



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

January 2012
Volume 56 Issue 1

THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

Coming up

Christian Meditation

Mondays, 5:15 p.m. in the chapel. Come join us in the peace of silent meditation. Call Carol Pingree for info 893.0161.

Evensong

First Sundays, 4 p.m. Enjoy a meditative service of psalms, readings, hymns, prayers and anthems with the Chapel College Men and Boys Ensemble, Christopher Kula, director.

Sack Lunch Ministry to Day Laborers

*Tuesday, January 24, 8 a.m. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, we join with people from other local Episcopal congregations to make lunches for day laborers — at St. James' Church (1540-12th Street at Foothill). For more info speak with **Marion Sawyer** or email sacklunches@stpaulsoakland.org.*

• *Music at St. Paul's: See pg. 5*

Worship at St. Paul's: back cover

100th Anniversary Celebration, Bishop's Visit This Month



This year marks the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's in the current church building. We're having two celebrations in January to mark the anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone. A solemn Evensong, followed by a champagne toast in the narthex., will be celebrated Wednesday, January 25 at 7 p.m. Then, on Sunday, January 29, Bishop Marc will visit our parish to preach and to join us for a potluck lunch after the service.

Polish up your favorite family recipe and bring a dish to share for this festive occasion.

I Would Like to Thank . . .

by The Rev. Mauricio Wilson

Grammys, Oscars, Nobel Prizes, graduations and even game shows all have one thing in common -- the number of people being thanked by the winners. I like to stop every once in a while and think about all those I have to thank in my life and ministry. The usual suspects (God, wife, parents) are always at the top of the list.

In the ministry of a Rector, one of the people who regularly go unappreciated is the Parish Administrator (also known as the Administrative Assistant in other places). Since I arrived at St. Paul's, the PA has been essential to making things operate smoothly, so I will dedicate my column in this month's Good News to saying "thank you" to Teresa Lindberg, as her time as Parish Ad-

ministrator and bookkeeper came to an end on December 31st.

Over the last few years, Teresa has shown a great commitment to St. Paul's and its ministry. Though contracted to work 30 hours a week, she never worked less than 40, and sometimes even 50 hours a week. She has tirelessly dedicated herself to doing what needed to be done to make St. Paul's and its systems operate as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

I firmly believe that this type of commitment flows directly out of a sense of call and vocation in God's service. Teresa is a person of deep faith in Jesus; and out of that faith comes a great love for the work and ministry of the Church, in particular the ministry of the Parish. She,

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Family Ministry Corner

Family Bibles

by Carolyn Knapp



Faith Quest

Stay in the loop about our Family Ministry Program, by emailing the Family Ministry Team at family@stpaulsoakland.org or speaking with Karla Morris, Liz Lindsley, Carolyn Knapp, Layla Rodgers or Erica Derryck at church.

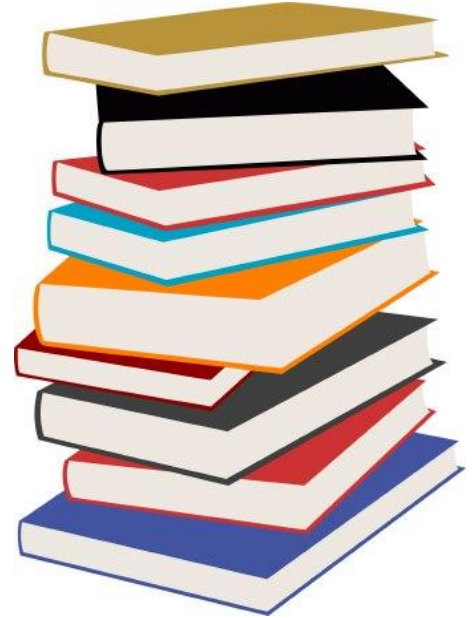
Do you still wear the outfit that you wore at your Confirmation? Would you put that same outfit on a toddler? Why not?

Now, I'll bet that you are wondering what this has to do with family Bibles. In the same way that you outgrew the clothes you wore in junior high, the Bible that is appropriate today for our middle school youth or our toddlers is not the one you would expect them to read for devotions or use as a study Bible as adults.

In Bibles, one size does not fit all. Our children and their parents need a whole “wardrobe” of Bibles to fit every age and stage of their lives. This is especially important for a culture in which parents are not steeped in scripture and may not know the stories that just a generation ago were considered basic knowledge as part of our shared heritage.

Part of Martin Luther's genius was understanding that the Word of God needed to be accessible to all. He translated the Bible into German — not elegant, academic German — but the everyday language of those he served, understood by all. Luther wanted all to hear God's living word for them, so that they would find themselves in God's story and God in their stories.

The best advice I've heard in a long time is that we all ought to tear the back covers off our Bibles, because God's word is not complete until it is joined to our stories and our stories are not complete until



they are joined to God's story, according to Canadian pastor, Peter Van Katwyck.

Today, many parents cannot share Bible stories by heart. Not only can they not recount the stories of minor biblical characters, but they don't know the stories of Jesus or of the giants of the faith. They don't have any stories that shape their understanding of God at work in their lives. They cannot tell these stories to their children ... because they do not know them.

Our present Faith Quest curriculum, “Living the Good News,” and the one to come, “Godly Play,” are both centered on Bible stories. Teaching a class or just observing one is a great way to learn these stories. [Read more](#) about various Bibles for children.

Adapted from an article by Marilyn Sharpe, Vibrant Faith Ministries

From the St. Paul's Archives

by Liz Hook

Recently, I've thought a lot about one of my favorite St. Paul's activities, our thrift shop, The Elegant Scarecrow, which was in business from 1974 to 1989. The idea came up shortly after the Rev. Don Seaton became our Rector, 1974-1991.

The clergy, Vestry and women of the parish felt the need for another source of revenue for St. Paul's and decided that a thrift shop was the answer. A committee was formed to find appropriate shop space; I think there was a contest to name our enterprise and soon The Elegant Scarecrow was a reality on Grand Avenue.

We were open Tuesday through Saturday with volunteers doing everything. Monday was our cleaning, sorting and pricing day. On Tuesday mornings, anxious shoppers lined up outside our door, before opening, wanting to see the new merchandise of the week. There were dealers, collectors, bargain hunters, apartment dwellers, and immigrants from China, Russia, Poland and Turkey. There were thieves, addicts, the lonely and the curious. The shop became a true presence in the Grand and Lakeshore neighborhoods. Some customers came by every day, sometimes twice, because we were friendly, fair and safe. I remember being stunned when a woman thanked me for being nice to her.

In the 1970s, St. Paul's did significant ministry to refugees from Salvador, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Liberia and Nigeria. Bishop Swing

called us the "UN Congregation of the Diocese of California." We were not just about money. We supplied this new population with children's clothing, bedding and kitchen ware as they were settled into housing.

As St. Paul's School grew, their parents joined us and brought new and young ideas to the board and the volunteer team as well as a new source of merchandise and revenue. We found it was time to hire a paid manager as we became more successful.

This was a period of the "cold war" and talk of a nuclear arms freeze. People worried about "the bomb" and bomb shelters. Mormon ladies came in weekly to buy large plastic buckets given to us by a local restaurant. They used them to store food in shelters in case of war.

Some customers loved to bargain and a few volunteers became good at the game. Sometimes it was fun and sometimes serious. My favorite bargain story occurred one Saturday afternoon when a young jogger came in. There was an old camera behind the counter marked \$10. He looked it over carefully and said that we had the wrong price on it. The clerk assumed he wanted to pay less. He said, "No, I'll give you \$200. and even that is a bargain!" That was bargaining we liked.

Another day, Fr. Seaton sent us a jobless man asking that we give him some new clothes. We out fitted him with shoes, slacks, a shirt and tie, a corduroy blazer and sent

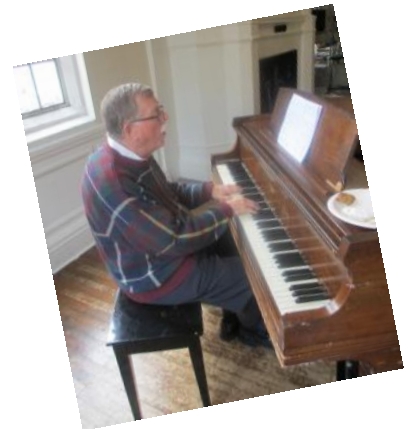
Episcopal Charities Alameda Action Network

Join us Tuesday, January 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. at All Souls, 2220 Cedar St., Berkeley. Action Network Members will discuss outreach projects being considered for volunteer support and funding, and vote on which project(s) to recommend. All are welcome to this final meeting of the 2011-2012 granting cycle.

For more information contact the Rev. Justin R. Cannon, EC Program Manager, at jcannon@episcopalcharities.org or 415-869-7810.

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Cookies and Carols



Write or Revise Your Will

Create or modify your will by making a 45-minute appointment with an attorney at a will writing session scheduled between 9 a.m. and noon, Feb. 4 at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 525 29th St., Oakland. Volunteer attorneys ask \$75 per person to help cover clerical expenses. To make an appointment, please call Shari Gonzales at (415) 869-7813 or email sharig@diocal.org.

For the latest schedule and related information, check <http://EpiscopalGift.org> or call (415) 869-7813.

Archives

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him on his way. He returned several weeks later to say thanks because the clothes had helped him get a good job. He became a very loyal customer.

Occasionally, we had famous customers, like Maya Angelou, who came in looking for children's books, or cast members from Beach Blanket Babylon who searched for "funky" or unusual items. Many of our shoppers were characters. Lyle was a man about town, a fancy dresser who was swathed in a cloud of scent. Every Christmas season he would buy new lights and ornaments to decorate the marijuana tree growing on his fire escape.

I think everybody's all time favorite client was tiny Mrs. Robles, a daily visitor. She had a marvelously aged face, twinkly eyes and a smile that would light up the shop. She spoke very little English, but communication seemed to happen any-

way. Mrs. Robles never left the shop without a treasure or two. My favorite memory of Mrs. Robles occurred as we were about to close the Scarecrow for the Christmas holiday. She came in asking about the decorated tree in our window. Our manager, Liz Tonge, got the tree out of the window and a pleased Mrs. Robles was seen walking up Grand Avenue surrounded by the tree, ornaments tinkling and the end of the light string dragging along the sidewalk. She was a treasure.

The Elegant Scarecrow days were days of great change. Eventually, the older volunteers moved away or could no longer do the work. Younger women were going back to work as families needed two incomes to get by. Our rent kept rising and soon most of our income went to the landlord. It was time to close. A sad day, but so many memories.. We could probably write a book about the Elegant Scarecrow.

The advent police took the day off on December 18th so that members of our parish, young and old, could gather around the piano in the parish hall to sing Christmas carols. David Farr led us in favorites such as “O Little Town of Bethlehem” and “Silent Night” while we feasted on homemade cookies and mulled cider. Many thanks to everyone who baked!



I Would Like to Thank

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her partner Laura and her mom Victoria chose St. Paul's as their spiritual home. She stepped into her role during a time of great transition in the life of the parish bringing stability while the leadership was engulfed in the stressful and divisive process of finding a new Rector. Then she committed to staying on board and assisting the new guy in town (a.k.a. me) to get acquainted with the surroundings. For all these endeavors, I must say “thank you” and “job well done.”

I also must say thanks to Teresa and Laura on behalf of Karla and our girls. When we arrived in Oakland, where we have no family, they took us under their wings and guided us through a myriad of things that we had to do as new residents to the Bay Area, from suggesting moving companies to recommending local, upcoming, hole-in-the-wall places to have a good meal. Though others in the parish were very help-

ful, Teresa was the first to get our calls of desperation; and she has always been very gracious in responding.

Those of us in the offices of St. Paul's each day are going to miss being spoiled by her “take charge” and “it will be done” attitude. However, we are very aware that in life's journey, sooner or later we find ourselves at the crossroads of change, a fork in the road, a point and time that calls us to continue on the same road or change direction. Although we will miss not having you around every day, all of us at St. Paul's wish you the best and great success in your future endeavors. I look forward to continuing in our joint journeys of faith and ministry for years to come as a member of this wonderful parish family.

Thank you very much Teresa and God speed.

In Peace,
Mauricio+

Music at St. Paul's

115 @ 10 a.m., Epiphany 2

*Annual Parish Meeting
Hallock's The Lord is my light, and Poston's The tree of life, sung by St. Paul's Choir.*

1/22 @ 10 a.m., Epiphany 3

Choristers of Chapel College, Artist-in-Residence at St. Paul's.

*1/22 @ 8 p.m., Compline
Gregorian chant and polyphony in candlelight, sung by St. Paul's Choir.*

*1/25 @ 7 p.m.
Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Church Building,*

Solemn Evensong, followed by a champagne reception for the laying of the cornerstone of the present building

1/29 @ 10 a.m., Epiphany 4

*Conversion of St. Paul
Sowerby's Tu es vas electionis, Sancte Paule, and Stanford's Beati quorum, sung by St. Paul's Choir.*

*1/29 @ 3 p.m.
Prometheus Symphony Orchestra Concert
Claude Debussy, Suite from "Images"; Antonio Vivaldi, Concerto for Two Trumpets*

Saint of the Month: Samuel M. Shoemaker

Samuel Shoemaker is best remembered for his empowerment of the lay ministry. He was born in Baltimore in 1893 and attended Princeton, where he was influenced by Robert Speer and John Mott. After college he spent several years in China establishing the YMCA and met Frank Buchman, founder of the Oxford Group. He returned to Princeton but felt drawn to the priesthood and attended the General Theological Seminary. He was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1921.

He was called in 1925 to be Rector of Calvary Church, New York City, a position he held for 16 years. During his tenure the church grew exponentially due to his ability to maintain the power of personal evangelism and giving authentic witness to one's faith while remaining faithful to the Episcopal Church.

He was a prolific writer and published some 30 books. He made sig-

nificant contributions to the formation of *Faith at Work* and *Alcoholics Anonymous*. *Faith at Work* was developed to encourage personal Christian witness in the work place. It became increasingly ecumenical and most evangelical movements

owe their foundation to *Faith at Work*. The 12-step program of AA was the outgrowth of Shoemaker's experiences in China and the Oxford Group. This spiritual element is crucial to the development of AA.

Without it, AA and other 12-step programs

would not survive. He is recognized as co-founder of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, now a worldwide movement. He later served as rector of Calvary Church, Pittsburgh.

Samuel M. Shoemaker died in 1963 and is commemorated January 31.



Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for each edition is the 15th of the month previous to publication.,

Please send your comments, submissions and ideas to halice@pacbell.net.

We are interested in hearing from writers and photographers; please email us if you would like to donate your talent.

Holy Hike at the Prayer Book Cross Jan. 28

Holy Hikes will celebrate the Eucharist at the foot of The Prayer Book Cross in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco January 28.

The Prayer Book Cross was presented to the Golden Gate Park on January 1, 1894, to commemorate the first use of the Book of Common Prayer in California by Sir Francis Drake's chaplain on June 24, 1579.

Holy Hikes will gather at 10 a.m. at the Stow Lake Picnic Area and parking lot at 50 Stow Lake Drive, will hike a 0.9 mile loop around Stow Lake (fairly flat), and then finish with the Liturgy of the Table at the foot of The Prayer Book Cross. The cross is about 200 feet up a hill from the Stow Lake Picnic Area and parking lot. Please RSVP online on the

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Back to the Future

by Alice Brilmayer

The coming year offers several landmarks for St. Paul's, some reflecting on our past and others looking to our future. In the next weeks, we'll celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of our beautiful church building. We'll mark the date in typical St. Paul's manner, with good food and great music and even a little bubbly.

A century is a long time for a young state like California. Over the decades, Oakland has witnessed earthquakes, fires, social upheaval, and fluctuations in the demographics of its population. Through all that, our impressive brick structure has stood on the banks of Lake Merritt, offering a spiritual home to multitudes around it. It's a tradition we can take pride in, with a bow to the people of the past who labored to give us this treasure.

We can't afford to rest on past laurels, however, because an old building has special needs. We have to restore the church so that it can continue into a new century, providing safety and comfort while maintaining the beauty of the past.

There will be more weddings, baptisms, and memorial services as one generation ages and disappears, leaving younger members to make their own life transitions within these walls. We'd be remiss if we didn't take responsibility for what we've been given so that we can pass it along to the future.

No one can have missed the greater presence of families with children in our parish in the recent past. The little ones are a blessing and a joy, but they also underscore our responsibility to the future. We need active youth programs and ways to nurture our younger members as they grow to adulthood. To pay our past blessings forward, we must provide spiritual and educational programs as well as physical structures.

With the holidays over, it's time for all of us to take stock of what St. Paul's has given us and what we should be doing to give back. We will be able to forge a bridge from our past to our future only if we do can continue to do so. Happy New Year!

Hold in Your Prayers

"Prayer is not an old woman's idle amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action."

– Mahatma Gandhi

During your prayers, please remember to pray for the parishioners, family and friends on the St. Paul's prayer list.

To add someone to the prayer list, please contact Maura Lane, our prayer list coordinator, at prayer@stpaulsoakland.org.

Holy Hike at Cross

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Holy Hikes [Facebook Page](#) or the [evite](#).

Contact: the Rev. Justin R. Cannon,
toseekjustice@gmail.com

Link: www.holyhikes.org





St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

114 Montecito Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Phone: 510.834.4314
Fax: 510.834.0166
E-mail: admin@stpaulsoakland.org
Web: www.stpaulsoakland.org

Regular Services

SUNDAYS

8 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*
10 a.m. *Choral Eucharist*

4 p.m. *Evensong*
Chapel College
Men & Boys Ensemble
(1st Sunday only)

8 p.m. *Compline*
Gregorian Chant,
Polyphony and Candlelight
(4th Sunday only)

WEDNESDAYS

12:10 p.m. *Holy Eucharist*
(with *Healing prayer on*
the 1st of the month)

Episcopal Community Services Honoring Leaders

Episcopal Community Services will hold its Second Annual Leadership Awards Luncheon Wednesday, February 1 to celebrate four inspirational leaders whose contributions to ending homelessness in San Francisco exemplify the goals of building community, developing skills, and enriching lives.

Founded in 1983 with the creation of The Sanctuary Shelter, ECS has grown exponentially and now provides 12,000 people with a continuum of services including emergency shelter and meals, supportive housing, adult education, job train-

ing, and specialized services for seniors and adults with disabilities. Every night, one out every three people who seek shelter in San Francisco finds it in an ECS shelter, and one out of every six people in supportive housing lives at an ECS site.

The luncheon will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Julia Morgan Ballroom, 465 California St., San Francisco. Cost is \$100 per ticket. For more information, please contact Magna Elmendorf at 415-487-3736 melmendorf@ecs-sf.org.

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