bag Ministry, filling yellow back packs with essential items for unhoused neighbors. Part of what Bishop David will be encouraging us to do when he visits on Palm Sunday will include filling and distributing yellow bags through the Shower Shuttle Ministry (see article from Judy Thorkelson) or interactions with folks we meet. A list of suggested items is included here and in the Sunday bulletin. The bags will be available to take home, fill and return to the church either on Sunday or to the office during regular business hours, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-2 pm.

Contact the church office with any questions or suggestions. Phone-209-522-3267 or email- stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com



Celebrating Birthdays in April



April 2025 Birthdays	
Rosalie Carmody	April 7
Gayle Ivy	April 7
Amy Su	April 11
Barbara Poth	April 13
Fog West	April 18
Theresa Grieshaber	April 21

Palm Sunday Bishop's Visitation and Confirmations

On Palm Sunday (April 13) Bishop David will join us to usher in Holy Week. His visitation will include the Confirmation of four of our parish family members:

- Jose Cruz
- Alex Sarina
- Gabe Trauttmann
- Ally Young

Please keep these four in your prayers as they prepare for this significant event and be sure to join us on Palm Sunday.



April Ministry Schedule

Dates	Apr 6 th	Apr 13 th Palm Sunday	Apr 20 th Easter	Apr 27 th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Bp. David Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Judy T. Nancy S.	Nancy S. Judy T.	Nancy S. Judy T.	Nancy S. Jim P.
Eucharistic Minister	Stephanie G.	Rex	Stephanie G. Sarah	Rex
Lectors	Ann M. Nancy S.	Judy T. Stephanie H- W.	Alex S. Stephanie G.	Barbara V. Joyce
Intercessor	Ismael H.	Joyce B.	Nancy S.	Peter K.
Ushers	Carolyn L. Linda L.	Claudine R. Phil M.	Phil M. Carolyn L.	Ismael H. David L.
Greeters	Carolyn L. Lynelle H.	Phil M. Claudine R.	Phil M. Carolyn L.	Ismael H. Lynelle H.
Vestry Rep.	Ismael H.	Joyce B.	Nancy S.	Peter K.

The Saints of Our Time



**LOS SANTOS DE
NUESTRO TIEMPO**
MARZO 27

**CHARLES H.
BRENT**
1862-1929

Padre Celestial, cuyo Hijo oró para que todos fuéramos uno: Libranos de la arrogancia y el prejuicio, y danos sabiduría y paciencia, para que, siguiendo a tu siervo Charles Henry Brent, podamos unirnos en una sola familia con todos los que confiesan el nombre de tu Hijo Jesucristo; quien vive y reina contigo y el Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.


The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

Shower Shuttle Update

Deacon Greg and I recently visited the Shower Shuttle and were blessed to deliver many needed items. With government cutbacks in social programs, and food banks struggling to fill their shelves, the needs are increasing for the least among us. Deacon and I saw many Shower Shuttle guests using walkers, one in a wheelchair, and a man lying on the cold cement in a sleeping bag. The guest's range in age from 18 to approximately 75. Men and women coming to share a cup of coffee, some food, a hot shower and fellowship with those that care about them. The volunteer team with whom we work serves the coffee and food plus has a prayer table. The guests can pray with a team member, write a prayer request card for the prayer box and can take one of the bookmarks with a cross or a prayer sheet which we had brought. The Shower Shuttle is a safe place to go for those on the streets. Guests help each other and share information.

Your continued generosity in filling the donation basket in the front of the church is greatly appreciated by all. Some needed items are small packs of dog food or dog treats (many unsheltered have dogs and try to care for them always sharing their food), granola bars, small tubes of toothpaste, travel size bottles of lotions, and peanut butter sandwich crackers (Keebler, Ritz). Easy items to pack into a backpack and to fill a hungry stomach.

I am blessed to have Deacon Greg as my new partner in our Outreach to the Shower Shuttle, and as he told me, " I could see the face of Jesus in each guest."

Blessing's people of St. Paul's and thank you again for your continued support.

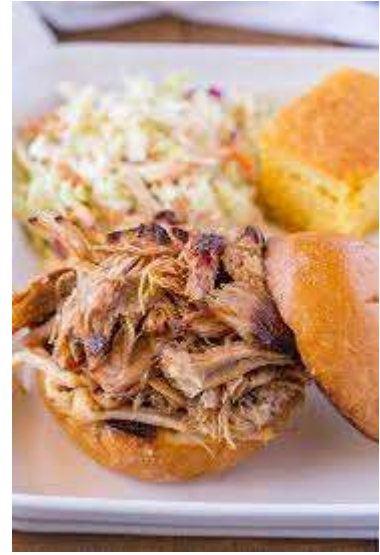
Judy Thorkelson 🍷🙏🕊️



Salvation Army Shelter Dinners

The Salvation Army Dinner Team prepared dinner for 115 guests and staff at the downtown Modesto Shelter, Sunday, March 16th. The menu included pulled pork sandwiches, Cole slaw, steamed vegetables, peach dump cake with whipped cream, and milk, a menu that was a big hit!

The Team is blessed to prepare and serve dinner six times a year and are always happy to have anyone help with various stages of the meal. Participation can include contributing ingredients, assisting with cooking prior to the day or at the church, serving at the shelter, and/or praying for this ministry.



Contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com for more information and to participate with the Team.

Golden Corral Senior Luncheon Group



Come one, come all.... spouses, partners, friends...are all welcome- the more the merrier!

Phil and Anita Machado will be hosting lunch at Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Avenue, Modesto, Tuesday, April 15th at 2:30 pm. Ten St. Paul's members are already part of this fun group. No reservation required.

The price for seniors is \$15, including drinks. Find Phil and Anita around the corner from the dessert station, ready to enjoy good company and good food.

For more information, contact Phil, 209-527-2727.

What's New at St. Paul's

- ◆ The generous support from members has continued to allow St. Paul's to meet various obligations. Look for a report from the Finance Committee and statements from the office for feedback.
- ◆ Following the Vestry approval, a new computer was purchased and installed in the church office.
- ◆ The policies and guidelines for Memorial/Funeral services have been updated. A committee will be reviewing and updating the Guidelines for event rentals of the church and parish hall.
- ◆ Discussion continues regarding potential uses for the vacant land on the northeast corner of the church property. Bids are being sought for an updated appraisal of the property.
- ◆ A bid to replace the sidewalk at the front entrance to the Parish Hall was approved with work done at the end of March.
- ◆ New committees were formed to address ongoing ministries and needs of the parish and larger community. Information was shared at the Parish Forum, March 30th.
- ◆ Parish Forums will be planned for months when there are five Sundays (3/30, 6/29, 8/31, 11/30). These will be included with the coffee hour following the worship services.
- ◆ As required by the Diocese, a committee of three members will be reviewing financial and policy procedures covering 2024. The committee will include Lynelle Hains, Courtney Smith, and Rosanne Mountain.
- ◆ The Vestry approved replacing the Pride flag with the Progress flag, recognizing our inclusion of all members of the LGBTQ+ community. Check out the new flag proudly flying out in front of the church.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Pastoral Team

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

Archdeacon Emeritus George Cano

Deacon Greg Masztal.....deacongreg66@outlook.com

Parish Administrator

Linda Lowe: 209-522-3267stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffercbshea@pacbell.net

Hand Bells, Judy Teterjlpt@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Chain.....stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletin, Cherie Sheaffer.....cbshea@pacbell.net

Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztaldeacongreg66@outlook.com

Finance Committee, Carolyn Listcarolynlist@sbcglobal.net

Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smithcourtneyvsmith@gmail.com

Praesidium AcademyStephanie Gilmer

Vestry

Senior Warden: Joyce Bell (215) 275-6502bellj1@charter.net

Junior Warden: Peter Krewko (707) 853-3604pmkjfc@att.net

Joyce Bell, Lora Burnett, Sarah Hartmann, Ishmael Huggins, Peter Krewko, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz, Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, and Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Greg Burnett

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List

