

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

Sept-Oct 2026 Issue



PLENTY GOOD ROOM

Stewardship 2026

This year's Stewardship theme comes from the old spiritual hymn of the same name, the refrain for which goes:

*Plenty good room, plenty good room,
plenty good room in my Father's kingdom.
Plenty good room, plenty good room,
just choose your seat and sit down.*

There's plenty of room in God's kingdom, and not just room but GOOD room, ABUNDANT room. Room for all and room for more.

Once again, this year our Stewardship Committee will be making contact with everyone, and I know I speak for us all when I say we truly appreciate their efforts. We will again be beginning our campaign with a special service for St Francis Day, including the always fun and often chaotic blessing of the animals. Then our focus will remain on stewardship through until November 1st when we celebrate All Saints Day. I am working on a special service for later that day to mark All Souls and Dia de los Muertos, so watch for more details.

Back to Stewardship, and we're taking that abundance theme out for a spin this year. During the month I will be inviting us to reflect on what it means to be stewards;

of our property

of our pledges

of our people

of our planet

The very first command to humanity in Genesis 1 is to be fruitful and exercise stewardship over the earth and all that is in it. Most of our bibles use the word Dominion but all too often we mishear that as Domination. It's not. We are called to care for, to protect, to be responsible for – in other words to be good stewards of all things. In the Garden of Eden that meant to *avad* (tend or cultivate) and *shamar* (keep or care for). So what does it mean in 2026 Modesto, California? At St Paul's, in our Diocese? That's what we're going to be exploring, and I say WE because I don't have all the answers.

As always, I urge you to think carefully about your personal stewardship for this next year. Your pledges are vital to our work and while we can – and should – always be looking at how we use them, the amazing work being done in our name every month tells me we are off to a great start. And, as always, I encourage you to look carefully at your own circumstances in this process. No one should be giving to the Church at the cost of their own health, family or welfare. And finally, please, if you have any concerns, as always, talk to me.

The plenty good room in our Church. Plenty good room at St Paul's. Plenty good room in our faith. Let's see what we can do with that plenty together.

Grace and Peace

Brian+



August 30, 2026 Forum and Vestry Meeting

Vestry Present: Fr. Brian Dawson, Senior Warden Joyce Bell, Junior Warden Peter Krewko, Jose Cruz, Carolyn List, Alex Sarina, Rosanne Mountain, and Ann Mootz.

Unable to attend: Vestry Members Courtney Smith and Luis Martinez.

The meeting was called to order at noon by Fr. Brian Dawson. A quorum of Vestry Members and other congregation members were present.

Fr. Brian stated the following Vestry highlights:

- Joyce Bell has resigned from her role as Senior Warden effective today. Courtney Smith has agreed to assume the role of Senior Warden for the balance of 2026. A card was circulated for members to sign, and Fr. Brian expressed his appreciation for Joyce's time and efforts.
- Financial news-Brandi Anderson, as Treasurer has been working with the Finance Committee and the bookkeeper to reorganize the chart of accounts for the church and monitor the ongoing finances. She also is investigating the potential to move some money from the current money market account to another investment account to receive more interest. Fr. Brian stated that, though we are holding steady with current income and assets, we are dependent on Hazel's Christian Pre-School remaining at St. Paul's for rental income.
- The Vestry members recently approved, via email, a plan to hire a company to tune the organ twice per year.
- La Familia-The arrangement to allow the staff of La Familia to use several of the offices daily is working well.
- Annual Pride in the Park-St. Paul's will share a table space with members of St. Francis' Church from Turlock, October 10th.

Vacant Land Update:

Fr. Brian stated that the decision by the congregation and Vestry to sell the vacant lot to a particular company a year ago may not happen. There has been a management change for the company, and they may decide against

purchasing the lot. Diocesan Chancellor Michael Glass will be meeting with the company's management soon. A decision may be considered to offer the parcel for sale on the open market. Selling the parcel could provide additional income for the parish.

Sound System in the Church:

Fr. Brian has been researching ways to handle the problem of the inconsistent audio in the church. He outlined several problems:

- The dome is unlined and has steel beams that serve to deflect the sound to various parts of the space.
- The original design of the church was for the altar to be located in the middle of the space, directly under the center of the dome.
- The control and receiver for the system are located in the priest sacristy, behind permanent walls that can hinder sound from being projected into the church. There is a plan to create access into the church for the receiver. Fr. Brian is looking for a person or company with expertise to handle this situation.

Future Plans:

January 25, 2027 will be the 55th Anniversary of the dedication of St. Paul's at 1528 Oakdale Rd. Pending Vestry approval, plans include launching a capital campaign, "55 at 55", dedicated for raising the funds needed to revise the sound system. A question was asked about the total financial needs to accomplish the revision. Fr. Brian stated that the campaign title will be the start of raising the funds needed for the project.

This potential campaign will be separate from the usual annual Stewardship Drive to provide for the ongoing needs of the parish.

Fr. Brian thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded us that we are blessed as we continue to represent the Diocese in this part of the Central Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lowe, Clerk



Prayer and Praise

October 5, 2026

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Karen	Mike	Hennie	Annamary	Jose
James	Susie	Bonnie	Ishmael	Howard
Mary	Judy	Ellen	Kevin	Murray
Jim	Lindsay	Michael	Ivy	Gabe
Sharon	Janet	Karen M	Clara	Phil
Ginny	Mary Anne	Kelly	Marlene	Suzanne
Darlene	Laurence	Charlie	Pat	Al
Bob	Rick	George	Betty	Debora
Alison	Marcus	Trudy	Bill	Frank
Brooke	Seema	Brandon	Sue	Wayne

Those who have been called back to God

Donna Stephenson

Jaime Cruz

Nedra Voorhees

All in Our Prayers

Those in the Military

CPT Sam Birch, Army

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAF

PO 1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

SSG Brandon Wegener

Special Prayers The Clergy, Vestry, and Wardens

St Paul's Episcopal Church

Monthly Payments Report

August 2026

Type	Date	Memo	Amount
AT&T			
Check	08/12/2026	July/augInv.287301205547X05547X08092026	-44.25
Check	08/19/2026	Account:831-001-4898-694-8/7-9/6/26	-309.52
BMO BANK N.A			
Check	08/05/2026	xxx-xxx-xxx-9140--June 2026	-1,309.39
BradyIFS			
Check	08/05/2026	Invoice 12051415	-324.37
Carolyn List			
Check	08/26/2026	Funeral Flowers	-43.91
Christian Copyright Licensing			
Check	08/26/2026	Account number: 1374105	-266.00
Church Insurance			
Check	08/05/2026	Policy:VT-WC5625900493015	-53.00
Check	08/05/2026	0000410	-2,397.00
Church Pension Group			
Check	08/25/2026	Acct:0821062868-September2026-Paid Online	-1,134.50
City of Modesto			
Check	08/19/2026	7022681/7022683/7022682-July 2026	-1,353.52
Comcast			
Check	08/19/2026	8155 60 074 2819694-Services 8/19-9/18/26	-312.01
Diocese of San Joaquin			
Check	08/05/2026	Gift-Canon Anna Carmichael	-145.00
Check	08/15/2026	Treasurer's Monthly Report-July 2026	-868.21
Check	08/26/2026	Vision & Mission Working Group	-634.00
Check	08/31/2026	August Payroll Invoice 2026-PR-1425	-6,391.96
Flanders Ventures Inc.			
Check	08/05/2026	Invoice1835 July2026	-270.00
Forward Movement			
Check	08/12/2026	Invoice 10525998	-25.00
Gilton Solid Waste			
Check	08/12/2026	000816881-00 N-000/000816881-00NG-000 J...	-312.72
Greg Masztal			
Check	08/19/2026	Shower Shuttle-Deacon discretionary fund	-576.94
Grover Landscaping			
Check	08/05/2026	Invoice 0353488-July 2026	-1,080.00
Insect IQ			
Check	08/12/2026	Account: 115300000 August 2026-Invoice 407...	-224.21
Jan-Pro of the Greater Bay Area			
Check	08/26/2026	Invoice:36161-September 2026	-1,070.13
Modesto Irrigation District			
Check	08/26/2026	743165772519/543472006079/843206571574	-1,120.08
MoPride, Inc			
Check	08/19/2026	Outreach	-400.00
Mr. Samuel Wright			
Check	08/05/2026	Lights	-264.50
Ontel Security Services, Inc.			
Check	08/05/2026	Invoice 45183-July 2026-62 hits	-1,302.00
P G & E			
Check	08/12/2026	0682494596-5-Service 7/6-8/4/2026	-91.36
Pacific Office Automation-PA			
Check	08/19/2026	500-50350774-Invoice598203327-Phones	-414.95
Payroll Taxes			
Check	08/25/2026	August 2026 payroll	-211.80
Superior Dry Cleaners			
Check	08/19/2026	15 small table cloths-credit	-90.00
The Church Pension Fund			
Check	08/25/2026	564-741-82/August 2026	-1,977.00
The Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus			
Check	08/05/2026	Designated Offering-8.2.26	-53.00
Check	08/12/2026	Designated Offering-8.16	-20.00
Toshiba Financial Services			
Check	08/19/2026	450-0181177-000-Invoice 5039749712	-140.44

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Cash Basis

St Paul's Episcopal Church
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
August 2026

	Aug 26	Budget	Jan - Aug 26	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Operating Income					
A · Pledge & Plate Offerings					
4000.0 · Sunday Plate Donations	333.00	333.00	1,810.00	2,664.00	4,000.00
4000.1 · Faith Pledges	17,922.24	15,833.00	134,016.74	126,664.00	190,000.00
4000.3 · Holiday	0.00	167.00	730.00	1,336.00	2,004.00
Total A · Pledge & Plate Offerings	18,255.24	16,333.00	136,556.74	130,664.00	196,004.00
B · Net Investment & Endowment	0.00	300.00	0.00	2,400.00	3,600.00
C · Rental & Fundraising Income					
4100.0 · Facility Use & Deposits	403.30	83.00	2,376.40	664.00	1,000.00
4100.1 · Facility Use-Long Term	0.00	333.00	0.00	2,664.00	4,000.00
4100.2 · School Rent	4,150.00	3,800.00	33,200.00	30,400.00	45,600.00
4100.3 · School Payments(Utilityies)	1,950.00	2,300.00	15,600.00	18,400.00	27,600.00
4100.4 · Facility Use-Other	0.00		448.25		
4100.6 · Fundraisers(Amazon Smile)	0.00	1,084.00	0.00	8,672.00	13,008.00
4100.67 · Other Fundraisers	0.00	417.00	0.00	3,336.00	5,004.00
Total C · Rental & Fundraising Income	6,503.30	8,017.00	51,624.65	64,136.00	96,212.00
D · Other Operating Income					
4100.68 · Recycle Program	24.00	22.00	129.00	176.00	264.00
4200.0 · Rector Discretionary Fund	200.00	125.00	615.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
4200.2 · Memorial Donations	120.00	250.00	120.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
4200.3 · Other Operating Donations	25.00	1,000.00	75.00	8,000.00	12,000.00
4200.60 · Deacon's Discretionary Fund	372.99	50.00	1,880.56	400.00	600.00
Total D · Other Operating Income	741.99	1,447.00	2,819.56	11,576.00	17,364.00
F · Restricted/Designated Offeri					
Designated Offerings					
4300.0 · Altar Guild Flowers	70.00	100.00	2,674.35	800.00	1,200.00
4300.01 · Altar Guild Supply	0.00	9.00	0.00	65.00	100.00
4300.05 · Hospitality	0.00	25.00	0.00	200.00	300.00
4300.06 · Music	600.00	500.00	4,800.00	4,000.00	6,000.00
4300.08 · Capital	60.00		28,910.00		
4300.10 · Capital Campaigns	0.00	3,583.00	0.00	28,664.00	43,000.00
Total Designated Offerings	730.00	4,217.00	36,384.35	33,729.00	50,600.00
Pass Through Income					
4400.0 · Bishop Donations	120.00	42.00	413.00	336.00	504.00
4400.2 · Food in Faith	53.00		53.00		

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August 2026

	Aug 26	Budget	Jan - Aug 26	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
4400.3 · FIGS	20.00	83.00	587.00	664.00	996.00
4400.4 · Salvation Army Dinner	0.00		25.00		
4400.6 · Other Outreach	310.00	42.00	526.00	336.00	504.00
Total Pass Through Income	503.00	167.00	1,604.00	1,336.00	2,004.00
Total F · Restricted/Designated Offeri	1,233.00	4,384.00	37,988.35	35,065.00	52,604.00
Operating Income - Other	0.00		25.42		
Total Operating Income	26,733.53	30,481.00	229,014.72	243,841.00	365,784.00
Total Income	26,733.53	30,481.00	229,014.72	243,841.00	365,784.00
Gross Profit	26,733.53	30,481.00	229,014.72	243,841.00	365,784.00
Expense					
Expenditures					
H. Outreach Expenses					
Designated Offerings					
5201.00 · Adult Education Expense	0.00	83.00	346.20	664.00	996.00
5203.00 · Altar Guild Flower Exp.	0.00	17.00	0.00	136.00	204.00
5204.00 · Altar Guild Supply Exp.	0.00	46.00	349.39	368.00	552.00
5206.00 · Children Education					
5206.1 · Sunday School Supplies	0.00		49.53		
5206.6 · Other Special Program Expenses	36.98		36.98		
Total 5206.00 · Children Education	36.98		86.51		
5208 · Hospitality (Event Supplies)					
5208.10 · Coffee Hour	0.00		543.21		
5208 · Hospitality (Event Supplies) - Other	0.00	167.00	0.00	1,336.00	2,004.00
Total 5208 · Hospitality (Event Supplies)	0.00	167.00	543.21	1,336.00	2,004.00
5209 · Pamphlet Exp.	25.00	10.00	75.00	80.00	120.00
5210 · Fundraiser- St. Paul Exp.					
5210.60 · Cookie Walk	0.00		79.20		
5210.70 · Other Fundraiser Expenses	527.50		527.50		
5210 · Fundralser- St. Paul Exp. - Other	0.00	83.00	86.88	664.00	996.00
Total 5210 · Fundraiser- St. Paul Exp.	527.50	83.00	693.58	664.00	996.00
5211 · Funeral Expense	43.91	63.00	91.91	504.00	756.00
5214 · Music Expense	266.00	38.00	766.00	304.00	456.00
5215 · Stewardship Expense	0.00	42.00	0.00	336.00	504.00
5217 · Vestry Expense	54.99	167.00	519.28	1,336.00	2,004.00
Total Designated Offerings	954.38	716.00	3,471.08	5,728.00	8,592.00

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August 2026

	Aug 26	Budget	Jan - Aug 26	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Pass Through Expense					
5400.0 · Bishop Donations	145.00	42.00	488.00	336.00	504.00
5400.2 · FIGS	73.00		580.00		
5400.4 · Interfaith Ministries	0.00	83.00	0.00	664.00	996.00
5400.5 · Salvation Army Dinner	0.00		0.00		
5400.8 · Other Outreach	300.00	42.00	846.00	336.00	504.00
Total Pass Through Expense	518.00	167.00	1,914.00	1,336.00	2,004.00
Restricted Gifts Expenses					
5117 · Deacon Exp.	576.94		1,728.47		
5312.0 · Rector Discretionary Exp.	734.00	250.00	1,082.61	2,000.00	3,000.00
5315 · Immigration/Visa Fees Paid	0.00		3,000.00		
Total Restricted Gifts Expenses	1,310.94	250.00	5,811.08	2,000.00	3,000.00
Total H. Outreach Expenses	2,783.32	1,133.00	11,196.16	9,064.00	13,596.00
I. Cost Due to Use of Facility					
5008 · Facility Use Expense	0.00	63.00	0.00	504.00	756.00
Total I. Cost Due to Use of Facility	0.00	63.00	0.00	504.00	756.00
Operating Expenses					
Administration Expense					
#1 Priest In-Charge					
5100.00 · Rector Payroll Expense	6,391.96	6,867.00	57,527.64	54,936.00	82,404.00
5101.2 · Rector Housing Expense	0.00	526.00	0.00	4,208.00	6,312.00
5102.0 · Rector Mileage Expense	0.00	50.00	791.70	400.00	600.00
5104.0 · Rector Medical Account Expense	0.00	1,282.00	0.00	10,256.00	15,384.00
5105.0 · Rector Pension Expense	1,977.00	1,977.00	15,816.00	15,816.00	23,724.00
5107. · Rector Education (Convention)	0.00	167.00	273.52	1,336.00	2,004.00
5108 · Supply Clergy	0.00	42.00	150.00	336.00	504.00
5109.0 · Rector Health Insurance	1,120.00		8,960.00		
5110.0 · Rector Life Insurance	14.50		116.00		
Total #1 Priest In-Charge	9,503.46	10,911.00	83,634.86	87,288.00	130,932.00
3 Office Administration					
5114 · Assist. Clergy Mileage	0.00	30.00	0.00	240.00	360.00
5115 · Assist Clergy Discretionary Exp	0.00	50.00	0.00	400.00	600.00
5116 · Assit. Clergy Education	0.00	42.00	0.00	336.00	504.00
5118 · Clergy Expense	0.00		200.00		
5150 · Music Director Payroll	600.00	650.00	4,800.00	5,200.00	7,800.00
5170 · Fed. Payroll Taxes Exp.	0.00		0.00		
5171 · State Payroll Taxes Exp.	0.00		0.00		
5172 · FICA Expense	0.00		0.00		

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5173 · FICA-St. Paul's Expense	45.90	50.00	367.20	400.00	600.00
5173.2 · Workers Comp	0.00	13.00	0.00	104.00	156.00
Total 3 Office Administration	645.90	835.00	5,367.20	6,680.00	10,020.00
Diocese Expense					
5000 · Diocese Assessment	868.21	2,083.00	9,442.76	16,664.00	24,996.00
5004 · Audit	0.00	42.00	0.00	336.00	504.00
Total Diocese Expense	868.21	2,125.00	9,442.76	17,000.00	25,500.00
Maintenance					
5009 · Maintenance/Repairs	0.00		419.51		
5009.11 · Church Major Repairs	260.00	833.00	3,838.00	6,664.00	9,996.00
5009.12 · Parish Hall Major Repairs	0.00	375.00	1,261.52	3,000.00	4,500.00
5009.13 · School Major Repairs	264.50	333.00	2,654.18	2,664.00	3,996.00
5009.20 · Heating/AC/Plumbing	0.00		1,200.00		
5011 · Piano/Organ maintenance	0.00	33.00	0.00	264.00	396.00
5014 · Supplies/ Kitchen Expense	0.00	83.00	0.00	664.00	996.00
5016 · Supplies/Cleaning Expense	324.37		1,287.09		
5016.10 · Cleaning Supplies- Church	0.00	167.00	46.55	1,336.00	2,004.00
5016.20 · Cleaning Supplies-Parish Hall	90.00	46.00	270.00	368.00	552.00
5016.21 · Sign	0.00		2,480.88		
5016.22 · Capital Improvement	0.00	492.00	1,200.00	3,936.00	5,904.00
Total Maintenance	938.87	2,362.00	14,657.73	18,896.00	28,344.00
Office Expenses					
5030 · Computer Programs	91.99	125.00	934.91	1,000.00	1,500.00
5031 · Office Supplies	104.97	292.00	1,967.78	2,336.00	3,504.00
5032 · Office Equip Purchase/Repair	140.44	417.00	2,563.99	3,336.00	5,004.00
5033 · Postage Expense	172.69	75.00	618.36	600.00	900.00
5034.00 · Bookkeeping Services	270.00	425.00	1,829.00	3,400.00	5,100.00
5035.00 · Bank Fees Expense	106.09	54.00	373.60	432.00	648.00
5036.00 · Property Tax Expense(School)	0.00	417.00	0.00	3,336.00	5,004.00
5037 · Parishner Gift	0.00		352.06		
Total Office Expenses	886.18	1,805.00	8,639.70	14,440.00	21,660.00
Public Relations Expense					
5041 · Advertising	0.00	233.00	2,421.23	1,864.00	2,796.00
Total Public Relations Expense	0.00	233.00	2,421.23	1,864.00	2,796.00

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Services Expense					
5050 · Alarm Expense	0.00	92.00	699.66	736.00	1,104.00
5051 · Cleaning Service Expense	1,070.13	1,083.00	8,417.24	8,664.00	12,996.00
5052 · Fire Service Expense	0.00		3,159.68		
5053 · Gardening Expense	1,080.00	1,083.00	8,124.30	8,664.00	12,996.00
5054 · Payroll Service Expense	21.15	25.00	205.30	200.00	300.00
5055 · Pest Control Expense	224.21	208.00	1,793.68	1,664.00	2,496.00
5056 · Property Insurance Exp.	2,397.00	2,397.00	19,101.00	19,176.00	28,764.00
5058 · Workers's Compensation	53.00	42.00	53.00	336.00	504.00
5061 · Security	1,302.00	1,167.00	10,034.00	9,336.00	14,004.00
Total Services Expense	6,147.49	6,097.00	51,587.86	48,776.00	73,164.00
Utilities Expense					
5070 · Telephone Expense	1,080.73	583.00	7,755.76	4,664.00	6,996.00
5073 · Utility/Electricity Exp.	1,120.08	917.00	6,280.11	7,336.00	11,004.00
5074 · Utility/Garbage Expense	312.72	292.00	2,333.48	2,336.00	3,504.00
5075 · Utility/Natural Gas Exp.	91.36	242.00	1,782.16	1,936.00	2,904.00
5076 · Utility/ Water & Sewer	1,353.52	1,000.00	5,956.91	8,000.00	12,000.00
5077 · Utility/Solar Power Expense	0.00	1,083.00	6,116.75	8,664.00	12,996.00
Total Utilities Expense	3,958.41	4,117.00	30,225.17	32,936.00	49,404.00
Total Administration Expense	22,948.52	28,485.00	205,976.51	227,880.00	341,820.00
Total Operating Expenses	22,948.52	28,485.00	205,976.51	227,880.00	341,820.00
Total Expenditures	25,731.84	29,681.00	217,172.67	237,448.00	356,172.00
68300 · Travel and Meetings					
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	0.00		133.12		
Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings	0.00		133.12		
Total Expense	25,731.84	29,681.00	217,305.79	237,448.00	356,172.00
Net Ordinary Income	1,001.69	800.00	11,708.93	6,393.00	9,612.00
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
4106 · Interest Income	445.61		3,521.29		
Total Other Income	445.61		3,521.29		
Net Other Income	445.61		3,521.29		
Net Income	1,447.30	800.00	15,230.22	6,393.00	9,612.00

October 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Oct 4th	Oct 11th	Oct 18 th	Oct 25th
Clergy	Fr. Brian Pets/Pews	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	A-Judy C-Alex	A-Joyce C-Carlos	A- Judy C-Evelyn	A- Nancy C-Gabe
Eucharistic Minister	Ann Stephanie G.	Linda Joyce	Bobbi Nancy	Ann Linda
Lectors	Claudine Judy	Theresa Ann	Stephanie H-W. Nancy	Peter Linda
Intercessor	Ann	Luis	Carolyn	Alex
Ushers	Ann David	Luis Linda	Claudine David	Carolyn Claudine
Greeters	Ann Lynelle	Luis Linda	Claudine Lynelle	Carolyn Claudine
Vestry Rep.	Ann	Luis	Carolyn	Alex
Coffee Hour Host		Joyce & Sarah	Bolig Family	
Sunday School	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Evelyn		Ann



Cookie Walk 2026

Saturday, December 5th, 9 am-4 pm

St. Paul's Parish Hall

Cookie Walk 2026 is coming up fast! It will be in the Parish Hall, Saturday, December 5th, 9 am-4 pm. There will be opportunities for everyone to be involved with this annual fundraiser: cookie bakers; cookie "platers"; greeters; walkers that help customers pick the right 13 cookies for their box; box "preppers"; set-up crews; clean-up crews; ticket sellers; cookie bakers and cookie bakers. Time commitments may be an hour, several hours, or all day-**your choice!**

Look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex soon or contact Linda in the church office 209-522-3267 to offer your time and talent.

Did I mention that we need **lots of cookies?**



Golden Corral Senior Luncheon Group

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

Phil and Anita Machado will be hosting lunch at Golden Corral,
3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto,
Tuesday, October 20th at 2:30 pm.

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.



Tom Hampson posted an update to their fundraising page

Greetings Friends! As September dawns, I'm delighted to report that thanks to the remarkable generosity of friends, family and CWS colleagues, I've met my goal of raising \$15,000 in honor of the 80th anniversary of the founding of Church World Service! Amazing! I'm so grateful to all who have contributed. Over 65 individuals/families contributed. A community of caring! All funds donated support the remarkable work of Church World Service around the world. CWS initiatives in combatting hunger and assisting displaced people around the world are an inspiration. To learn more of that work, see <https://cwsglobal.org/> In addition to the fundraising, I've been working out in various ways to get in shape for the 70+ mile trek between Sarria and Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Our longest day will be a walk of 17 miles. I'm glad to have a few more weeks to get in shape. I will head to Spain on September 29th. More in the next post.

You can visit my page by clicking the button below:



September Birthdays



Celebrating September Birthdays

Deacon Greg Masztal	September 1
James 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



Celebrating September Anniversaries

Loren & Genanne Hill	September 20
Bob & Clare Jensen	September 25



Ellen Bell	October 6
Elsa Bayly	October 7
Howard Grieshaber	October 8
Rosanne Mountain	October 21
David Lowe	October 22
Jim Armstrong	October 26
Daniel Cox	October 26
Jose Cruz	October 26
Loren Hill	October 29
Victoria Cassagio	October 31

 The background of the flyer is dark. On the left, there is a colorful sugar skull (calavera) decorated with intricate patterns and flowers. To the right, several lit candles are visible, their flames creating a warm, glowing bokeh effect.

*A Special Service to Honor those
we love but see no longer*

The Feast of All Souls & Dia de los Muertos: The Day of the Dead
 St Paul's Episcopal Church, 1528 Oakdale Rd Modesto, 5:30pm Sunday November 1st

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is an annual ecumenical celebration from September 1 to October 4, dedicated to prayer, action, and ecological stewardship for the care of our common home

Overview

The Season of Creation is a time for Christians worldwide to renew their relationship with God and all creation through prayer, celebration, conversion, and commitment. It begins on September 1, recognized as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and concludes on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved across Christian denominations. This season encourages individuals and communities to engage in spiritual reflection, environmental action, and advocacy for ecological justice laudatosimovement.org

Themes and Symbolism

Each year, the Season of Creation has a specific theme. For 2026, the theme is “Living Water”, inspired by Ezekiel 47:1-12, which describes water flowing from God’s sanctuary, bringing life and restoration to ecosystems and communities seasonofcreation.org+1. The theme emphasizes ecological healing, hope, and the interdependence of humanity and nature, highlighting the importance of freshwater access, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability. The official symbol, Immersion in Living Water, represents both spiritual reflection and ecological awareness

laudatosimovement.org.

At Home:

- Select energy- and water-efficient appliances and fixtures.
- Power your home with renewable energy when possible.
- Heat and cool your home smartly with proper insulation and maintenance of equipment.
- Minimize waste by reducing, reusing, repairing, and recycling.



Salvation Army Dinner Team

The Team served 91 very grateful guests and staff at the Salvation Army Shelter, September 20th. The menu included Cowboy Casserole (a new favorite of everyone), Slaw, Rolls, Apple or Peach Dump Cake with Whipped Cream, and Milk.

We never refuse help from anyone and there are multiple ways everyone can help: prayer for the Team, guests and staff; financial support to purchase ingredients; donations of various ingredients; preparation before and the day of the meal; help serving dinner at the Shelter. The part of the team that has the privilege of serving dinner are the ones that receive the most blessings. It is exciting to hear that we manage to include things that are favorite meals for the guests and staff.

The next time we will serve dinner will be Sunday, November 15th. Suggestions for a well-rounded menu are always welcomed – come join the Team!

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

COMING EVENTS

MoPride in the Park-Saturday, October 10th, 10:30-5, Graceada Park in downtown Modesto

All Saints/All Souls Day-Sunday, November 1st

Cookie Walk-Saturday, December 5th



Paws in the Pews

The annual celebration of St. Francis Day and Pet Blessing was, in a word, a blessing for all attendees, four-legged creatures included. The total included 9 dogs of various sizes and 1 cat safely kept in a carrier. Sizes ranged from Duke the German Shepherd to Chica the Chihuahua with more breeds in between. All creatures were well behaved, including the owners. Here's a few photos of the morning.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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 bellj1@charter.net
Junior Warden: Peter Krewko (707) 853-3604 pmkjfc@att.net

Joyce Bell, Jose Cruz, Peter Krewko, Carolyn List, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz,
Rosanne Mountain, Alex Sarina, & Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Brandi Anderson

Vestry Clerk: Linda Lowe