



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

December 2017
Volume 11 Issue 11

THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY AND MISSION

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



In the first week of November, Josh Stern, Head of St. Paul's Episcopal School, and Carolyn Bolton, Deacon of St.

Paul's Episcopal Church, and I traveled to Haiti to visit our partner Church and School in Gros Morne. This would be my fourth time visiting and the third time driving there. I have to say that Haiti has not failed to surprise each time. We arrived Monday afternoon, and the 23-mile drive to the town of Leogane—where we were to meet Father Michelin for dinner and spend the night at Hospital St. Croix—took 6 hours. It is the rainy season, after all, and some neighborhoods and streets in Port Au Prince were flooded and impassable. In one stretch it took us two

hours to travel one mile. Our friend Fr. Michelin proved to be a very patient person as he was still waiting for us, with dinner, when we arrived after 9 p.m.

The drive up the mountain to St. Pierre is always fascinating. Carolyn and Josh call me crazy, although Haitian drivers look at me as if calling me slow. The drive from Leogane to Gros Morne requires going through several villages, a river, and an undeveloped uphill trail that demands a 4-wheel low range drive SUV, but it was all worth it. Over 100 children from preschool age to sixth grade received us warmly in their classrooms before coming out for recess where they ran, skipped, jumped, and played games in circles that I couldn't understand because the words were in Creole. But it was obvious they

(Continued on Page 8)

Inside This Issue

Page 2

Mission Trip to Haiti

Page 3

Community Service Day

Women Who Wonder

Men Who Wander

Page 4

Music at St. Paul's

Page 5

SAVE Stand-ins

Page 6

Advent & Christmas Calendar

Annual Meeting

Page 7

Cookies & Carols

Foyer Groups in 2018

Pantry of Hope Fundraiser

Honor the Innocents

QR Code

CONGRATULATIONS REV. IZABELLI SEMPARI!

Join us on Sunday, January 14 as we welcome back The Rev. Izabella Sempari as the celebrant and preacher at both services.



Photo credit: Dani Scoville

MISSION TRIP TO HAITI

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!



A FESTIVE FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY—SPEC AND SPES

Our first Family Community Service Day was a huge success! Over 150 St. Paul's students, parents, grandparents, and alumni parents gathered with friends in Parish Hall to roll up their sleeves and do some good. Many more donated coats for the coat drive leading up to the event. In record time, this intergenerational crew achieved so much! Check out these stats:



- Assembled 111 breakfast bags and 146 snack packs for the Pantry of Hope
- Sorted and packed up over 300 donated coats for the East Oakland Youth Development Center
- Assembled 20 Thanksgiving dinners (complete with greeting cards decorated by kids!) for local seniors

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this event fly by! Be on the lookout for another event this spring.

WOMEN WHO WONDER

Women Who Wonder will not be meeting during the month of December. We will meet again on Tuesday, January 9 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.

MEN WHO WANDER

Men Who Wander will not be meeting during the month of December. Stay tuned for our next meet up in the January 2018 newsletter.

2016 OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

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

VESTRY BY CLASS

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

Class of 2018
 Alice Brilmayer
 George Strait
 Sandra 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 DECEMBER

**Sunday, December 3, First Sunday
of Advent/ Consecration Sunday
10 a.m., Choral Eucharist**

Adam lay ybounden, *Ord*; Rorate caeli,
Rheinberger; Orientur stella, *Handl*;
E'en so, Lord Jesus, *Manz*; Sinfonia in
A, *Bach*; Nun laßt uns Gott, dem
Herren, *Pachelbel*.

With St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Choir; Christopher Kula, Music
Director.

Saturday, December 9

**2 p.m., Concert, Voci Women's Vocal
Ensemble**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Voci is delighted to be joined this fall
by the Jubilate Baroque Orchestra and
soprano MacKenzie Covington to
present "Rejoice! Rejoice!"—a concert
of sacred renaissance and baroque
masterworks featuring stunning works
by Bach, Porpora, Hasse, Charpentier,
Cozzolani and Victoria. More info at
<http://www.vocisings.org>

*Voci*²⁵

Women's Vocal Ensemble | Mitchell Covington, Artistic Director



Saturday, December 9

**7:30 p.m., Concert: International
Orange Chorale of San Francisco**

*Past Perfect: New Takes on Our
Favorite Choral Music*

This FREE concert features music
written for IOCSF by composers Nilo
Alcala, David Conte, Jake Heggie,
Marielle Jakobsons, Elizabeth Kimble,



Huang Ruo, Mari Valverde, and our
2017 Composer-in-Residence, Elliott
Encarnación. The concert will be
followed by a reception. More info at
[https://www.iocsf.org/
past_perfect_east_bay_show_20171209](https://www.iocsf.org/past_perfect_east_bay_show_20171209)

**Sunday, December 10, Second
Sunday of Advent**

10 a.m., Choral Eucharist

This is the record of John, *Gibbons*;
Ave Maria, *Victoria*; Sinfonia in A
Minor, *Bach*; Herzlich tut mich
verlangen, *Buxtehude*.

Sunday, December 10

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

*A Rebel's Christmas: Martin Luther's
Musical Reformation*

Why should the devil get all the good
tunes? Even if Luther didn't say this, he
was on to something since he
"borrowed" and reshaped many fine
secular songs and Catholic chants into
Protestant hymns. This holiday season
we'll dig up roots of beloved church
tunes, follow them into the 21st century,
and examine how one man changed the
course of music. Explore this
transformation as wrought by Bach,
Brahms, Distler, Handel, Mendelssohn,
Praetorius, Schein, Walther, and our
New Voices Project winner, with
guidance, spiritual and otherwise, from
our "guest monk," narrator Stephen
Wilson.

**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.*



A Rebel's CHRISTMAS:
Martin Luther's
MUSICAL REFORMATION

Narrator and historian Stephen Wilson will be our guide for *A Rebel's Christmas*, weaving a tale through this

unusual program. Mr. Wilson, who studied historical linguistics at Yale and the University of California, Berkeley, has written on Native American languages, Arthurian literature, and Sanskrit — not all at the same time. After teaching linguistics and English at Berkeley, Stanford, Cal State East Bay and other schools and universities, he is now a member of the history department at the College Preparatory School in Oakland. More info at http://www.sfca.org/concert_programs/rebels-christmas-martin-luthers-musical-reformation/

Friday, December 15

8 p.m., Concert: Kitka

Wintersongs by Candlelight

Powerhouse women's vocal ensemble, Kitka, dedicates this year's Wintersongs program to "the mystery and wonder of long winter nights," explained Kitka's Executive Artistic Director Shira Cion. "The lyrics of many of the songs on our new *Evening Star* album are poetically rich with celestial imagery of the moon and stars, as well as such wintry elements as frost, snow and storms. "In Slavic mythology," continued Cion, "the Evening Star was a female deity associated with the planets Venus and Mercury. By some accounts she was a virgin goddess, and according to others she was the wife of the Moon god and mother of all the stars. Christian lore incorporated the Evening Star into the

nativity story as the Star of Bethlehem." "Songs heralding the wonder of celestial bodies remind us that we are but a small part of the universe," said Kelly Atkins, who together with Caitlin Tabancay Austin directs this year's *Wintersongs* program. "In this time of uncertainty and disequilibrium, we can find solace and comfort in the simple joy of raising our voices together in harmony."

Kitka's 2017 Wintersongs ensemble includes Kelly Atkins, Caitlin Tabancay Austin, Kristine Barrett, Shira Cion, Erin Lashnits Herman, Janet Kutulas, Hannah Levy, and Lily Storm. Tickets at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3115266>. More info at <http://www.kitka.org/events/>

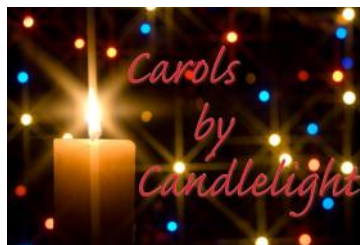
Sunday, December 17, Third

Sunday of Advent

10 a.m., Choral Eucharist

Rejoice in the Lord always, *Anonymous*; Virga Jesse, *Bruckner*; Sinfonia in B Flat, *Bach*; Fugue in B Flat, *Handel*.

7:30 p.m.,
Concert,
Young
Women's
Chorus of
San
Francisco



YWCP Holiday Concert: Carols by Candlelight

Featuring the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco. Don't miss this beautiful holiday tradition—the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco singing Carols by Candlelight. This year YWCP's award-winning chorus performs music by Biebl,

(Continued on Page 6)

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.

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

(Continued from Page 5)

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.

Kocsár, Hildegard, Cesis, Szymko, and others. A powerful Magnificat by Z. Randall Stroope is featured in addition to many exciting carol arrangements, including some with audience participation. Expect an evening of peace, joy and hope radiating from these young, talented voices. Tickets at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3118588>

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent/ Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10 a.m., Choral Eucharist

Die mit Tränen säen, *Schütz*; The Lord will come and not be slow, *Tye*; Sinfonia in B Minor, *Bach*; Toccata, *Gigout*.

10:30 p.m., Christmas Concert

Dies Natalis, Finzi. Tonia D'Amelio, *soprano*.

11 p.m., Midnight Mass

Service in the Phrygian Mode, *Charles Wood*; Messiah with orchestra, Selections from *Handel*; Sing lullaby, *Howells*; Prelude and Fugue in D, *Buxtehude*.

Sunday, December 25, Fourth

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10 a.m., Choral Eucharist

Service in the Phrygian Mode, *Charles Wood*; Here is the little door, *Howells*; In dulci júbilo, *Praetorius*; Tambourin sur des Noels, *Charpentier*; In dir ist Freude, *Bach*.

ST. PAUL'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

December 3, First Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Carols, Consecration
Sunday Lunch after the 10 a.m. service

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

Spaghetti Feed, Pantry of Hope
Fundraiser

December 16, Honor the Innocents and Take Action against Gun Violence at St. Paul's

2 to 4 p.m.

December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

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

December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Decoration of the Church after the 10
a.m. service

December 24, Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Family Service

8 p.m. Compline

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Concert:
Finzi, *Dies Natalis*
with Tonia D'Amelio

11 p.m. Sung Holy Eucharist

December 25, Christmas Day

10 a.m. Sung Holy
Eucharist

The church office will
be closed the week
after Christmas.



ST. PAUL'S 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on January 21, 2018 at 10 a.m.

IT'S COOKIES & CAROLS TIME!

After the 10:00 am service on Sunday, December 17, we'll celebrate our traditional gathering to eat cookies while singing carols. Bring something you've either bought or baked and limber up those vocal cords.



FOYER GROUPS COMING TO ST. PAUL'S IN EARLY 2018

Would you like to have an opportunity to get to know your St. Paul's family members better?? Do you find coffee hour is just too short to really get to know your fellow parishioners?? Why not join a Foyer Group?? Foyer Groups are a social opportunity for parishioners to share time, conversation, and a simple, potluck meal together, which provide a great way to get to know each other better.

The groups are made up of six or eight people (singles or couples), who gather together approximately once a month or so to share a meal. If you are interested in joining a Foyer Group, look for the sign-up sheets that will be in narthex starting Sunday, January 6th. If you would like more information, please feel free to call or write to:

Rev. Anne Jensen, annehj@aol.com, 510-251-1706,
Irene Plunkett, iplunkett@sbcglobal.net, 510-568-8257,
Lisa Strait, Lisastrait@aol.com, 510-684-6003 or
Jeanette Dinwiddie Moore, dinwidd@gmail.com, 510-531-3355.

PANTRY OF HOPE SPAGHETTI FEED BENEFIT

Have you tried the rector's spaghetti? If not, you haven't truly dined. Father Mauricio and Deacon Bolton are cooking spaghetti for us on December 10. Come and eat with us. The price of admission is a donation to the Pantry of Hope. Yum!

HONOR THE INNOCENTS & TAKE ACTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

On the fifth anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre, join the East Bay Beloved Community assembled and Oakland City Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney to honor all victims of gun violence, learn how you can take action to stop the killing and help assemble gift boxes for the families of Oakland homicide victims.

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.



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

114 Montecito Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

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

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

(Continued from Page 1)

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)

were having a lot of fun, as they would laugh to their hearts' content with every round of play they completed. One of Deacon Carolyn's favorite treats are sunflower seeds, and she took some with her on the trip. In sharing them with the children of St. Pierre, she and they created a spontaneous song/dance/game. Ask her about it, I'm sure she'll be more than happy to share the story and maybe even act it out. I believe my main take-away from this trip was the answer we received from Fr. St. Louis to a question put to him by Josh: What kind of government assistance does this community get to help educate and feed these children? His answer: NONE, there is no government presence of any kind up in the mountains: no electricity, no water, no education, no doctors or hospitals, no roads. Besides each other, we are

the only thing they have. I have been asked on many occasions why we are in this partnership, and I believe that it's precisely because as God's people we are called to be there for each other. We have to be willing to go beyond an arm's length to touch the needs of God's children and give them a chance at a better future. The Diocese of Haiti has invited us to partner with them and their churches to help these needy communities know that they are not alone. This program looks to create relationships that go beyond sending checks that arrive with no names or faces. We have been called to create the human connections that are face-to-face and heart-to-heart. They are not able to come to us so we go to them, and they share their all with us.