



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

April 2019

Volume 3, Issue 12

THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

HIS NAME IS VICTOR G.A. MCELHANEY

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



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Saint of the Month

On Saturday, March 23, Paula Hawthorn, her husband Mike, and I attended a memorial service at the auditorium of Temple Hill for Victor G. A. McElhane; the son of Clarence and Lynette McElhane. On April 13, Victor would have completed 22 years of life. This year instead of celebrating all his accomplishments and potential future successes, his family and friends will be thinking about what could have been. Victor was shot and killed on March 10 in Los Angeles, the result of what was said to be “a robbery gone wrong.”

There were many people present, including some local political

dignitaries: Representative Barbara Lee, Mayor Libby Schaff, members of Oakland’s City Council, and a collection of interdenominational clergy. The service was three hours long even after several of the speakers were asked to wait until the repast. Rousing spirituals were sung with the intent of bringing the gathered into a mood of celebration in the morning. When his closest friends shared their thoughts about the pain they were feeling in their hearts, it was Victor’s mother who consoled them.

As we were beginning the third hour of the service, I thought things would just about conclude, but I was wrong. After the reading of his biography by several members of his family, the time came for the eulogy. Pastor Zachary Carey of True Vine Ministries went up to the stage, opened his tablet, and began to speak. When he was finished 45 minutes later, he had not only eulogized Victor, given encouragement to his family and friends, and talked about the ways in which God had gifted this

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Easter is coming!



That means it’s time to eat! We’ll celebrate with a potluck after the 10:00 am service on Sunday, April 21. Be sure to bring a dish to share. Either deliver it to the kitchen or give it to an usher. We’ll toast the holiday with champagne.

PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

Please continue to support the work of our pantry.

Due to repairs and relocation being done to the Pantry we will not be receiving donations in March. We are hoping that all the work will be completed in April, with a reopening in May.

Thanks for your continued support and prayers.

Special Music Events at St. Paul's

As events can change, please check the group's website to confirm dates, times, and program info., and ticket pricing.

Sunday, April 7, 4:00pm, EVENSONG

ST. PAUL'S SCHOLA CANTORUM FREE

This short Anglican service combines the end-of-day monastic offices of Vespers and Compline. Since the latter part of the 16th century, England's greatest composers have contributed to the rich musical tradition of this uplifting and beautiful liturgy.

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30pm, EVENSONG with guest choir

ST. CATHARINE'S GIRLS CHOIR FREE



Evensong's beautifully meditative service of psalms, canticles, hymns, and anthems, with special guest St. Catharine's College Girls Choir, Cambridge, UK.

<https://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/about-us/music/girls-choir>

Sunday, April 14, 10:00am, Palm Sunday Choral Eucharist

ST. PAUL'S CHANCEL CHOIR FREE

With procession of the Palms and reading of the Passion Gospel. Gather on the Veterans Green, across the street. Anthems: Calkin, *Hosanna to the Son of David*; Poston, *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*; Bryd, *Ne irascaris, Domine*.

Sunday, April 28, 3:00pm, Concert

SAN FRANCISCO GIRLS CHORUS SCHOOL FREE

A wonderful opportunity to hear a full-length concert by SFGC School's Level IV (ages 10-16), the school's most accomplished ensemble. Anne Hege, Level IV Director.

More at **SF Girls Chorus**.



EXCELLENCE. EMPOWERMENT. TRANSFORMATION.

Sunday, April 28, 8:00pm, COMPLINE

ST. PAUL'S CHANCEL CHOIR FREE

Prayers for the end of the day. Gregorian chant and polyphony. The transcendent quality of the Gregorian Chant, along with the beauty of St. Paul's Church bathed in candlelight, has made this service a monthly oasis of peace in the lives of those who attend, both Christians and Non-Christians.

DONATIONS TO ST. PAUL'S

Using your Smartphone, scan this QR Code to make a digital offering to St. Paul's Church. Your donation will be processed through SPEC's PayPal account.



2019 OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson – *Rector*
Irene Plunkett
Senior Warden
Will Cowart
Junior Warden
Pamela Kruse-Buckingham
Clerk
Sandra Anderson
Treasurer

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2019
Pamela Kruse-Buckingham
Irene Plunkett
Will Cowart

Class of 2020
Allison Sass
Dylan Versteeg

Class of 2021
Madyé Parrish
Sergio Prieto
Erica Terry-Derryck

Future meetings:

April 30
May 28
June 25

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 2015

Delegates

Melanie Blake
James Kadleck
Tom McGarrell

Alternates

To Be Appointed

CALIFORNIA EPISCOPAL BISHOPS STATEMENT SUPPORTING MORATORIUM ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN CALIFORNIA

Grace and peace to you, in the Name of Jesus Christ. We are the bishops of the six dioceses of the Episcopal Church in California. On March 13, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order placing a moratorium on the death penalty in the state, calling it “ineffective, irreversible and immoral.” We are grateful to Governor Newsom for taking the bold and courageous step to institute a moratorium on executions in the state of California.

While we acknowledge that this may be an issue on which reasonable people of good faith might disagree, we want to reaffirm emphatically our Church’s opposition to the death penalty, a position first officially stated by our General Convention in 1958. Then, and in subsequent statements, the Episcopal Church has based its opposition to the death penalty in our understanding of God’s justice, our regard for the sacredness of human life, our commitment to respect the dignity of every human being, our desire to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and our mission to continue Christ’s work of reconciliation in this world.

It is from this position of faith that our Church has repeatedly called upon all its members “to work actively to abolish the death penalty in their states.” In 2012 and 2016, when a proposition was put before California voters for the repeal of the death penalty, the Episcopal bishops issued this same call. We commend the Governor for placing the moratorium on the death penalty, effectively restricting its use for the next four years in California.

We also wish to acknowledge with grateful hearts all our fellow citizens, people of many different religious commitments, or of no religion, who are working to abolish the death penalty. We pray that our combined efforts will at long last result in the end of the death penalty in California, and we pray God’s blessing upon all.

The Bishops in the State of California:

The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Bishop, Diocese of California
 The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner, Bishop, Diocese of Northern California
 The Rt. Rev. John Taylor, Bishop, Diocese of Los Angeles
 The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce, Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Los Angeles
 The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves, Bishop, Diocese of El Camino Real
 The Rt. Rev. David Rice, Bishop, The Diocese of San Joaquin
 The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop, The Diocese of San Diego

Newsletter contributors sought

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

The deadline for each edition is the 25th of the month previous to publication.

Please send your submissions of no more than 500 words to: halice@pacbell.net.

AN INVITATION TO ‘TAKE THE PLEDGE’ AND CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION

1,000 PLEDGES SOUGHT BY EARTH DAY, APRIL 22

[March 5, 2019] Episcopalians and friends concerned about all of God’s creation are invited to join Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in pledging to take action to protect and renew God’s world and all who call it home. The goal is to gather at least 1,000 pledges with concrete, personal commitments by Earth Day, April 22.

Building from the [Episcopal Vision for Care of Creation statement](#) developed by the Presiding Bishop’s Office and the Advisory Council on Stewardship of Creation for the 79th General Convention, this [pledge](#), and the accompanying Reflection Guide, is a tangible and practical way to show love for God’s world.

“We hope people understand this is more than adding your signature to a petition,” said the Rev. Melanie Mullen, director of reconciliation, justice and creation care. “Pray with the pledge and the Reflection Guide during Lent. Think about what you love in God’s Creation, where your heart breaks over environmental injustice, and how you’d like to simplify your life – consume less, share more.”

The three overarching elements of both the vision and the pledge: loving, liberating, and life-giving, arise directly from understanding ourselves as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement and as people who live the Way of Love:

We long to grow *loving, liberating and life-giving* relationship with God’s Creation. In this urgent moment, we pledge to protect and renew this good Earth and all who call it home.

Together, we commit to specific actions, trusting we can do more as a body

than any person could alone.

LOVING: We will share our stories of love and concern for the Earth and link with others who care about protecting the sacred web of life.

LIBERATING: We will stand with those most vulnerable to the harmful effects of environmental degradation and climate change – women, children, poor people and communities of color, refugees, migrants.

LIFE-GIVING: We will change our habits and choices in order to live more simply, humbly and gently on the Earth.

The accompanying [Reflection Guide](#) was created in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of California and includes meditations, prayers, scripture and action steps related to each element of the Pledge. The same diocese is launching a related creation care opportunity: a Carbon Tracker that helps individuals, congregations and entire dioceses to assess and reduce energy use and climate impact. Discover more about the tracker and other resources at <http://www.diocal.org/climate>.

“This isn’t a new curriculum you need to jam into an already busy Lent,” said Amy Cook, head of the Episcopal Diocese of California’s faith formation working group. “For lots of us, Lent is naturally a time for reflection and simplicity. We hope the pledge and the reflection process around it will lead people to deep discernment and commitment to new life this Easter and beyond.”

SAVE Stands-Ins against gun violence

SAVE (Soldiers Against Violence Everywhere) Oakland is taking a non-violent stand against the rampant murders in our community by having “Stand-Ins” from 11a.m. – noon near where a person was recently killed. Please contact Paula Hawthorn, 510-601-8388, if you would like to participate.

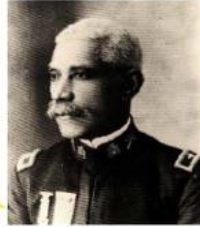
Contact Save@Truevine-Ministries.com to be put on the email list for future Stand-Ins.

**WORSHIP ROTA
ONLINE**

The current rota for the Sunday worship services is posted on the St. Paul's Web site at :
http://
www.stpaulsoakland.org/
RotaSchedule

The rota includes the names of readers, sub-deacons, intercessors, and lay Eucharistic ministers.

New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Fr. Mauricio or the Ven. Carolyn Bolton to volunteer or if you have any questions.



**Celebrate Juneteenth with UBE
At
Col. Allensworth State Park
June 8, 2019**

★ **Juneteenth is the oldest known African-American celebration of the end of slavery. It marks June 19, 1865, when news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached Galveston, TX.**

★ **This annual event features music, speakers, vendors and docent-led free tours of the historic buildings of Allensworth, the first town in California "founded, financed and governed by blacks."**

★ **The Vivian Traylor Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians is planning a bus trip to Allensworth to enjoy the day.**

★ **Space will be limited.**

Please express your interest by sending contact information & the number in your party to;

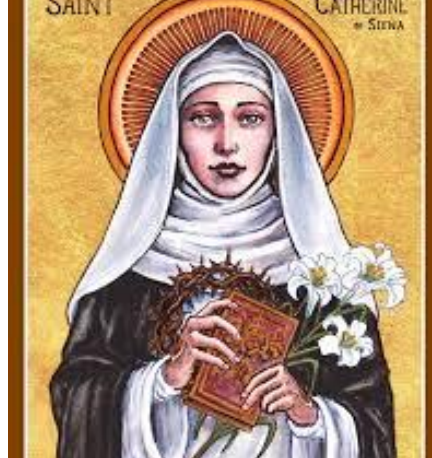
UBENorCalEvents@gmail.com

SAINT OF THE MONTH

CATHERINE OF SIENA

Mystic and Prophetic Witness, 1380

Catherine Benincasa was the youngest of twenty-five children of a wealthy dyer of Siena. At six years of age, she had a remarkable vision that decided her life's vocation. Walking home from a visit, she stopped on the road and gazed upward, oblivious to everything around her. "I beheld our Lord seated in glory with St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. John." She went on to say later that the Savior smiled on her and blessed her. From then on, Catherine spent most of her time in prayer and meditation, despite her mother's attempts to force her to be like other girls. To settle matters, Catherine cut off her hair, her chief beauty. Her family harassed her continually; but in the end, convinced that she was deaf to all opposition, her father let her do as she would: close herself away in a darkened room, fast, and sleep on boards. Eventually, she was accepted as a third order Dominican postulant. Catherine had numerous visions, and was also tried most severely by temptations. Frequently, she felt totally abandoned by the Lord. At last, in 1366, the Savior appeared with Mary and the Heavenly Host, and espoused her to himself, so ending her years of lonely prayer and struggle. She became a nurse, as Dominicans regularly did, caring for patients with leprosy and cancer, whom other nurses disliked to treat. Opinion in Siena was sharply divided about whether she was a saint or a fanatic, but when the Bishop of Capua was appointed as her confessor, he helped her to win full support from the Dominican Mother House. Catherine was a courageous worker in time of severe plague. She visited prisoners condemned to death,



and she was constantly called upon to arbitrate feuds and to prepare troubled sinners for confession. During the great schism of the papacy, with rival popes in Rome and Avignon, Catherine wrote tirelessly to princes, kings, and popes, 254 urging them to restore the unity of the church. She even went to Rome to press further for the cause. Besides her many letters to all manner of people, Catherine wrote a Dialogue, a mystical work dictated in ecstasy. Exhausted and paralyzed, she died at the age of thirty-three.

Kindle the flame of holy love in our hearts, O God, that we being strengthened by the example of your servant Catherine of Siena, may dedicate ourselves to the service of the poor and the sick, and to the peace and unity of your church. Grant that with her, we also may share in the mystery of Christ's death, and rejoice in the revelation of his glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Dear Readers:

In an effort to reduce paper waste and printing/ mailing expenses, we are asking anyone who gets the on-line version of The Good News and no longer needs a paper version mailed to his or her home to let us know. If you don't get the newsletter online and would like to, or if you want to take yourself off the snail-mail list, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org. Many thanks.



St. Paul's

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Services

SUNDAYS

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

4 p.m. *Evensong*
(*First Sundays, Oct.-June*)

8 p.m. *Compline*
(*4th Sundays only*)

WEDNESDAYS

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

See Page 2 for the enhanced
worship opportunities dur-
ing Holy Week.

young man, but he had also made a clear statement calling each and every one of us present that day into action for social justice and against nonviolence in our cities.

What had the greatest impact on me was his call to remember his name, to say his name: Victor Gadiel Ajaye McElhaney. I wholeheartedly agree with Pastor Carey when he said that we as a society have become desensitized to some of the horrible realities of our present time. The death of young people in our society has become normal. Ever too often, I watch the news and I hear the stories of young people who have died at the hands of others and after a few days they fade away into statistics. Their names are forgotten as they become part of the masses of people who've suffered and

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died. They don't matter much anymore because something else is grabbing our attention.

As we approach the culmination of the season of Lent with the observance of the events surrounding Jesus' passion and death—as well as the celebration of his glorious resurrection on Easter—I call us to wake up and pay attention to what is happening around us. As followers of the resurrected Jesus, we are called to be agents of change and transformation in our communities. We cannot remain passive observers in the face of pain, suffering, and death. It is not enough to say *O that we would see better times*. Rather, we must be active disciples of the good news of God in Christ.