



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

November 2019
Volume 6, Issue 14

THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



Congratulations to the members of our parish who made the decision to stand before the Bishop, their family, and friends and reaffirmed their

commitment to a continued relationship with God in Christ Jesus. Being a Christian is not necessarily the easiest thing to be for a young person in the Bay Area, where so many other allegiances are at stake, and when being a person of practicing faith is looked at as weird or maybe even questionable. The question "*Why are you a Christian?*" should not require a complicated response. However, it can become uncomfortable when the question comes coupled with a definition of the word Christian that goes beyond the fact of being a believer in Jesus as the Messiah of God and into the ways in which members of the

church have, in actuality or perception, misbehaved (to put it lightly) throughout history. Human history shows that there have been many terrible things done in the name of God, Jesus and the salvation of souls. For example, at our Diocesan Convention this year, I learned about the *Doctrine of Discovery* which was used by the European settlers to justify taking the lands of the natives of what is now the U.S.A. This Doctrine stated that a non-Christian could not hold title to any property, hence the unbelieving native could not claim that this land was their land.

In my own experience, I have found that it's both impossible and unnecessary to try and defend, explain or justify Christian bad behavior, whether it's from the ancient or recent past, or even from the present time. We are not able to influence or change the past; the future, however, can have the full imprint of our efforts to be living examples of God's love for the world. Our proclamation is not limited to

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Afternoon Fun at Boomers!



This past Sunday, October 26, we had our first youth event of this season! Five youth from the congregation traveled to *Boomers!* in Livermore for a fun afternoon of go-karts, mini-golf, and laser tag! Of all the fun ventures our favorite seemed to be go-karts, an activity that even Deacon Carol joined enthusiastically and competitively.

After a full day of fun and somewhat unhealthy food, we came back to St. Paul's

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MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

Save the Date!

All Soul's Requiem Mass on Friday November 1st at 7:30 pm
Special Music for All Saints November 3rd 10:00 am service



PANTRY OF HOPE Item of the month

The process of restocking the inventory is on the way and we are hoping to receive your donations of strawberry or grape jelly and juice.

Thanks for your continued support and prayers.

COMPLINE

Sunday, November 24th

Since October of 2002, the choir of St. Paul's has sung Compline on the fourth Sunday of every month at 8:00 pm. The transcendent quality of the Gregorian Chant, along with the beauty of St. Paul's Church bathed in candlelight, has made the service an oasis of peace in the lives of

those who attend, both Christians and Non-Christians. The candles are lit at 7:50 and the church remains open for a half hour after the service ends (usually around 8.40). With St. Paul's Compline Choir. Christopher Kula, Choir Director.

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.





SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020

5:00PM – 10:00PM

We kick-off our sesquicentennial anniversary celebration with a Mardi-Gras themed Fundraising Gala Dinner dance.

Details forthcoming, including other activities that lead up to our January 2021 anniversary date.



Photo credit: Milan Bhatt Photography

2019 OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio

Wilson – *Rector*

Irene Plunkett

Senior Warden

Will Cowart

Junior Warden

Pamela Kruse-Buckingham

Clerk

Saundra Anderson

Treasurer

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2019

Pamela Kruse-Buckingham

Irene Plunkett

Will Cowart

Class of 2020

Allison Sass

Dylan Versteeg

Bill Davis

Class of 2021

Madyé Parrish

Sergio Prieto

Erica Terry-Derryck

Future meetings:

October 22

November 26

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 2015

Delegates

Melanie Blake

James Kadleck

Tom McGarrell

Alternates

To Be Appointed

SAINT OF THE MONTH

All Saints' Day



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.

It is believed by many scholars that the commemoration of all the saints on November 1 originated in Ireland, spread from there to England, and then to the continent of Europe. That it had reached Rome and had been adopted there early in the ninth century is attested to by a letter of Pope Gregory IV, who reigned from 828 to 844, to Emperor Louis “the Pious,” urging that such a festival be observed throughout the Holy Roman Empire. However, the desire of Christian people to express the intercommunion of the living and the dead in the Body of Christ by a commemoration of those who, having professed faith in the living Christ in days past, had entered into the nearer presence of their Lord, and especially of those who had crowned their profession with heroic deaths, was far older than the early Middle Ages. Gregory Thaumaturgus (the “Wonder Worker”), writing before the year 270, refers to the observance of a festival of all martyrs, though he does not date it. A hundred years later, Ephrem the Deacon mentions such an observance in Edessa on May 13; and the patriarch John Chrysostom, who died in 407, says that a festival of All Saints was observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost in Constantinople at the time of his episcopate.

The contemporary lectionary of the East Syrians set a commemoration of all the saints on Friday in Easter week. On May 13, in the year 610, the Pantheon in Rome—originally a pagan temple dedicated to “all the gods”—was dedicated as the Church of St. Mary and All Martyrs.

All Saints' Day is classed, in the Prayer Book of 1979, as a Principal Feast, taking precedence over any other day or observance. Among the seven so classified, All Saints' Day alone may be observed on the following Sunday, in addition to its observance on its fixed date. It is one of the four days recommended in the Prayer Book (page 312) for the administration of Holy Baptism.



Episcopal Relief & Development

Working Together for Lasting Change

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday: November 17th

By Carolyn Knapp, Social Justice & Outreach Ministry

Mark your calendars for a Sunday of celebration and learning on November 17th.

Sean McConnell, whom some of you will remember from his time with us as a parishioner from 1997 to 1998, will be preaching during the service and conducting an after-service forum on Episcopal Relief & Development (<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>), the international humanitarian agency of the Episcopal Church.

This agency, from 1940 until 2000 known as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease around the world, including the program of Nets for Life that St. Paul's participates in every other year during Advent.

Sean, as its Director of Engagement for the last six years, helps Episcopalians know what Episcopal Relief & Development does and how the agency does it. Come prepared to be inspired by the work your church is doing in the world and by what you can do to further it!

SAVE Stand-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.

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

Empowerment through Language

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/readings--rota.html>

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.

From the Social Justice Ministry

Robert Knapp

October 22, 2019

St. Paul's Social Justice Ministry sponsored a highly informative forum on October 20th after the 10 a.m. service on the English as a Second Language (ESL) initiative at Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana in the Fruitvale District of Oakland. This program is open to anyone wishing to learn basic English. It serves both recent immigrants and established residents from the Hispanic neighborhoods.

Tony Montalvo, a director of the program, joined us, as did Susan Tilden of St. Paul's who currently teaches a class every other Tuesday evening from 7 to 9. The two shared the basics of the ESL program and spoke of the successes and challenges. Both mentioned the great satisfaction they get from helping others learn English and, often, helping them navigate issues in

their lives. About 20 parishioners sought information and shared their own experiences with language learning.

We decided to organize volunteer language aides to go to Susan's class and work in small groups as part of her overall lesson plans. November 5th will be our first session. Everyone can do this! No Spanish is necessary! If you would like to help folks eager to learn English and empower their lives, contact Robert Knapp at (510) 658-6547 or rcknapp2@gmail.com and check out the short video produced by the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, a co-partner in the ESL project: <https://vimeo.com/292398956>

Our broad Social Justice Ministry always welcomes new participants. Please contact Dylan Versteeg versteegdm@hotmail.com if you are interested.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S THIS FALL

- November 1: All Soul's Requiem Mass
 - November 2: Diocesan General Confirmation
 - November 3: All Saints' Service with Special Music
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Afternoon Fun at Boomers!

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in the late afternoon, satisfied and content.

Parents of St. Paul's: this is the first fun event for our youth, but we have many more down the line! Our next adventure is on No-

vember 16th for Harry Potter Day at Grace Cathedral. The event starts at 10:30 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Not only would this be a fun event for fans of the Wizarding World, but also formational in our faith, as we will explore the Anglican roots of all the seven books of the series!

If you are interested in signing up your youth (and youth at heart!) for this event, please contact me at youth@stpaulsoakland.org!

ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY YOGA

4:30pm-5:30pm every Monday (except for school Holidays)



St. Paul's Church will be offering a free, weekly, all levels yoga class to our extended St. Paul's family! The practice will consist of mindfulness meditation, strength building, stretching, stress resilience, and deep relaxation. All bodies, ages and abilities welcome! Come take care of yourself, unwind, and recharge for the week ahead.

Please wear comfortable movement clothes and bring a mat if you have one.

Some shared mats will also be available if you need to borrow.



Dear Readers:
In an effort to reduce paper waste and printing/ mailing expenses, we are asking anyone who gets the online 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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

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Services

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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)

showing good works or portraying ourselves in the best of lights. It includes being examples of how one is to be repentant when we fail to meet the standards of Christlikeness that we have set for ourselves.

Whenever we are making a commitment, using the forms prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, we regularly find “Will you” questions. For the most part, the answer is the statement “*I will, with God’s help*”. Besides being a promise to live into a ministry or a way of life, it is also a statement of faith. Faith in the grace and love of God that does not leave us alone as we are failing in our human imperfections, but instead sustains and encourages us through it all.

Now that we are at the end of another cycle in the life of the church, with the feast of Christ the King on the last Sunday of November and Thanksgiving just before, I invite each of us to recommit to living a full life in Christ. Recommit to study, prayer and worship. Recommit to proclaiming the Good News. Recommit to serving Christ in all persons, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to respect the dignity of every human being, and to strive for justice and peace among all people. We do all this with God’s help.