



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

November 2017
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THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

CHURCH VS. STATE

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



Separation between Church and State is a phrase I have heard a lot. It seems to come up every time a faith leader speaks in opposition or chastisement of an elected official. It is not uncommon to hear things like “you church people need to stay out of politics” or “if the church is going to get into politics it should pay taxes.” There seems to be a strange idea that the concept of separation of church and state means that the two entities should have no involvement with each other. I would humbly like to offer that what it really means is that for each institution to carry out their intended purpose they cannot be in exclusive relationship with each other.

On its side, the state has to realize that it is elected by, is accountable to and must serve, all its citizens whether they have or faith or not. Though some may think otherwise, the United States of America is not a Christian country, even if a great number of its citizens identify as Christian. There are many countries around the world, including my beloved Costa Rica, where a particular religious group holds the title of official religion of the state. These arrangements not only create structures that offer advantages to a certain faith group, but it is also true that those very structures tend to include exclusionary clauses that discriminate and even invalidate the legitimacy of others’ beliefs. Over 200 years ago, the founders of this nation decided they did not want to build a religious state based on theological precepts. Though they were inspired by some of those precepts, the rule of law—as espoused

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OUR LADY MOTHER OF GOD

By Maureen Hartmann

Mary struggling to birth Jesus bringing
peace on Earth
through blood and water
pouring from our Holy Spirit
What a baptism.

Evolution into Sister Lucia,
oldest of three children
who saw Mary in vision,
Sister, envisioning 1917
red-sky prophesying
Russian cold war
aiding our conflicted people.

WOMEN WHO WONDER

Women Who Wonder will meet again on November, 21 at 6:00 pm in the Chapter Room. We're currently reading *Things Seen and Unseen* by Nora Gallagher. It's a really great book, full of insight and humor.

Nora Gallagher entered Trinity Episcopal Church as a tourist and ended up a pilgrim. What she wanted was peace, she thought. What she got was something entirely different. In this remarkable book she describes her journey from secular life into "the world of the almost known," the world of faith.

To read more about it, click [here](#). There are many inexpensive copies in good condition available through Amazon: click [here](#).

Every woman in the parish is welcome. It's a great way to get to know people, share a meal, join in conversation and, at the end, in prayer.

Dinner will be a salad bar. Please feel free to bring something to share, but most importantly, just come.

Questions? Send Rev. Anne Jensen a note at annehj@aol.com.

COME TO THE FIRST SATURDAY VIGILS!

The first Saturday of every month, from 11AM – noon, an interfaith group gathers at the entrance to the West County Detention Facility to pray, sing and let the people inside know that they are loved and not forgotten. The West County Detention Center is a jail run by the Contra Costa sheriff's department and it is the only facility in the Bay Area that has a contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to incarcerate people who ICE is detaining before they are deported.



St. Paul's is a Sanctuary Church, and people from St. Paul's have been attending these vigils since January. Each vigil opens with a prayer, and then what happens depends on who is hosting the vigil. The La Pena Chorus hosted the Oct 8 vigil so there was a lot of fun, happy singing; other groups when hosting tend to reading poems or Bible passages. There are always announcements about what actions are taking place the following month, and what people can do to help. And then, at the end of the hour, there is a prayer followed by the loudest noise we can make, so the prisoners can hear us. Their families tell us that it means a lot to them to know that there are people outside, aware of them & their plight.



Do join us at one of these vigils. They are the first Saturday of each month, so the next one is November 4, 11AM, West County Detention Center, 5555 Giant Highway, Richmond. Or, perhaps it is time that St. Paul's hosted a vigil! If that interests you, or if you just want more information, please contact Paula Hawthorn pbhawthorn@mindspring.com 510-601-8388.

PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

Please continue to support the work of our pantry by contributing items to its inventory.

November

Bottles of juice

December

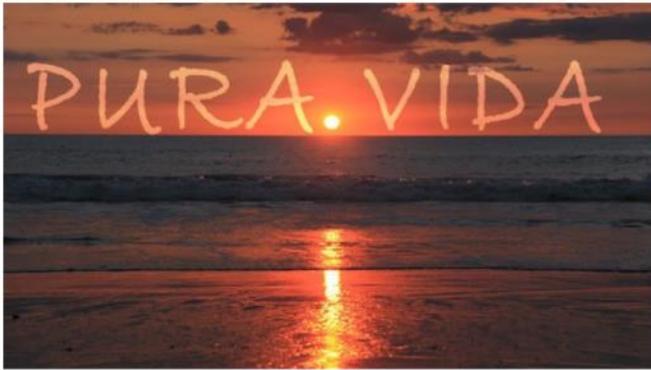
Bottles of juice

January

Bottles of juice

Bring your donations to church and place them in the offering basket in the narthex.

Thanks!



ECO PILGRIMAGE TO COSTA RICA

Located close to the midway point of the American continents Costa Rica enjoys one of the greatest eco diversities in the world. It is also deeply rooted in the Christian faith brought by the Spanish conquistadores.

Each day will begin with time of personal and group reflection.



Date of Departure: 01/08/2018

Date of Return: 01/17/2018

*\$1,950 Double occupancy:
To reserve a your place a first payment
of \$1,000 is due October 31.
includes all costs once you arrive at SJO airport
in Costa Rica on 01/08 until you are dropped
off at the same on 01/17.*



Places visited will include:

- Puerto Viejo
- Tortuguero National Park
- Arenal Volcano
- Monteverde National Park
- Selvatura Park
- Cahuita National Park

Pilgrimage organizer: The Rev. Dr. Mauricio J. Wilson
Phone: 510-834-4314, ext. 502
Fax: 510-834-0166
Email: rector@stpaulsoakland.org



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.



2016 OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio
Wilson – *Rector*
Alice Brilmayer
Senior Warden
William (Bill) Davis
Junior Warden
James Kadleck
Clerk
Saundra Anderson
Treasurer

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2017
William (Bill) Davis
James Kadleck
Yuri Sikkema

Class of 2018
Alice Brilmayer
George Strait
Saundra Anderson

Class of 2019
Mel Behrendt
Pamela Kruse-Buckingham
Irene Plunkett

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 2015

Delegates

Scott Buckingham
Paula Hawthorn
Sheila Sims

Alternates

Izabella (Bella) Sempari
Pam Buckingham

MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

SPECIAL MUSIC IN NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 2
All Soul's Requiem Mass
7 p.m., Choral Eucharist

Requiem by Maurice Duruflé, sung by St. Paul's Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director. Nathaniel Berman, Guest Conductor.

We welcome you to attend a service featuring the *Requiem* of Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986) sung by the choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. During the course of the service attendees will be given the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

Duruflé's *Requiem*, one of the outstanding works of 20th century church music, is based on the chant of the Latin Requiem Mass, a compositional practice which Duruflé helped to revive in modern times. It was last sung at St. Paul's in 2006 on the occasion of the five year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with full orchestra and choir under the direction of Christopher Kula with the Pacific Collegium. Here it will be presented in its equally lovely organ-accompanied version.



Sunday, November 5, All Saints'
Sunday, 10 a.m., Holy Baptism

Missa Brevis by William Walton, sung by St. Paul's Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director.

4 p.m., Evensong

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.

With Chapel College Men and Boys Ensemble. Christopher Kula, Director.

Saturday, November 18
8 p.m., Concert: San Francisco Bay Area Chamber Choir
Legends of Loss, Myths of Immortality

We are thrilled to introduce our first concert with our new Music Director, Ofer dal Lal! With the theme of "change" in mind, we will explore ancient stories of loss and the eternal human search for immortality through music composed by some of the great masters as well as contemporary composers. In this program, we will encounter those who achieved enduring presence, perhaps a kind of immortality, through sound and music.

The story of the Death of Absalom, son of David, and the nameless yet well-known daughter of Jephthah are two enduring legends we will tell through the compositions of Carissimi, Purcell and Whitacre. What greater loss than the loss of a child? What greater way to express it than in the haunting music of masters? As the mournful songs echo and linger in our ears, we will embark on the search for immortality. Benjamin Britten's beloved piece, "Hymn to St. Cecilia" poetically reveres the patron saint of music who descends to "inspire

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 15th of the month previous to publication.

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

composing mortals with immortal fire.” One such mortal, the colossal J.S. Bach, is honored in an homage by modern Norwegian composer, Knut Nystedt – “Komm süsster Tod (Immortal Bach)” in a composition that fragments and echoes a simple chorale from a distant past. A centerpiece of the concert will be “Iuppiter,” a breathtaking piece by young German composer Michael Ostrzyga who has challenged choral singers to create sounds you have yet to hear!

Info and tickets: www.sfbaychoir.org/nov-2017/

Sunday, November 19
3 p.m., Concert: Prometheus
Symphony

Second Concert. Ludwig van Beethoven, *Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92*; Louise Talma, *Toccata for Orchestra*. This performance is part of Prometheus Symphony Orchestra’s Women Composers series, which seeks to promote discovery of new favorites in classical music.

We are happy to offer free, Sunday afternoon concerts to further Prometheus’ primary mission of bringing classical music to members of our community, including those who may not otherwise be able to attend a live symphony concert. Families with children are always welcome and the facility is wheelchair accessible. There is no admission fee for our concerts but donations are gratefully accepted. Info at <http://www.prometheussymphony.org/current>

8 p.m., Compline

Gregorian chant, polyphony, and candlelight, in the church. Music of Byrd, Tallis, Victoria. Compline, a service of psalms and prayers, has been sung ‘at the close of day’ in monasteries, convents and churches for many centuries and is one of the best-loved services of the Church. It has been re-instituted in response to the renewed interest in plainsong (Gregorian Chant) and contemplative prayer. There is no sermon. With St. Paul’s Compline Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director.

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 11 a.m. – noon near where a person was recently killed. Please contact Paula Hawthorn, 510-601-8388, if you would like to participate.

- 10/14/17
International & 82 Ave
- 11/11/17
40th & MacArthur

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

PIANO FOR SALE

We have a baby grand piano for sale. The piano was made by the Gulbransen Company and is 4 feet, 8 inches tall. It stays in tune and is great for a small home. Asking price is \$600. Piano truck not included. Please email or call Mia Gamboa in the church office if you are interested (admin@stpaulsoakland.org, (510) 834-4314 x 501).



LEGACY

By Scott Buckingham

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.

We here at St. Paul's Oakland have all been saddened by the passing of our good friend in life and Christ, Bob Sayer. I wish I'd had more time to get to know Bob better, as a person and as a man of faith. Five years just wasn't enough. In that short time though, I came to know Bob hopefully as many of us have come to know him. As a tirelessly dedicated supporter of St. Paul's, its parishioners, and in the last year or so of his life, helping incarcerated youth get through their debts to society and back on track to healthier, more productive and fulfilling lives. Its through this endeavor I came to know Bob best.

Feeling very much like the new guy at St. Paul's, I was both surprised and honored when Bob started the Prison Ministry and asked me to participate along with twenty-four other men of our parish. I was even more honored when he asked me to take this ministry over as he realized he was likely entering his last year with us in this world. This ministry meant a great deal to Bob. Being a man of accomplishments, this was his last big project and he didn't want to see it go with him. Bob would have liked to see this ministry expand both in it's scope and beyond it's initial focus. Bob had plans! I will continue as I can to help bring some of those to fruition for him.

Prior to his passing, Bob had researched some non-profit groups that are working in this same vein of helping incarcerated youth in their successful transitions back into society. His final request for his friends and loved ones was for their support of this effort in memoriam. To this end, Bob has asked that donations in his memory be made to CEOWorks. This is a national organization which for the last decade has worked with industry leaders and state agencies to find viable

employment opportunities for young men coming out of prison. CEOWorks has been very successful in this effort, having placed over 25,000 people in gainful, lasting employment. This program not only has helped these young men at a most critical juncture in their lives, but it has the data to show that they have tremendously reduced the rate of recidivism among those they've helped.

Bob was a man of great compassion for the suffering of others. He also had a deep understanding of the realities of our modern lives and that our current society has a way of compounding problems on the most vulnerable. This was the basis of his undying desire to help level the playing field for those who have fallen in life and just need a chance to get back up.

St. Paul's Prison Ministry has tried to provide the start of that dream with a simple letter writing campaign to inmates. All of us recruited by Bob for this cause expect nothing in return but the chance to let someone know they are loved and cared for. CEOWorks takes this care and compassion to a level of tangible change in the opportunities, and ultimately directions these men can take when they come out to rebuild their lives. Thank you, Bob for this added means of supporting your vision of Christian compassion. I thank all of you in advance for supporting this vision as well in the memory of our good friend. If you would like to donate to this cause in memory of Bob, please visit CEOWorks donation page at <https://ceoworks.org/support-us/donate>.

You are sorely missed Bob, but your acy lives on in the family you've left behind, both related and created. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting be a part of your family.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680



"Hilda's career falls into two equal parts," says the Venerable Bede, "for she spent thirty-three years nobly in secular habit, while she dedicated an equal number of years

still more nobly to the Lord, in the monastic life.'

Hilda, born in 614, was the grandniece of King Edwin. She was instructed by Paulinus (one of the companions of Augustine of Canterbury) in the doctrines of Christianity in preparation for her baptism at the age of thirteen. She lived, chaste and respected, at the King's court for twenty years, and then decided to enter the monastic life. She had hoped to join the convent of Chelles in Gaul, but Bishop Aidan was so impressed by her holiness of life that he recalled her to her home country, in East Anglia, to live in a small monastic settlement.

One year after her return, Aidan appointed her Abbess of Hartlepool. There, Hilda established the rule of life that she had been taught by Paulinus and Aidan. She became renowned for her wisdom, eagerness for learning, and devotion to God's service.

Some years later, she founded the abbey at Whitby, where both nuns and monks lived in strict obedience to Hilda's rule of justice, devotion, chastity, peace, and charity. Known for her prudence and good sense,

Hilda was sought out by kings and other public men for advice and counsel. Those living under her rule devoted so much time to the study of Scripture and to works of righteousness that many were found qualified for ordination. Several of her monks became bishops; at least one pursued further studies in Rome. She encouraged the poet Caedmon, a servant at Whitby, to become a monk and to continue his inspired writing. All who were her subjects or knew her, Bede remarks, called her "mother."

In 663, Whitby was the site of the famous synod convened to decide divisive questions involved in the differing traditions of Celtic Christians and the followers of Roman Order. Hilda favored the Celtic position, but when the Roman position prevailed she was obedient to the synod's decision. Hilda died on November 17, 680, surrounded by her monastics, whom, in her last hour, she urged to preserve the gospel of peace.

O God of peace, by whose grace the abbess Hilda was endowed with gifts of justice, prudence, and strength to rule as a wise mother over the nuns and monks of her household, and to become a trusted and reconciling friend to leaders of the Church: Give us the grace to recognize and accept the varied gifts thou dost bestow on men and women, that our common life may be enriched and thy gracious will be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee 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*)

CHURCH VS. STATE

(Continued from Page 1)

in the Constitution, not the Bible—is the foundation of national life.

On the Church's side this separation means untied hands. The church, as well as other religious organizations, is free to carry out its ministries and mission unhindered by any direct government ties or responsibilities.

This doesn't mean that its individual members should not be politically affiliated or offer themselves as potential candidates for elected positions. It means that as a community we should not declare allegiance to any particular group or ideology. One of the most important things we are able to do freely as a faith community is to speak up when we see structures and proposed laws that may create unjust

circumstances. We can and are called to exercise our critical voice. We cannot be timid or hesitant in the face of inequality, suffering or injustice. Being a Christian in politics has nothing to do with tax status or legal encumbrances. It has everything to do with being unbound witnesses of the love of God for all God's people and of the abundance of resources of creation for the benefit of all, not just a few. I paraphrase Matthew 10:28 as I write: *Fear not the one who can take away your tax exempt status but not your soul.* Let us be brave enough to bring light to the dark places of our local and national politics and discourse as we continually strive to build a just society.