



**St. Paul's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

December 2019  
Volume 6, Issue 15

# THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

***IN THE WILDERNESS PREPARE*** By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



I pray your 2019 Advent season is blessed.

I sometimes like to joke about being a member of the Advent Police Brigade, making sure that we don't

begin the observance and celebration of Christmas too early. If you didn't know it already, there is no A.P.B., it's only one of those things you joke about in seminary, clergy groups and nerdy church circles. Nonetheless, a premature dive into Christmas can seriously rob us from the preparatory things that the season of Advent offers. Think about it this way: very few people wake up and decide they are going on a trip the same day. No one in their right mind decides they're going to build a house and begins construction immediately.

The counterargument I've heard regarding

the need to go through a season of preparation is that we have already done this before, we know what we're doing, and what to expect. This reasoning can be particularly present with those of us who have been participating in church life for many years. Our belief and reliance on our expertise in Christian faith and life can easily lead us to overlook the annual invitation to visit ANEW the how and why of Christmas, the anticipation and expectation that existed before the nativity story ever happened. There is an invitation to put ourselves in a state of mind in which things have not yet taken place. We don't know exactly when or where or how but we know of the promise that something will happen.

We should also remember that Advent is not simply about preparing for celebrating December 25 or the observance of the birth of Jesus. In Christian living, Advent is even more important as a time when we think about our preparedness for Christ's promised return, the timing of which we

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## Harry Potter Day Photos!

Here we share photos from our youth event, Harry Potter Day at Grace Cathedral:



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## MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

Save the Date!

### PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

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

Thanks for your continued support and prayers.

**December 8, Second Sunday of Advent**

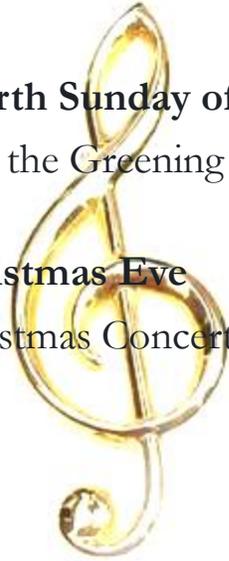
Lessons & Carols

**December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

**December 24, Christmas Eve**

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



## COMPLINE

**Sunday, December 22**

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.



**ST. PAUL’S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR**



**December 8:** Second Sunday of Advent Lessons & Carols, Consecration Sunday Lunch

**December 15:** Third Sunday of Advent Spaghetti Feed, Pantry of Hope Fundraiser

**December 22:** Fourth Sunday of Advent Cookies & Carols and the Greening of the Church after the 10 a.m. service, 8 p.m. Compline

**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 10 a.m. Sung Holy Eucharist

The church office will be closed the week after Christmas.

**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

### St. Nicholas Ferrar



came widely known for fasting, private prayer and meditation, and for writing stories and books illustrating themes of Christian faith and morality. One of the most interesting of the activities of the Little Gidding community was the preparation of “harmonies” of the Gospels, one of which was presented to King Charles I by the Ferrar family.

The community did not long survive the death of Nicholas Ferrar. However, the memory of the religious life at Little Gidding was kept alive, principally through Izaak Walton’s description in his *Life of George Herbert*: “He (Ferrar) and his family ... did most of them keep Lent and all Ember-weeks strictly, both in fasting and using all those mortifications and prayers that the Church hath appointed ... and he and they did the like constantly on Fridays, and on the vigils or eves appointed to be fasted before the Saints’ days; and this frugality and abstinence turned to the relief of the poor ...”

The community became an important symbol for many Anglicans when religious orders began to revive. Its life inspired T.S. Eliot, and he gave the title, “Little Gidding,” to the last of his *Four Quartets*, one of the great religious poems of the twentieth century.

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#### 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](mailto:halice@pacbell.net).*

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Nicholas Ferrar (1592–1637) was the founder of a religious community at Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire, England, which existed from 1626 to 1646. His family had been prominent in the affairs of the Virginia Company, but when that company was dissolved, he took deacon’s orders, and retired to the country.

At Little Gidding, his immediate family and a few friends and servants gave themselves wholly to religious observance. They restored the derelict church near the manor house, became responsible for services there, taught many of the local children, and looked after the health and well-being of the people of the neighborhood. A regular round of prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer was observed, along with the daily recital of the whole of the Psalter.

The members of the community be-

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**Celebrating Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday**

By Carolyn Knapp, Social Justice & Outreach Ministry



“Testify!” was the message our guest preacher, Sean McConnell, Episcopal Relief & Development’s Director of Engagement for the last six years, gave us on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The text of Luke’s gospel has Jesus describing an apocalypse. While Jesus sees “dreadful portents,” these are “an opportunity to testify” to God’s presence in the world and the promise of eternal life. Sean encouraged us to testify by continuing our work with the Pantry of Hope, stand-ins against gun violence, helping new immigrants learn English, and, of course, supporting the work of Episcopal Relief & Development ([www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)) through praying, learning, and giving.



During the Forum after the 10 a.m. service, parishioners had an opportunity to see many examples of the work the organization does in partnership with local Anglican organizations such as the Episcopal Church in Liberia. The goal is to work together to create lasting change, particularly in the areas of women’s rights, support for children under six, and promoting community resilience in the face of climate change. We were able to ask Sean questions about these and about the disaster relief efforts of Episcopal Relief & Development. Our sessions ended with an inspiring video message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry about the One Thousand Days of Love campaign. Get ready to hear more about it in 2020!

**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 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](mailto:Save@Truevine-Ministries.com) to be put on the email list for future Stand-Ins.

## Profit & Loss Statement

### 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.

#### ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PROFIT & LOSS, Y-T-D vs BUDGET Through: October-19

	Oct-19	Budget	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>					
PLEDGES	14,106	16,667	114,363	166,667	200,000
PLATE	5,560	4,167	46,069	41,667	50,000
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	340	229	2,512	3,792	5,750
INVESTMENT INCOME	397	4,375	15,835	50,750	62,042
SPACE USE	6,967	7,692	67,529	76,517	91,300
FUND RAISING	0	585	716	1,850	2,020
FUND TRANSFERS	0		15,438		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>27,370</b>	<b>33,715</b>	<b>262,462</b>	<b>341,243</b>	<b>411,112</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
PERSONAL	28,514	32,110	260,247	292,842	357,450
WORSHIP	90	487	4,652	4,877	5,850
FAITH FORMATION	921	167	1,244	1,667	2,000
CHURCH GROWTH	97	880	4,255	8,768	11,230
OUTREACH	0	417	1,579	4,417	5,250
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	1,585	2,648	27,878	27,283	32,580
PROPERTY EXPENSE	2,950	3,970	41,522	40,791	50,700
DIOCESAN EXPENSE	6,441	6,441	64,412	64,413	77,295
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>40,598</b>	<b>47,120</b>	<b>405,789</b>	<b>445,058</b>	<b>542,355</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>(13,227)</b>	<b>(13,405)</b>	<b>(143,328)</b>	<b>(103,815)</b>	<b>(131,243)</b>

#### ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH BALANCE SHEET As Of: October 31, 2019

	Oct-19	Oct-18	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CHECKING & BANKING	761	17,800	(17,039)
ACCTS RECEIVABLE/PREPAIDS	6,617	13,878	(7,261)
INVESTMENTS	2,460,952	2,416,648	44,304
FIXED ASSETS	8,922,127	8,922,127	0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>11,390,457</b>	<b>11,370,453</b>	<b>20,004</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Liabilities			
ACCOUS PAYABLE	3,730	4,135	(405)
DEFERRED REVENUE	7,725	21,108	(13,383)
HOLDING FUNDS	124,931	149,329	(24,398)
MORTGAGE	565,000	565,000	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>701,387</b>	<b>739,573</b>	<b>(38,187)</b>
Equity			
RESTRICTED FUNDS - TEMPORARY	562,622	593,452	(30,830)
RESTRICTED FUNDS - PERMANENT	1,741,866	1,868,163	(126,297)
FIXED ASSETS	8,293,927	8,293,927	0
UNREALIZED GAIN / LOSS	233,983	70,615	163,368
NET INCOME	(143,328)	(195,278)	51,950
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>10,689,070</b>	<b>10,630,879</b>	<b>58,191</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>11,390,457</b>	<b>11,370,453</b>	<b>20,004</b>

## Harry Potter Day Photos!

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**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](mailto:admin@stpaulsoakland.org). Many thanks.

## 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.



# 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*)

have no knowledge of. In the Gospel according to Matthew, which we will be exploring during this church year, Jesus is constantly quoted telling his followers, and anyone else who would listen, about the need to be ready because, aside from God, no one knows the time.

Past generations of church leaders could have decided to start the year on Christmas. In their wisdom, however, they realized that life doesn't spring from nothing. Like Mary, and every person who has brought life into the world, there is a serious time of preparation, anticipation and growth that comes before. This period is necessary for the human mind, body and spirit to live fully into the new state of existence that lies ahead.

I invite you to hear the phrase "in the wilderness prepare a place," not as a shaming for the potential aridness of our lives, but rather as an invitation to clear away from our lives the many things that can so easily get in the way of achieving the goal of a deep and meaningful relationship with God, through Jesus Christ. When all the craziness of life is cleared away, what may seem desolate and arid to the human eye, can indeed be fertile ground for God's redeeming work. In Mary's words to the angel: *Let it be with me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)*

Prepare in your life the way for God so that it may be with you according to God's Word.