



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

December 2016
Volume 10 Issue 11

THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

A NEW CYCLE BEGINS

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



On Sunday, November 27, we entered a new cycle in the life of the church, a new Church Year. In her sermon on October 2, Episcopal Schools'

Sunday, Mother Annie, our curate, mentioned that we are a church and a people who don't see time as linear but rather as cyclical. Our lives, the planet, our solar system and the universe follow somewhat predictable patterns and rotations in which an end is nothing more than a new beginning.

I believe this is not only true of things like a calendar year, the seasons, the rising and setting of the sun but also the daily lives of our communities. When I think, for example, of issues in the realm of social justice it appears to me

that the work of bringing about just social structures is never-ending and started thousands of years ago. Many biblical stories come to mind: Cain and Abel, Hagar and Sarah, the liberation of the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt and later their struggle for liberation from Babylonian rule, the poor, the thirsty and hungry whom Jesus told his disciples to care for, the persecution of Christians under Roman rule, to name a few. Then I think of events that are more recent in our history: enslavement of Africans, the oppressive systems that brought about the two major world wars, Vietnam, the old and new Jim Crow, white and black water fountains, Matthew Shepard, Standing Rock—again, only to name a few. It feels as if each time humanity appears to be entering a new age it does so bearing the banner of a new system of oppression. There always seems to be someone upon

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COOKIES AND CAROLS ON DECEMBER 18

It's time for holiday cheer again. Join in as we eat cookies and sing Christmas carols in the church after the 10:00 am service during the greening of the church.



Bake or buy some cookies and bring them to the narthex either before or after the 10:00 am service. And bring a box or a bag to take extra treats home.



ST. PAUL'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

November 27, First Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Canticles

December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

December 11, Third Sunday of Advent

December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cookies & Carols and the Greening & decoration of the Church after the 10 a.m. service.

December 24, Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Family Service

10:30 p.m. St. Paul's Choir Christmas Concert

11 p.m. Sung Holy Eucharist

December 25, Christmas Day

Spoken Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.

Sung Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.

The church office will be closed the week after Christmas.

ST. PAUL'S 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on January 15, 2016 at 10 a.m.

PLEDGE CARDS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

While the formal discernment phase of our Stewardship campaign has ended, I know many of you have still not made your pledge to St.

Paul's for next year. To facilitate that, we are making the pledge cards available online. Just download it [here](#) and send it in.



PRE-CHRISTMAS ALTAR CLEAN-UP FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 9:00 AM IN THE CHURCH

Altar Guild members and anyone from the Parish are invited to join Altar Guild Team 3 to help clean the Altar, chancel and chapel areas of the church. We have coffee, donuts and a lot of laughter and good cheer as we work together to prepare our beautiful worship space for the coming of Christ. Bring brooms, dustpans, mops and rags. We'll provide the coffee and donuts!

PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

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

December

Bottles of juice

January

Bottles of juice

February

Bottles of juice

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

Thanks!



NETS OVER THE CRÈCHE: GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON PROTECTING

A mosquito net over Baby Jesus' bed during Advent this year will remind St. Paul's parishioners of a chance they have to help prevent malaria, the number one infectious killer in the world. Every two minutes, a child in Africa dies of the disease, each year it infects 300-500 million people and kills 1 million of them.

Episcopal Relief and Development has, for the last ten years, partnered with NetsforLife (be sure to view the great video) to successfully lower child mortality on that continent.

In 2010, a child died of malaria every thirty seconds. While the current rate is one quarter of that, it is still far too high, and continued use of the nets is essential if the ground that has been gained is to be maintained.

Your family's contribution of \$12 will give an African family the protection of a net; thirty nets from our "village" of St. Paul's will protect an entire village. For more information, please get in touch with Carolyn Knapp by email at csknapp@earthlink.net or by phone at (510) 658-6547.



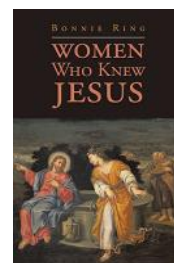
WOMEN WHO WONDER

Women who Wonder will meet Tuesday, December 13. Join us for a time of meditation on scripture followed by lively conversation. It's never too late to learn and reflect on the women who knew Jesus! Dinner in the Chapter Room at 6:00 p.m. offers the opportunity to get to know each other better. We will be finished by 8:00. If you have questions, email annehj@aol.com.

After Christmas we will return to the third Tuesday of the month, beginning with January 17, 2017.

LOOK! WE'RE MOVING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY!

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. Please add 3% for processing.



2016 OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson – *Rector*
Elizabeth (Liz) Hook – *Senior Warden*
William (Bill) Davis – *Junior Warden*
Thomas (Tom) McGarrell – *Treasurer*
James Kadleck – *Clerk*

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2016
Elizabeth (Liz) Hook
Thomas (Tom) McGarrell
Sharon Pilmer

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

Class of 2018
Alice Brilmayer
George Strait
Saundra Anderson

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 2015

Delegates

Izabella (Bella) Sempari
Scott Buckingham

Alternates

Pam Buckingham
Sheila Sims

MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

SPECIAL MUSIC IN DECEMBER



**Saturday,
December 3, 2016
4 p.m. Concert**

BELLA MUSICA CHORUS

Gabriel Faure's
Requiem and
*Cantique de Jean
Racine*, and

Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*. Larry Marrieta, Artistic Director, John Walko, organist, with harp and strings. More information at [Bella Musica's Webpage](#)

**Sunday, December 4, 2016
10:00 a.m., Choral Eucharist**

The only son from heaven, J.S. Bach; Ubi caritas, setting by Richard Proulx, 1974; Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, S.S. Wesley. Sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Montgomery, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco Bellamy, Director.

4 p.m., Evensong

Chapel College Ensemble of Men & Boys, Christopher Kula, Director.

Evensong is a short Anglican service combining 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.

December 11, 2016

10:00 a.m., Choral Eucharist

The only Son from heaven, J.S. Bach; Chant and Carol on a melody of Gesius, 1603, D. Montgomery; Im Advent -- Mendelssohn. Sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Montgomery, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco Bellamy, Director.

**4 p.m., Concert: San Francisco
Choral Artists**

Light in Winter. With the rare convergence of Hannukah, Christmas, and the Solstice, we look ahead to the new year and lengthening days with music of contemplation and renewal, of confronting darkness and rejoicing in light's return. Welcome this festive season with music ancient and modern, beloved and new, by Barber, Crabtree, Guerrero, Houghton, Kodály, Lassus, Mallonée, Nixon, Poulenc, Strassburg, Taneyev and others. Magen Solomon, Artistic Director. Info at www.sfca.org.

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.



8 p.m., Concert: Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco



Carols by Candlelight. Join our premiere chorus, the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco, for an awe-

inspiring, candle-lit evening of holiday music. Michael Haydn's Magnificat, and music by Gyöngyösi, Kodály, Szymko, Sibelius, Levine and others will be featured, as well as many carols for chorus and audience. Susan McMane, Artistic Director. Info at www.ywcp.org

Friday, December 16

8 p.m., Concert: Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble

Wintersongs. *Wintersongs* is Kitka's critically-acclaimed and wildly popular winter holiday program showcasing seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. For countless centuries, people around the world have utilized the power of community singing to infuse warmth, cheer, spirituality, wishes for peace, health, and good fortune into the long, dark, cold and difficult winter season. Eastern Europe's geographic position as a crossroads between Europe and the Orient has produced an astonishingly rich and varied array of seasonal



musical rituals. Kitka's program features songs ranging

from rousing Slavic folk carols; to lush meditative Eastern Orthodox sacred choral works; to Baltic pagan incantations for the return of the Sun Goddess, to Caucasus Georgian *Alilos* (hallelujahs); to Yiddish, Sephardic, and Hebrew songs for Chanukah; to Bosnian-Muslim *ilahijas* (devotional hymns); to rhythmic Balkan Romany ("Gypsy") tunes for the winter festivals of *Vasilica* and *Kurban Bajram*.

Traditional pieces will be woven together with new folk song arrangements and original compositions by Kitka members and contemporary American and Eastern European composers, all inspired by the customs, beauty, and mystery of wintertime. Info at www.kitka.org

Sunday, December 18, Advent IV 10am, Choral Eucharist

Veni, Redemptor gentium (Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth), Plainsong; The Cherubic Hymn, Gretchaninov; Magnificat Quint Toni, Palestrina. Sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Montgomery, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco Bellamy, Director.

11:45 a.m. COOKIES & CAROLS SING-A-LONG

Join fellow lovers of song and festive eats for a joyful celebration! In the Church, after the 10 a.m. service and the greening of the church.



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. Upcoming dates and locations are:

- 12/10/16
Foothill and 35th

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, subdeacons, 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.

8 p.m., Compline

NOTE DATE CHANGE to the third Sunday, this month only

Gregorian chant, polyphony of Byrd, Tallis, Victoria, in candlelight. 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. Sung by St. Paul's Choir, Philip Saunders, Director.



December 24, 2016

THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, FAMILY SERVICE, 5 p.m.

A selection of French Carols (organ), Traditional; Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (organ), J.S. Bach. Sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Montgomery, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco Bellamy, Director.



Eucharist with carols and a children's "no-prep -required" pageant - come ready to jump in and help tell the story of the nativity!

December 24, 2016

CHORAL CONCERT OF CLASSICS FOR THE SEASON, 10:30 p.m.

Sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Montgomery, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco Bellamy, Director.

December 24, 2016

THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, MIDNIGHT MASS, 11 p.m.

A Solus Ortus Cardine (*From East to West*), Plainsong; Alleluia from *For Us a Child is Born*, J.S. Bach; O magnum mysterium, Victoria. Sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Montgomery, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco Bellamy, Director.

December 25, 2016

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

10:00 a.m., Choral Eucharist

A Light will shine on us this day, *Griffen*; A Selection of Carols, Traditional; O quam gloriosum, Victoria. Sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Montgomery, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco Bellamy, Director.

ST. PAUL'S HOLIDAY CD SALE

Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the church
Over 1,000 CDs!

The best of classical music from the 15th to the 21st Century.
Proceeds will benefit St. Paul's outreach programs.



SAINT OF THE MONTH

LUCIA OF SYRACUSE, MARTYR, 304



Lucy, or Lucia, was martyred at Syracuse, in Sicily, during Diocletian's reign of terror of 303-304, among the most dramatic of the persecutions of early

Christians. Her tomb can still be found in the catacombs at Syracuse. She was venerated soon after her death and her cult spread quickly throughout the church. She is among the saints and martyrs named in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

Most of the details of Lucy's life are obscure. In the tradition she is remembered for the purity of her life and the gentleness of her spirit. Because her name means "light," she is sometimes thought of as the patron saint of those who suffer from diseases of the eyes.

In popular piety, Lucy is perhaps most revered because her feast day, December 13, was for many centuries the shortest day of the year. (The reform of the calendar by Pope Gregory VIII (1582) would shift the shortest day to December 21/22, depending upon the year.) It was on Lucy's day that the light began gradually to return and the days to lengthen. This was particularly powerful in northern Europe

where the days of winter were quite short. In Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden, Lucy's day has long been a festival of light that is kept as both an ecclesiastical commemoration and a domestic observance.

In the domestic celebration of Lucia-fest, a young girl in the family dresses in pure white (a symbol of Lucy's faith, purity, and martyrdom) and wears a crown of lighted candles upon her head (a sign that on Lucy's day the light is returning) and serves her family special foods prepared especially for the day. In praise of her service, the young girl is called Lucy for the day.

Loving God, for the salvation of all you gave Jesus Christ as light to a world in darkness: Illumine us, with your daughter Lucy, with the light of Christ, that by the merits of his passion we may be led to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God for ever and 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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

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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*)

A NEW CYCLE BEGINS

(Continued from Page 1)

whose back we need to stand and whose dignity we need to trample to consider ourselves successful.

Though this preceding list may make you feel that I am being negative or even depressing, what I would like to share with you is my belief that as human beings we have been able to overcome all of these historical moments through the hard work and dedication of people who heard and said “yes” to the call to stand up for the dignity and rights of others, even those different from themselves. I am very aware of the concerns and fears of many in our community today that we could be entering a new cycle of psychological, physical, legal and

economic violence. It is my firm belief that those of us who call ourselves the *followers of the Way* and the *people of God* must to seek to assuage these concerns and fears through the heartfelt and sincere commitment to listen to God’s call and to say “yes” to standing with and working hard for the respect and dignity of every human being as we have promised in our baptismal vows.

I ask that you enter this new cycle in the life of our church with the desire to see new things emerging in your relationship with God by seeking and serving all of God’s people as you see the humbly *mangled* Word of God Made Flesh reflected in each.