

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

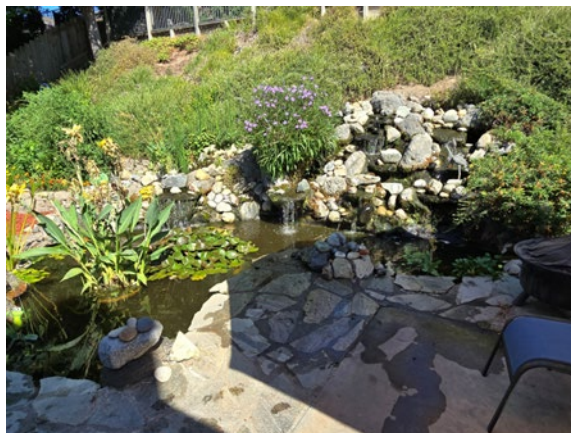
The Epistle

July-August 2025 Issue



Thanks to Fr. Brian's retreat on the Rules of Benedict a few weeks ago, I was reminded of the balance of life Benedict had instituted for his monks. While part of the monk's day was spent in prayer, and part of the day spent in work, there was also a part of the day spent in silence. We had time during the retreat to spend time in silence, and while re-reading the introduction to the Rules during one of these silences I realized that even the work time of the monks involved prayer.

A few days later I found myself in the backyard working on the monthly maintenance of our koi pond. This involves cleaning the filters, pruning the plants, pulling the weeds, cleaning out the spiderwebs, and my least favorite activity: pulling off the string algae from the waterfalls.



As I worked, I thought about the monks toiling away at their assigned tasks and contemplated the creation of God while thoughtfully grooming the waterfalls and pond. Slowly I started to be more aware of God's creation surrounding my efforts. The fish, numbering about 30 or 35, were absolutely fascinated with what I was doing since plant treats or insects would fall into the water on occasion.

While the birds are scared off during this general cleaning, there are still other creatures like the dragonflies, bees, and spiders who don't seem to mind the turmoil. As I pulled the string algae, I



would sometimes find earthworms, who I would rescue by relocating them to the vegetable garden. ("Rescuing" may be an exaggeration since this involved tossing them into the garden, but it was better than throwing them in the recycle bin or letting them fall into the dangerous koi-infested waters!)

The whole project took me several hours, but the time spent in contemplation and immediate awareness made the task seem more like a relaxing sojourn rather than work. After I was done, I spent time on our bench thinking about Benedict's monks and watching the life around the pond return to its normal routine

of fish and dragonflies circling and dancing, while birds peeked through the trees.

Living intentionally in our faith brings us a new reality of being that transforms tedious tasks into new wonderment of the world around us. How much more can that intentionality transform our daily living? Following the path of Jesus is a continuous effort for us to hang onto the concept of the nearness of our Creator God in our inner being. This intentionality can lead us to transformation on a daily basis. May you find your own transformation along the pathways of life.

Deacon Greg

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

Special Parish Meeting

As per the canons of our Diocese and bylaws of our Parish I am hereby calling a Special Parish Meeting to take place following the 10 am service on Sunday August 10, 2025. The purpose of the meeting is to bring to the parish a recommendation from Vestry that we begin the process of seeking to sell the vacant plot of land behind St Paul's. A full report of the reasons for this recommendation and proposed process will be made to the meeting and parishioners will be asked to give their assent as per the assurance given at our last Parish Forum that this would be a whole parish decision. If a vote is required it will be held by show of hands or, if requested, secret ballot. This Special Meeting will replace the scheduled Parish Forum on August 31.

Fr Brian Dawson, Rector, St Paul's.



**ST PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MODESTO, SPECIAL PARISH MEETING
SUNDAY AUGUST 10TH 2025**

MOTION & BACKGROUND PAPER

THE MOTION:

“That this Special Meeting of the Parish of St Paul’s Episcopal Church, Modesto, approves the recommendation of Vestry that we begin the process of seeking to sell the vacant parcel of land adjacent to the church property (Lot 067033018).”

BACKGROUND

In 1970 St Paul’s took possession of the entire block of land between Briggsmore Ave and what is now St Paul’s Way. Following the development of the Church, Hall and School properties we were left with the block of land cornering Briggsmore. At the time this was believed to be necessary for future expansion, however such expansion never occurred. Some years later the property was split into separate titles and the corner lot was sold to what was then a bank and now an orthodontist. The splitting of the titles required the building of the private link road running between Oakdale and Briggsmore. This was jointly owned and maintained by the three property owners bordering it and a management committee was formed for this purpose. Later the Church of the Nazarene, which owned the neighboring block, sold its land (where the charter school is now).

Once the property developments were completed St Paul’s was left with the 2.3 acre lot of land that today sits between the orthodontist and charter school. The lot has no utilities connected whatsoever and the ground is completely undeveloped. We currently pay \$1,200 in annual property taxes for the lot and the grass is kept down by an outside contractor who is currently doing it free of charge. We are also required to contribute to the maintenance and care of the common property (including the road) and there is a separate account with a balance of \$28,000 for that purpose. Over the years there have been several conversations about potentially selling the lot, with the last serious discussion taking place in 2013. It should be noted that at that time St Paul’s was in a very different position financially and was officially a Mission rather than Parish. The decision then was to not sell.

WHAT’S CHANGED?

Nearly a year ago the City approached the Rector with a request that we consider leasing the land to them for the provision of Bridge Housing. Vestry has studied this proposal seriously over some months. In brief the project would have involved a three year lease deal and resulted in, (i) no immediate income to the parish, but in three years we would have been left with a partly developed lot with utility connections, (ii) approximately 20 small units along with communal facilities providing temporary accommodation for a designed section of Modesto’s unhoused population – St Paul’s would have been able to designate which section that was to some extent, (iii) St Paul’s would have been responsible for the management of the physical property, (iv) St Paul’s would have been overall responsible for the delivery of support services to the residents (the city would assist with applying for funding to appoint an agency to undertake this work, but we would essentially be the underwriters).

After carefully considering the proposal Vestry acknowledged that it is a very important and worthwhile piece of work that would assist some of the most vulnerable in our city. Vestry also felt, however, that as a

relatively small parish we do not have the capacity to meet the responsibilities that would be required of us, and therefore could not in good faith commit the Parish to such a project for three years. Vestry agrees that we should still seek to support those providing services and ministry to the unhoused (as we do with the Shower Shuttle ministry currently).

Throughout this discussion Vestry has been encouraged to consider the future of the vacant lot with three options in mind. The Rector describes these as the Three Fors:

- (i) Forget it. Leave it as it has been for 55 years.
- (ii) For purpose. Do something with it that benefits the community (eg housing)
- (iii) For profit. Sell it and use the income to continue and grow our ministry

Fairly swiftly Vestry moved to really considering options (ii) and (iii). As discussed above, option (ii) would require us to have capacity either as a partner to the City or as a developer of the land. The upside of this option is we would retain some control of the property and have the ability to dictate future use. The downside is we have neither the personnel nor finances to be able to do this well. Option (iii) offers the opportunity to realise the investment in the property and utilise it for our future ministry directions. The downsides are once it is sold it is sold, we can only sell it once. We would also have little to no say in what the lot was used for in the future (beyond approving whom it is sold to).

In more recent months a commercial realtor has approached us enquiring about one of his clients purchasing the property outright. The identity of the client is currently confidential, although the Rector, Senior Warden and our advisor, Niniv Tamimi are aware, as is the Diocesan Chancellor and Bishop. It can be said that they are a commercial operation in the automotive industry.

Alongside this development Vestry contracted an independent inspector to give us a full commercial inspection of our church, hall and school properties. Unsurprisingly given the age of the buildings and how long they were left unmaintained in the past this inspection has uncovered a lengthy list of issues, some of which are potentially very costly.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Several months ago Vestry commissioned a new appraisal of the vacant lot's value. This appraisal came back as \$1.46 million. At the end of July after a long conversation Vestry agreed that (a) we could not commit to the partnership option for housing, and (b) we should begin the process of attempting to sell the empty lot. As previously promised, Vestry asked the Rector to convene a Special Parish Meeting to seek the approval of the Parish to do this. Vestry also asked the Rector and Senior Warden to seek Diocesan approval for the same.

Throughout this process Vestry has been mindful that as an Episcopal church within the Diocese of San Joaquin we are not the actual owners of the land. All the parish land is owned by the Diocese and held in trust for the provision of Episcopalian ministry in this place. We are, essentially, part of something bigger than ourselves and this is both fundamental and central to what being an Episcopal Parish means. As a church and a diocese our past history bears out the significance of this strongly.

The Rector and Senior Warden wrote to the diocese following the last vestry meeting with two requests. Firstly, permission to begin the process of selling the land. It was made clear that this was provisional on

wider parish approval. Secondly, that any monies collected from such a sale be invested in our name and the income from said investment paid to St Paul's for mission and ministry.

At the Diocesan Council's July meeting the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Bishop, Chancellor and Treasurer in consultation with St. Paul's, Modesto, commence due diligence and preliminary negotiations on a potential sale of the unimproved acreage.

Any binding proposals or agreements would be subject to the Diocesan Council's further review.

In terms of the principal from the any sale, Diocesan Council typically places conditions on its approval to ensure proper stewardship and adherence to the canons of The Episcopal Church. To that end, the Diocesan Council has requested a plan from the Vestry as to how any income would be used, so that it can discharge its obligations. Typically, the Diocesan Council approves the proceeds to be retained for the benefit of the congregation and may require that the funds be invested and restricted by the congregation for the support of the mission and ministry for St Paul's, Modesto. Subject to the Diocesan Council's approval, it could approve the interest gained would come to us (with any appropriate assessment being paid to the Diocese). This would essentially put us in the same position as several other parishes in the Diocese with tagged investments through DFMS.

In terms of how the interest income would be used, Vestry is still having this conversation. Originally it was thought it might go towards a new Parish Administrator, but with the results of the property report there is a need to make this a bigger conversation about our ongoing needs and costs, and what best practice stewardship looks like for us now and in the future. Financially St Paul's is just breaking even. We have a cushion of around \$300,000 in investments but it should be noted that a very large chunk of our annual income is dependent on the pre-school and if that were to stop our cushion would disappear quickly. The Rector has encouraged us to have this conversation while we have the luxury of time rather than waiting until circumstances force us to have it with far more urgency.

SO WHERE TO NEXT?

If this meeting does not agree to the Vestry recommendation then the answer is nowhere different. The land simply stays sitting there and we remain in the same situation we are now. If the meeting does agree to the recommendation then our Parish and Diocesan representatives will agree on how to begin negotiations with the interested party. Advice received to date is given the nature of the potential purchaser and their initial responses we would be best to pursue this first rather than trying to put the property on the open market. In the event the current situation changes we could consider going to the open market later.

Once negotiations are underway it will likely be some months before we have anything further to report and the entire process could take 18 months or even longer. In the meantime Vestry gives its assurances that you will be kept as informed as possible.

Prayerfully,

Joyce Bell, Senior Warden, and Rev'd Brian Dawson, Rector



Dear St. Paul's Parishioners,

Thank you so very much for your continued generosity in helping to support The Shower Shuttle. The Yellow Bags which you so kindly filled, and Father Brian blessed, have found their way to many deserving women and men. The volunteer coordinator at the Shuttle with whom Deacon Greg and I work, has been instrumental in finding the most deserving women and men to receive them. In fact, she renamed them the Jesus Blessings Bags. And indeed, they have blessed many people. Below is an excerpt from an email she sent me to express appreciation for all St. Paul's does. She calls me Grandma Judy as she did not have a grandmother and I "informally adopted" her.



Blessings,

Judy Thorkelson



Good morning, Grandma Judy!

Happy Tuesday!

I hope all is well. I wanted to send you a few testimonials from Holy Grounds friends and what God is

doing in their lives as they trust in Him.

The first testimony is for Karen

She has been clean and sober now for 7 months and she shared her "Jesus blessing bag" with her husband Travis who is in treatment now. She was so grateful and thankful for the very large, packed blessing bag that God made a way to cover them both with the supplies they needed, and they felt God's love and generosity.

She gave the biggest hug and wanted to say thank you for being the hands and feet for Jesus!

The second testimony is for Joy

She enter into rehab with her Jesus blessing Bag and wanted prayer as she's ready to address her mental health and addiction. This is a true testament of what God can do when we surrender ourselves to Him!

The 3rd Testimonial is for Jason.

I have seen God working in His life in the last Year as he has been trusting in God. God is restoring Jason's relationship with his daughter that he hasn't seen in 8yrs. He now has been in contact with her and the healing process has begun and in fact his daughter just gave birth to a little girl. So now Jason is a grandfather and is so grateful to God!

There are so many Testimonials of what God is doing in all of our lives! I hope this encourages you all to continue seeking God and serving Him as He has called you all by name!

You are all living out John 13:34-35

Keep Shining Jesus' Love and Hope!

Love in Christ,

Cindy Avila



Celebrating Birthdays in July



July 2025 Birthdays	
Stewart Peters	July 2
Ann Mootz	July 3
Keith Munroe	July 4
Claudine Romegialli	July 11
Roberta Bearden	July 14
Brian Cassagio	July 14
Bonnie Kellog	July 15
Matthew Antirien	July 15
Anita Machado	July 18
Bonnie Palmer	July 21
Linda Masztal	July 23
Jim Ambrosavage	July 27
Clare Jensen	July 39
Peter Krewko	July 31
Toni Clark	July 31



The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE **ANNOUNCES SLATE OF NOMINEES for** **6th BISHOP OF SAN JOAQUIN**

The nominees in alphabetical order are:

The Reverend Canon Anna Carmichael Ph.D., Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, California

The Reverend Robert Keim, Rector, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Arroyo Grande, California

The Reverend Dr. Greg Kimura, Rector, St. James' Episcopal Church, South Pasadena, California

The Reverend Canon Shawn Wamsley, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Pennsylvania

Biographical information, professional documents, written responses to a series of questions, a video of a favorite sermon, and a video featuring a short introduction from each of the nominees is available through www.diosanjoaquin.org/bishop-search.



Meet and Greet with Episcopal Nominees

St. Paul's will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" with the four nominees to be the 6th Bishop of San Joaquin. This will be at noon, Saturday, September 13. More details to follow.



August 2025 Birthdays	
Howard Grieshaber	August 8
Rosanne Mountain	August 8
David West	August 14
Brian Cassagio	August 18
Keith & Virginia (Ginny) Munroe	August 22
Jim Bland	August 23
Annamary Peck	August 23

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, August 12th 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.



Church Ministry Leaders Commissioned for Service

Sunday, June 8, 2025 — A Day of Celebration and Commitment

On Sunday, June 8, the congregation gathered in a spirit of joy and gratitude as the leaders of various church ministries were officially commissioned for their ongoing service. Fr. Brian led the commissioning during the service, acknowledging the faithful and dedicated work of ministry leaders who serve both within the parish and out in the broader community.

In his charge to the congregation, Fr. Brian reminded all present that *“we are baptized by the one Spirit into one Body and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good.”* With these words, he emphasized that every act of service is sacred and contributes to the life of the Church and the flourishing of the wider world.

Each individual was commissioned in the Name of God and the congregation, affirming their unique calling and commitment to serve in the ministries to which they have been entrusted. During the ceremony, commissioning certificates and licenses were presented to:

- **Eucharistic Ministers**
- **Eucharistic Visitors**
- **Acolytes**
- **Music Director**
- **Sunday School Leaders**
- **Pastoral Care Coordinator**

In addition to those formally commissioned, Fr. Brian extended heartfelt thanks and recognition to members of several outreach and support ministries whose ongoing efforts uplift both the congregation and the wider community. These included:

- **Shower Shuttle Ministry**
- **Salvation Army Dinner Teams**
- **Altar Guild**
- **Stewardship Campaign Team**
- **Vestry Members**
- **Finance Committee**
- **Treasurer**
- **Vestry Clerk**

The ceremony was a powerful reminder of the many hands and hearts that work together in faith, service, and love. As the Church moves forward in its mission, this commissioning affirmed the commitment of its members to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Pentecost 2025: Pentecost Picnic Brings Joy and Fellowship to the Church Lawn

The Episcopal church celebrates Pentecost “as the inauguration of the Church’s mission in the world. Empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are to go out into our neighborhoods and the wider world—to Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth—witnessing to the risen Christ. The Day of Pentecost is identified by the Book of Common Prayer as one of the feast days “especially appropriate” for baptism (Book of Common Prayer, p. 312). Because of this, Pentecost is also known as “Whitsun” or “Whitsunday” (“White Sunday”), a term used to describe the white baptismal garments worn by those who were baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost and then worn to church on the Day of Pentecost.”. Source: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/bulletins/bulletin-insert-what-is-pentecost-may-21-2023/>



Following the vibrant and spirit-filled Pentecost service, parishioners gathered on the front lawn of the church to enjoy a festive outdoor picnic. With laughter in the air and a gentle breeze carrying the scent of snacks and coffee, it was the perfect setting for fellowship, refreshment, and celebration.

Members of the congregation sipped coffee and cold beverages while reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. Tables and chairs dotted the grass, and the sound of conversation and shared stories filled the space. Children played nearby as adults lingered under the sun and shade alike, grateful for the opportunity to pause and enjoy one another’s company in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.

The Pentecost picnic served as a reminder of the beauty of community life - a time to break bread together, reflect on the gifts of the Spirit, and celebrate the bonds that unite us as one church family.

Special thanks go out to the volunteers who helped with setup, refreshments, and cleanup. Your efforts made the day extra special!



A quick chat while managing the frozen treats.



Enjoying a quick chat during Coffee Hour

Thanks for your Support

As we have passed the mid-year mark (where does the time go?), here's the multiple ways that our congregation has contributed to organizations locally, state-wide and internationally.

- The Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus (formerly Interfaith Ministries): \$472.00
- MoPride: \$466.00
- Eagle Scout Candidate Taco Lunch: \$2,400.00-total, with lunch proceeds part of the total
- Bishop's Discretionary Fund: \$352.00
- SJ Raise-Assistance with needs of immigrants-\$188.00
- Episcopal Relief & Development-Los Angeles Fire Relief: \$300.00
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem: \$255.00

Each of these organizations/ministries is extremely grateful for our assistance. Thank you for your faithful participation with them.



Save the Date

Our much beloved fundraiser, the annual Cookie Walk, is scheduled for Saturday, December 6. We will be celebrating on the feast day of St. Nicholas with special baked goods, Advent crafts for kids, pictures with our very own Santa, and a Christmas market with crafts and coffee. This year will be a one-day event, and we look forward to displaying your home baked cookies and treats to the ticket holders. In the coming months, we will be requesting volunteer bakers, gathering your favorite recipes to create a Cookie Walk Cookbook, and selling tickets for the event.



Tell Out My Soul

In the Gospel of Luke, we find Mary exuberantly proclaims: Tell Out My Soul the greatness of the Lord. You've heard the Magnificat as a cherished song setting during Advent, where we joyfully magnify the good news to come. During our Stewardship Campaign this year we will be sharing personal experiences of the abundance and healing power of following Jesus, and how we can continue to amplify this message within our parish and our greater community. From St. Francis of Assisi Day on October 5 to All Saints/All Souls Day on November 2 we encourage you to meditate on sharing your love with the world and consider the church in your annual giving plans.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025, 6:30p via Zoom

Members Attending: Joyce Bell (Sr. Warden), Peter Krewko (Jr. Warden), Fr. Brian Dawson, Ann Mootz, Sarah Hartmann, Nancy Silva, Lora Burnett, Luis Martinez

Members Excused: Courtney Smith, Chuck Sheaffer

Others Present: Greg Burnett (Treasurer), Jose Cruz, Carolyn List (Vestry Clerk)

Call to Order 6:31pm

Opening Prayer: J. Bell

Approval of Agenda: Agenda will be limited. Changes as follows

Approval of May Minutes, May Financial Reports for Audit, and discussions about operations and projects will be taken up at July Meeting

The only items to be discussed at this meeting:

Vestry Membership

Finance notification regarding Fr. Brian's pension

Facility Inspection

Triangle Property Appraisal

Property Concerns

Rector's Report

Matters Arising

Vestry Membership: Ishmael Huggins has resigned due to health concerns which prevent his regular attendance at meetings and events. Jose Cruz will serve the remainder of I. Huggins' term and consider running in January 2026 for a regular term. Another parishioner who is discerning whether he would like to serve in the remaining open spot.

The Vestry welcomed Jose Cruz as the 10th Vestry member.

Change in Vestry Duties: The Vestry-in-Charge will now serve as a greeter in addition to other duties. Certain members who have other required services – camera operator, acolyte, musical director, etc. will be excused as greeter. Usher duties will be undertaken by non-Vestry.

When asked why, Fr. Brian noted that Vestry members usually have to be at the door to check for arrival of those providing service functions and arrange substitutes if necessary. This also gives parishioners and new members a chance to get to know their Vestry members.

Fr. Brian's Pension: During the June Finance meeting, it was determined that Fr. Brian's pension had not been registered with the National Episcopal Priest's pension plan and payments have not been being paid.. The pension fund was budgeted for 2024 and 2025, but never paid. All paperwork has now been filed and the payment to the pension fund for August 2024 – present will be paid in July 2025.

Facility Inspection Report: Fr. Brian, Peter Krewko: The report has been sent to all Vestry members. There is a separate report for each building on the campus: church, parish hall, school building 1, and school building 2. Fr. Brian has also provided a summary report on the Inspection and assessment reports.

The report notes some health and safety items that need to be taken care soon.

Fr. Brian advised that a committee of parishioners with construction backgrounds is being put together by P. Krewko to evaluate the reports and prioritize what has to be done. Individuals asked to participate include John Ewing who is a general contractor, Sam Wright - an electrician, David West – who has dealt with construction issues as a high school administrator and landlord, and Jose Cruz. N. Silva recommended Jim Bland, former parishioner, who was a general contractor.

L. Burnett asked why the church would not be hiring a commercial property manager to manage these needs? This is a massive facility and this would be a better way to identify imminent needs.

A discussion was had that the church simply does not have the money to hire such a professional. We have a small cushion but this could last just a few years if care is not taken.

Fr. Brian reported that the inspector's report noted that the new sidewalk did not meet ADA requirements, however the cement contractor advised that they do ADA walkways regularly and our new sidewalk does meet ADA requirement.

G. Burnett expressed concern that so much money is needed to manage the school buildings. He feels the church is essentially subsidizing the school's business. The church could not manage without the income from the school rent. When the contract is renewed next year, the mission is to add utilities, either as a percent paid or an increase in rent. As landlords we must maintain the buildings. We are lucky that the school is considered a day care provider and not a 'school' which would have government inspectors here.

Fr. Brian noted that the insurance agent was here recently and was very impressed that the church has done the building inspections.

Solar Panel Maintenance: The solar company has advised that the redwood trees between the Church and Parish Hall are hampering solar production. The complaint about shading the panels is correct only for a short period in the late afternoon. The complaint about debris from the trees covering the panels is valid. Bids are being collected to trim the trees.

Triangle Property Assessment: the property has been assessed at \$1,460,000. Niniv Tamimi has advised that if sold to a commercial operator, considering that it is completely undeveloped, the receiving price would likely be 20% lower, more like \$ 1 to 1.2 million.

The Diocese has advised that any receipts from the property would be held in St. Paul's name in the Diocese's financial investment accounts. Since we have no loans, leases, nor mortgages, the parish would receive the interest and dividends earned on the investment to use for general expenses but would not be allowed to use the capital. Any sale would need approval from the Diocesan Council. A question was asked if we could use the money to build a new church elsewhere. Answer, possibly but unlikely.

There are 2 interested parties. One is a commercial business and the other is the City of Modesto seeking a 3-yr lease to house homeless. They would add sewage, water, and utilities services. But the church would receive no money for the 3-year duration. We could also choose not to sell and leave the property vacant. This is a difficult decision for any church, but it is happening all over the world. Fr. Brian would like parishioner guidance regarding how people feel about no income and homeless housing, vs a commercial business next door. A sale would be final with no income other than noted above.

Fr. Brian advised that because St. Paul's did not pay a priest for the 3 years before he came, the church had some funds to pay for necessary maintenance. However, we cannot afford a Parish Administrator now and funds for maintenance are tight. There are serious considerations regarding the campus that need to be made in the next several years. We have to develop ways to live within our means and to figure out ways to put ourselves in a position so that building maintenance is not all consuming.

Some of these thoughts will be presented at the Parish Forum on Sunday. The expectation is that Vestry members will have information to answer questions.

Closing Prayer: Deacon Greg

Meeting Adjourned: 8:31pm

Next Meeting: Sunday, July 20, in person, immediately after services.

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in August



August 2025 Wedding Anniversaries	
Howard and Teresa Grieshaber	August 8
Jeff and Rosanne Mountain	August 8
David and Marybeth West	August 14
Brian and Elizabeth Cassagio	August 18
Keith and Ginny Munroe	August 22
Jim and Samantha Bland	August 23
Jim and Annamary Peck	August 23

Salvation Army Shelter Dinners

The Salvation Army Shelter Dinner Team's menu for July 20th was sloppy joes, Cole slaw, watermelon, chocolate chip cookies, and milk. Our great team included some who cooked the ground beef at home, and others who baked the always-appreciated chocolate chip cookies, and others who purchased the ingredients to round out the meal. We finished by assembling the parts, delivering them and serving the guests and staff at the shelter.

The Team will be preparing and serving dinner in September and November this year. The menu varies according to available ingredients. We welcome suggestions, help with planning, contributing ingredients, cooking and serving. We are blessed to be able to continue this ministry and thank everyone for their prayers.

Contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937, with any questions or if you are willing to help in any way.

August 2025 Ministry Schedule

Dates	August 3rd	August 10 th	August 17 th	August 24 th	August 31 st
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Nancy S. Evelyn B.	Nancy S. Carlos M.	Jim P. Joyce B.	Nancy S. Alex S.	Nancy S. Alex S. Gabe T.
Eucharistic Minister	Rex A. Linda L.	Sarah H. Joyce B.	Rex A.	Linda L.	Joyce B.
Lectors	Barbara V. Rex A.	Stephanie H- W. Ann M.	Linda L. Theresa G.	Alex S. Ann M.	Stephanie H- W. Joyce B.
Intercessor	Luis M.	Jose C.	Lora B.	Peter K.	Nancy S.
Ushers	Luis M. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Greg B. David L.	Peter K. Carolyn L.	David L. Claudine R.
Greeters	Luis M. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Lynelle H. Greg B.	Peter K. Carolyn L.	Claudine R. Lynelle H.
Vestry Rep.	Luis M.	Jose C.	Lora B.	Peter K.	Nancy S.
Coffee Hour Host	Ann M.	Joyce B. Sarah H.	Linda L.		Jose C. Peter K.





Prayer and Praise

August 1, 2025

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Annamary	Paige	Susan	Jeannie	Cherie
Priscella	Loretta	Bonnie	Ishmael	Michael
Clare	Bob	Brett	Mary	Howard
JoHanna	Joey	Mike	Rex S	Ronda
Keith	Ginny	Hennie	Marissas	Murray
Lora	Kathy	Jose	Judy	Cailie
Suzanna	Liz	Bill	Hugh	Erin
Jeremy	Kevin	Dorothy	Ann	Jaclyn
Tommy	Juanita	Jonathan	Nellie	Nancy
Jamie				

Those who have been called back to God

The Rev. Archdeacon George Cano

Those in the Military

CPT Sam Birch, Army

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, Air Force CPT Jenavieve

Campbell, Air Force CPT Fred Campbell, Air Force

PO 1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

SGT Carson Repan, USAF

Special Prayers

The Clergy, Vestry, and Wardens



In Commemoration of the
1700th Year
of the
COUNCIL OF NICAEA

“The Place of Nicaea/Nicene Creed in Working
towards Christian Unity Today:
A Theological Conversation”

**“Free to Attend-
Donations Appreciated”**

NOV. 6, 2025
6:30 PM–8:00 PM

**“Join Us –
Everyone’s
Welcome!”**

Emanuel Lutheran Church
324 College Ave. Modesto, CA 95350

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Enrico Beltramini, Ph.D.

Discussants:

Rev. Lyn Crase: Pastor Evangelical Lutheran Church, Modesto
Fr. Brian Dawson: Rector St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Modesto
Fr. Pete Sotiras: Parish Priest Greek Orthodox Church, Stockton
Rev. Zach Riley, Lead Pastor Radiant Covenant Church, Modesto

let us know you
are coming:



Organized by:

Evangelical Lutheran Church – Modesto	*	Church of the Brethren – Modesto
First United Methodist Church – Modesto	*	Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Stockton		



Pastoral Team

Fr. Brian Dawson 209-897-1612 FrBrianDawson@gmail.com
Deacon Greg Masztal deacongreg66@outlook.com
Stephanie Gilmer, Pastoral Care Coordinator mzgilmer@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

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

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffer cbshea@pacbell.net
Hand Bells, Judy Teter jlpt@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chain stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
St. Paul's Epistle, Barbara Vassell stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztal deacongreg66@outlook.com
Finance Committee, Carolyn List carolynlist@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

Vestry

Senior Warden, Joyce Bell-(215) 275-6502 belljl@charter.net
Junior Warden, Peter Krewko (707) 853-3604 pmkjfc@att.net
Joyce Bell, Lora Burnett, Jose Cruz, Sarah Hartmann, Peter Krewko, Luis Martinez,
Ann Mootz, Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, and Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Greg Burnett

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List

