



Volume 16 Issue 5
May 2023

In This Issue:

Rector's Message

Spirituality with Anne Jensen

Senior Warden's Message

Fellowship News

Farewell from Tom McGarrell

Circle of Peace Event

Music Notes

Environmental Stewardship

Beyond the Word Reading
Group

Youth and Family Ministry

Guns to Gardens June 10th

Fire at Church of our Savior
Oakland

Search for Our 9th Bishop

Pictures of Parish Events in
April

Vestry Highlights for April

Junior Warden's Report

Treasurer's Report

Windows of St. Paul's

A Pentecost Sonnet

THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Rector's Message

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS!

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

April was a very event-filled month. In the Wilson-Morris household, we have been non-anxiously awaiting MJ's decision about which college to attend in the fall, while simultaneously trying to ensure some necessary family down time after Father Wilson's crazy Lent and Easter rush. I am certain that in each of your households there is some similar form of rush and anxiety that needs to be worked through and managed so you can 'keep it together.' I am also sure that this is not only in the month of April, but probably every month and day of the year.



Experience continues to teach me that the path to overcoming the challenges of this life is firmly nestled in the path of God's grace and love. The LEVAS hymn 196 that bears the title *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* contains a verse that reads: *What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.* Over the years I have found great strength and comfort in these words. They remind me that leaning on the arms of God is not only a source of joy, blessedness and peace, but that it is a fellowship, it is a community event.

We sometimes get lost in wondering where and how God is working, if at all. We can become consumed in looking for the big miraculous event that will remove every doubt in our heart and mind that God has acted to make our circumstances better. Such expectation could cause us to miss the actions of God that are taking place all around in subtle organic ways. It is easy to lose sight of something that is always present. We can quickly miss recognizing the everlasting arms of God when they are always present.

This is true of many aspects of our lives. There are many things that we simply take for granted and then ask ourselves where they are. There are people who have loved us through life, yet, in moments of personal difficulty, that love may be questioned. We may question a friend's loyalty simply because they did not agree with us on a particular issue.

Anxious moments of life can cause us to not remember who and whose we are. I would like to suggest that when those moments present themselves the first thing we ought to do is stop and breathe deeply. Repeat 3 or 4 times. Allow yourself a pause to remember that you are surrounded, enveloped by the everlasting loving arms of God, as well as the visible loving arms of the community with which God has gifted you.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms; I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Spirituality

Anne Jensen



The Servant Girl at Emmaus (A Painting by Velázquez) by Denise Levertov (1923–1997)

She listens, listens, holding
her breath. Surely that voice
is his—the one
who had looked at her, once, across the crowd,
as no one ever had looked?
Had seen her? Had spoken as if to her?

Surely those hands were his,
taking the platter of bread from hers just now?
Hands he'd laid on the dying and made them well?

Surely that face—?

The man they'd crucified for sedition and blasphemy.
The man whose body disappeared from its tomb.
The man it was rumored now some women had seen this morning, alive?

Those who had brought this stranger home to their table
don't recognize yet with whom they sit.
But she in the kitchen, absently touching
the winejug she's to take in,
a young Black servant intently listening,

swings round and sees
the light around him
and is sure.

<https://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/631-denise-levertov-servant-girl>

Denise Levertov was born in England to a Welsh mother and a Russian Hasidic father. Her father, who had emigrated to the UK from Leipzig, converted to Christianity and became an Anglican priest. She moved to the United States in 1948, and in 1955 became an American citizen. By the time she died in 1997, Levertov had published nearly fifty volumes of poetry, prose, and translations. Levertov taught at Brandeis, MIT, Tufts, Stanford, and the University of Washington. It was at Stanford, where she taught for 11 years (1982–1993) in the Stegner Fellowship program, and where her papers are now housed, that Levertov converted to Christianity at the age of sixty. After moving to Seattle in 1989, she joined the Catholic Church.

For Levertov's poetry, see Paul A. Lacey and Anne Dewey (editors), with an Introduction by Eavan Boland, *The Collected Poems of Denise Levertov* (New York: New Directions, 2013), 1063pp.

Senior Warden's Message

The Burden of Life without a Car

Indira Balkissoon

On February 24 someone driving a stolen vehicle collided with our family cars. It was a hit and run accident and both cars required major body work and have been in the shop ever since.

So began my life without a car. Without a car, I caught up on chores, started walking to do errands. The atmospheric rivers made walking difficult. So I used the ridesharing apps and attended St Paul's services online.

I hadn't realized how little I know about living life without a car. My car felt like a necessity of life. It never occurred to me that I would be without a car. I know so many people, especially the elderly, are in a similar situation.

I learned more about car ownership in the US. It turns out that 91.7% of households had at least one vehicle in 2021 and 22.1% of US households had three or more vehicles.¹ Regarding public transportation, 45% of Americans do not have access to public transportation according to the American Public Transportation Association.

1 <https://www.motorbiscuit.com/number-car-owners-world-less-think/>

To the rest of the world car ownership is a luxury; only about 18% of people own cars, and the US has the highest percentage of car ownership in the world.² That certainly puts my lack of a car into perspective.

2 <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/car-insurance/car-ownership-statistics/#:~:text=the%20data%20Embed-How%20Many%20Americans%20Own%20a%20Car%3F,up%20from%2091.2%25%20in%202017>

All in all the experience of not having a car has made me realize that I have difficulty asking for a ride, a.k.a. help. I try to bear down and pretend that everything is fine, isolate, and throw myself a string of pity parties. I think that asking for help implies weakness and that I will be a burden to others. But I realize that asking for help acknowledges the truth of my need and God's grace. When one asks someone else for help when you bear a burden, you are giving them an opportunity to serve God and share Christ's love with you.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)

Fellowship

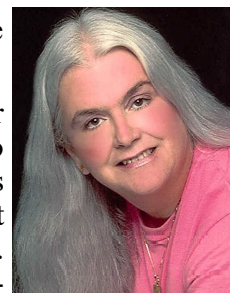
Alice Brilmayer

Save the date—May 28—and let's celebrate Pentecost!

St. Paul's will provide cake and champagne to make this holy day especially festive. Come join us, and wear red.



In other news, I still need coffee hour hosts. I'd like to have enough people so participants only have to provide snacks twice a year. It isn't hard to do, and it makes fellowship warm and welcoming. If you'd like to help out or have any question, please email me at authoralice-gaines@gmail.com. Thanks!



GOOD BYE...AND THANK YOU

A message from Tom McGarrell

I am soon relocating to New York City. [Tom's last "official Sunday" at St. Paul's will be May 7th.]

15 years ago I was hunting for a new home parish. I attended several parishes, each for a month or two, but did not find the right fit. At one parish, a recently retired priest realized my plight and suggested I try St. Paul's in Oakland. I am forever grateful to Rev. Jack Eastwood for his suggestion.

St. Paul's warmly greeted me and I felt most welcomed. I found my new home.

I grew up in a religious tradition that did not limit worship to sitting in the pews on Sunday but included honoring God through work. St. Paul's permitted me to honor God through acting as the parish Treasurer, serving on Vestry, being an usher, serving as a delegate to Deanery, running garage sales, working with Friends of Music, assisting Deacon Carolyn in the Food Pantry ministry, and, of course, as Fr. Mauricio likes to note, acting as "Name-Tag-Tom" on Sundays. Each of these participations let me grow in knowledge of the church, let me welcome others to St. Paul's as I had been welcomed, and, most importantly, to work to know God better through our Christian tradition.

For all this I will miss St. Paul's and give heartfelt thanks to its clergy and congregants for all they have given me.

Editor's note: And we all thank Tom for his wonderful work in so many facets of life at St. Paul's. We will miss you, Tom! For those who wish to remain in touch, he can be reached at

tommv3405@yahoo.com or (267) 808-1921.



Social Justice Ministry Circle of Peace Matthew Schooler



On April 8, 2023, the Circle of Peace was held at Lake Merritt. It was a moment to quietly pray and reflect on the necessity to stand up against violence in Oakland. Tanya Dennis and 200 people who are members of various communities in Oakland held a rally and stood on the side of the lake by the Amphitheater, and 40 members of St Paul's and SAVE stood on the North end of the Lake to pray for peace. The Circle of Peace didn't extend all around Lake Merritt as we had hoped, but St. Paul's showed up and thanks to our tireless choir, we had forty people from our church family who stood silently and prayed while we each held a candle in our hands. Thank you to Paula Hawthorn and Scott Buckingham for organizing; I know we made a statement. According to Tanya there were no homicides on April 8 in Oakland and if that were true then I believe those who participated did make a difference. I was personally very moved by the experience and hope it will continue as an annual event.



I got the information about the others from <https://www.postnewsgroup.com/lake-merritt-circle-of-peace-vigil-a-prayer-for-change-in-oakland/>.

Music Notes

Ben Bachmann, Music Director

We've arrived at that beautiful time of the year, when Easter's new life and hope fill the air as flowers bud, insects pollinate, and birds learn to fly. Reflecting on his ballet, *Appalachian Spring*, Aaron Copland described spring as the most beautiful yet the most melancholic time of year, because although we rejoice and shed our winter habits, it is also a rite of passage, a time of graduations, moving from home, growing in new ways, and leaving old ways of being behind. The music for the end of the Easter season and Ascension reflects this. Pieces like "O Clap your hands" and "God is gone up with a shout," grand pieces with brassy fanfares, are thrilling and joyous but may betray what the first Ascension was - a person saying goodbye to his friends and reminding them that they are not left comfortless, but the work is now



theirs (ours) to do. So, our Alleluias rise as we say goodbye to Eastertide, ready to leave the nest and continue the work of life.

Something new for St. Paul's: Some members of the congregation have asked if we'd consider having a summer choir of sorts. I think it's a great idea and would like to invite you to consider singing. We will not rehearse mid-week but simply meet on Sunday, go through the hymns and service music, and lead the congregation in song. There is no audition, everyone can come sing regardless of age or ability. We will begin on 11 June. Each



week, one of our staff singers will be helping to lead us, so have no fear! I look forward to seeing and hearing you all!

Environmental Stewardship

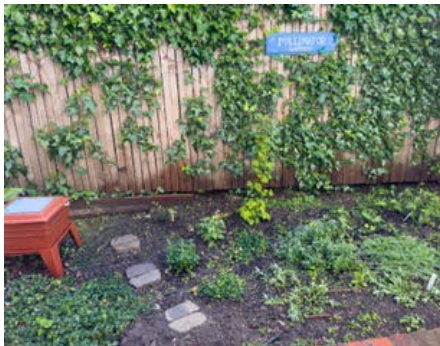
Caring for God's Creation on Earth Day

Indira Balkissoon



The weather was perfect for our Earth Day celebration and spring was in the air. The Earth Day flag rippled in the wind from the Church steeple. Three Western Redbud trees (*Ceris occidentalis*) were planted in the back garden. Western Redbuds develop showy pink flowers and support birds, bees, caterpillars and 12 types of butterflies. We also planted Yarrow (*Achellia milliflorum* 'Sonoma Coast') in both the front, back, and courtyard gardens. This yarrow has white blossoms in the spring and summer and supports birds, bees, butterflies and caterpillars. The photos of these two plants are from the Calscape website. Stones were laid in the

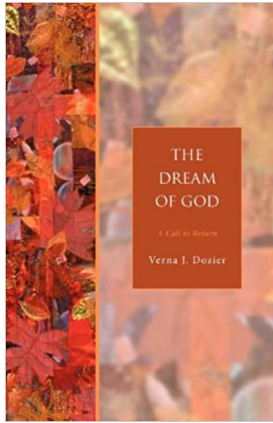
back garden, making it easier to reach the worm composter. Finally, a "Pollinator Friendly Garden" sign was placed in the front garden. I can't wait to see these new members of our parish gardens flourish and grow.



Book group discussion Beyond the Word Group Pam Buckingham, Co-Leader

We will meet next on Wed. May 10 at 7pm on Zoom.

This is the last gathering in this 4 book series!



The Beyond the Word group met on Apr 19th to discuss the first half of [Verna Dozier's](#) book [The Dream of God: A Call to Return](#). We discussed the term "Fall" as Ms. Dozier uses it to describe the three times she feels humans experienced a major separation from God. We also talked about a Covenant vs. a Contract: God is always faithful to the Covenant (even when we are not) and always gives us a chance to repent (turn around) and return. Relationships are risky. God is always vulnerable, always full of grace, always forgiving. We ended our discussion by asking ourselves to discern what obedience to God looks like in our lives and the role of this within our faith communities.



If you attended the Absalom Jones service on Saturday, Feb. 11, you heard The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of Missouri, quote Ms. Dozier and this amazing book, in [his sermon](#). I believe Verna Dozier is a prophet of our times, exploring what it means to be a servant and follow Jesus.

I'd also like to hear from you! What would you be interested in reading? Here are some ideas for next year:

A C.S. Lewis Bundle: *Voyage of the Dawn Treader & Mere Christianity*

The Church Cracked Open by The Rev. Stephanie Spellers

The Way of Love by Bishop Michael Curry

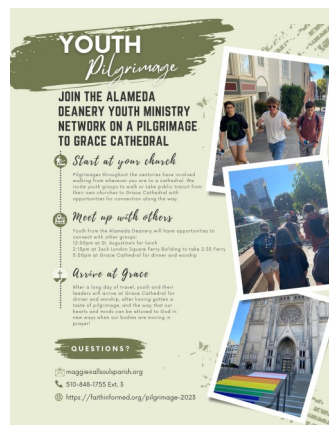
What else? Let me know!

To join us, email pamela.kruse.buckingham@gmail.com. I will send you the orientation document and the Zoom link.

Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Grace Cathedral May 21, 2023

A pilgrimage of youth from congregations in the Diocese via foot and public transportation to the Cathedral. Everyone will gather at the Cathedral by 5:00 pm for dinner; the Eucharist and Labyrinth walk starts at 6 pm.. The Diocesan webpage is [here](#). Details and registration to follow.

Youth and Family Ministry



2023 Episcopal Youth Event July 4-8, 2023

University of Maryland, College Park

The Episcopal Youth Event is a gathering of youth ages 15-19 from around the world who assemble on a college campus to learn, laugh, and worship together. It is the single greatest and second largest event the Episcopal Church does. Since this event is held only once every three years, for many #EYE23 will be their only chance to attend.

There are scholarships available from the Diocese of California. Contact Caren Miles at DioCal for more information: [Click here to email Caren](#)

To find out more and register: [EYE Registration Link](#)

Social Justice Ministry Guns to Gardens is June 10th! Cara Meredith

Last year, I spent a Saturday at a church parking lot in Oakland.



The church is in a rough part of town: chain link and wrought iron fences dot the front yards of the houses in the blocks around the church. Piles of trash are strewn in homeless encampments along the surrounding blocks. That day, the sound of hundreds of motorcycles, careening up and down International Boulevard, pierced the air, later, I learned, as part of a funeral procession honoring one of their own.



I was there for something called Guns to Gardens, a gun buyback event organized by our very own Paula Hawthorn.

When it comes to gun violence, Paula's been saying "enough is enough" for a long time now. Eventually, she did the only things she could think of: she raised money, got OPD on board, and rallied other faith-based, peacemaking, and anti-gun violence organizations. For every gun turned in that day, a garden tool forged from guns, A's tickets, and gift cards were given in exchange. For every financial donation, she offered donors a chance to win a quilt she'd made herself.

Being there was nothing short of a gift.

It was a gift to listen to the stories of several anonymous recipients, to learn why they had come that day – even if they answered with shaky hands, even if their heads hung down. It was a gift to pass out hand shovels that the blacksmith had fashioned from guns. It was a gift to see Paula in action, as she hobbled across the worn parking lot, equal parts tired and exhilarated, I imagine. And it was a gift to learn that something good started when 131 guns, including several that the Chief of Police described as “the type of gun that should never touch human hands,” were surrendered.

Donate to Guns and Gardens AND

Get a chance to win this quilt!

Please donate to Guns and Gardens! While the City of Oakland is providing help from the Police Department, they do not have the budget to help with getting the gift cards that we exchange for the guns, and other expenses. So please help by donating either to the St. Paul's website (click the “give” button and in the drop down menu click on Guns to Gardens), or drop a check in the collection plate, made out to St. Paul's with Guns to Gardens in the memo line. We will put the names of those who donate any amount into a box and on June 12 will draw the name of the winner of the quilt. For more information please contact Paula at paula.hawthorn@gmail.com or Cara at caramac54@gmail.com.



The reality is that the Spirit of God was present in East Oakland last year in June, and I've no doubt the Spirit will be present this year as well.

We invite you to join us for Guns to Gardens again this year. Follow us on [Instagram](#) or reach out to me (caramac54@gmail.com) if you're interested in spreading the word. If you'd like to volunteer the day of, [sign up here](#) or email Vanessa Smart (Vanessa.smart@gmail.com).

And if you want to give a financial donation, [give generously](#) today.

Let's disarm hearts, forge peace, and cultivate justice, together!

News from the Diocese

Supporting Church of Our Saviour, Oakland Story

Stephanie Martin Taylor
DioCal Canon for Communications



The Church of Our Saviour, Oakland is in need of prayers and support following a fire that broke out in the early-morning hours of Friday, April 21. The Rev. Merry Chan Ong says the Oakland Fire Department called her around 3:25 a.m. to tell her the front of the church was burning. Firefighters extinguished the blaze before it could cause any major structural damage, and there were no reports of injuries. However, Rev. Merry and the congregation are badly shaken by the “heartbreaking” incident, which not only left the front door and surrounding pillars badly damaged, but also caused water damage to the narthex and smoke damage throughout the building, including the church office and conference rooms.

While the cause of the fire at Our Saviour remains under investigation, the incident is especially troubling because of the church’s location in Oakland’s Chinatown, one of several communities nationwide experiencing a rise in crimes targeting Asian Americans.



“Our Saviour has a long and proud history serving Oakland’s Chinese community,” said Bishop Marc in a post to Facebook Friday afternoon. “Their outreach has expanded even further recently, thanks to their partnership with True Sunshine, San Francisco to offer multi-lingual worship on Zoom. As Our Saviour’s bishop, I am committed to ensuring that their legacy continues. May the peace of Christ be with Rev. Merry, the lay leadership, and the entire congregation during this difficult time and help them move forward in a spirit of hope.”

To donate to the fire relief efforts, please send a check to the Diocesan House address (see below), noting that the donation is for “Fire relief for Our Saviour, Oakland”. DioHouse address: The Episcopal Diocese of California 1055 Taylor Street; San Francisco, California, 94108

Editor’s note: Church of Our Saviour and St. Paul’s have had a long and friendly relationship. Long-time parishioners may remember Betty Ko, who was a member of both congregations and regularly invited St. Paul’s folk to Our Saviour’s Lunar New Year festivities.

The Diocese of California is in a Bishop Search and Transition Process and Asks for Your Help With Prayer

A Press Release by the Bishop Search and Transition Committee

Our current Bishop, Marc Handley Andrus, has announced his retirement, effective in July 2024.

In response, the Diocese of California has entered a time of transition as it embarks on a search process for its Ninth Bishop, whom it will elect in December of 2023.

The process will continue with a wider consent process across The Episcopal Church, followed by a consecration service in May of 2024. The first part of the search process involves the Bishop Search & Transition Committee publishing a [Diocesan Profile](#) and inviting [applications](#) from those who may feel called to serve as the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese.

[Read the Release](#)

Parish Events Easter Season

A fine trumpeter accompanied us as we had our traditional Palm Sunday Procession to the church. Fine sun and our beautiful cherry tree added to the glorious moment.



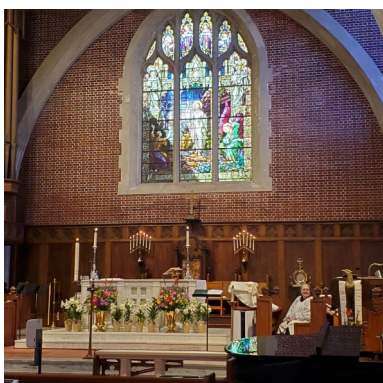
Easter Vigil Holy Saturday saw six baptisms. We welcome into our family in Christ

Ernesto Honore Rivera
Jacinto Honore Rivera

Ethan Mich Adams
Olivia Denise Adams

Blue Woloshyn
Kingston Scott

Easter Sunday saw our traditional flower cross beautifying the church's entrance. Inside, Easter was beautifully celebrated in liturgy and song.



After church, the kids had a great time hunting eggs while the grown-ups tucked into a deliciously festive meal in the Parish Hall.



Any member of the Parish may attend Vestry meetings, which are at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. The full minutes of the meeting are available to parish members upon request by contacting the parish administrator or a member of the Vestry.

2023 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson Rector

Gloria Balkissoon
Senior Warden

Richard Larson
Junior Warden

Pamela Kruse-
Buckingham
Clerk

Brian Stanke
Treasurer

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2023

Fran Dibble
Brian Stanke
Maura Lane

Class of 2024

Indira Balkissoon
Matthew Schooler

Irene Plunkett

Class of 2025

Pamela Kruse-
Buckingham
Richard Larson
Digger Lautner

DEANERY

DELEGATES 2023

Delegates
George Strait
Jeanette Dinwiddie-
Moore
Dylan Versteeg
Alternates
Pamela Kruse-
Buckingham
Paula Hawthorn
-vacancy-

Vestry News

April Vestry Highlights

Pam Buckingham, Clerk.

Happy Birthday to Fr. Mauricio!

March Financials - Brian Stanke, Treasurer

- Pledges are at 75% of the budgeted amount YTD
- Total income is at 78% of budget YTD
- We were at budget for March, the earlier months were less.

Cara Meredith's Lay Discernment Committee - Doug Jensen

The Vestry unanimously endorsed Cara's application. Doug Jensen will work with the Clerk of the Vestry to complete the appropriate forms.

Stewardship

Mauricio has asked Mother Anne to convene the group in order to choose new leadership by our next meeting.

Buildings and Grounds Report - Richard Larson

A committee has been assembled.

2023 priorities include

- Creating a comprehensive assessment of building & grounds
- Gathering estimates
- Establishing brief, short, mid and long priorities

Goal by year end: a good gathering of solid information for the Vestry.

Emergency Prep

- CPR Training for a few key people - the school has frequent trainings at the school
- We need well-located first aid kits and fire extinguishers
- Should we look into getting a defibrillator?
- Post emergency info in several places in the building

Ministry Action Plan Committee - Indira, Richard & Pam

- We are seeking input from key people.
- Then we'll do a survey.
- Then we will do a parish-wide charette.
- We will have each committee create a processes & procedures document.
- Committee meeting: Monday, May 8 7pm

Welcoming Committee

Pamela Buckingham, Chair; Digger Lauter, Vestry Liaison

- The Committee will be convened soon.

Rector's Report

- Continuing Covid-19 Protocols - strongly recommend masking, but it is by preference for everyone. Dan & Elena clean the pews between the services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Ministry Liaisons from Vestry
- Stewardship - TBD
- Membership and Welcoming - Pam
- St. Paul's School - Will Cowart will continue to be our liaison

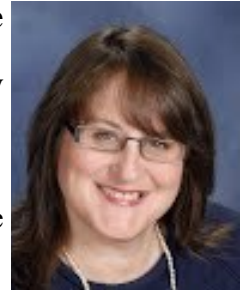
NON-ACTION ITEMS

- St. Paul's Solar Project - in the hands of B&G

NEW BUSINESS

- St. Paul's Fund Raising Committee Digger, Indira
- ▪ Separate from Stewardship
- ▪ Finding outside sources of revenue

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 23 – 7:00 p.m.



Vestry News

Junior Warden's Report

Richard Larson

Spring has arrived, proclaimed by the Flowering Plum Tree's cloud of flowers on Bay Place, and by a welcome bit of warmer weather. Now that the rains appear to have stopped, it will be easier to review the condition of the many roofs on our campus - over the church, chapel, office building, Parish Hall, and school. Such a review is an example of the kind of assessment the Buildings & Grounds Committee will continue in order to understand the (countless) needs of the buildings and grounds of our parish.

This year, our ambitious goal is to record the condition of the various aspects of our facilities, describe next-step replacements, repairs, and maintenance, set priorities, and estimate costs, in order to care for these important assets.

And to remind us of the reason this is important, a review of the age of our facilities helps. The church and chapel buildings are 111 years old this year. The Office Building is 99 years old, and the School Building and central courtyard are 57 years old. The last major con-

struction for St. Paul's, the seismic retrofit, was completed and dedicated 35 years ago. Even the new Southwest Courtyard (outside the Choir Room) is now 15 years old. Indeed, time does seem to fly!

The Buildings & Grounds Committee has shaped up to include a talented crew of parish members with an impressive combination of skills and experience related to design, engineering, construction, and maintenance. So far, we include: Scott Buckingham, Bill Davis, Paula Hawthorn, and Dylan Versteeg.

There is plenty for us to do – and we'll include you in our progress through reports in upcoming issues of *The Good News*. Feel free to send me questions and suggestions, along the way.

- Richard Larson

510. 325. 7388/ rla.designoffice@gmail.com



Treasurer's Report

Brian Stanke

As of the end of March, pledge revenue continues the slower-than-budgeted start to the pledge year at 84% of the budgeted amount for March and 75% for year-to-date. Total income is doing slightly better, within 1% of budget for March and at 78% of budget for year-to-date.

	Year-to-date actuals as of end of March 2023	Year-to-date budget as of end of March 2023
REVENUE	\$69,474	\$89,197
EXPENSE	\$147,710	\$137,296
NET INCOME	(\$78,236)	(\$48,099)

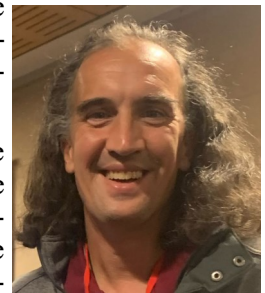
ter, net income (loss, in this case) is worse than what we had budgeted, at -\$78K vs. -\$48K.

As a reminder, St. Paul's budgets is a deficit most years, pulling from operating reserves in our investment accounts to cover the difference.

REVENUE DYNAMICS:

- Pledge revenue has been behind budget for the last few months. The first quarter has historically been below budget, with the final quarter revenue going above budget. Year-to-date pledge revenue is \$6K (25%) below budget.
- Similarly, the combination of Annual Support, plate, and employee matching funds, year-to-date is \$2K (20%) below budget.
- Another contributing factor is that no fundraising events have happened yet this year. That puts us around \$7k below budget.

More generally, we continue the trend of below budget performance on revenue and above budget expenses. As you'll see in the table below, as we complete the first quar-



EXPENSE DYNAMICS:

- Personnel are 7% over budget year-to-date
- Utility expenses continue to be elevated due to higher fossil fuel prices

On the balance sheet / investment side of things, the financial markets continue their volatility. Since the beginning of January, our portfolio has seen market gains of \$79,141.46. Because of withdrawals, the overall portfolio value has decreased by \$16K (from an initial balance of \$1.72M). We continue to monitor the market and are in frequent touch with our Merrill Lynch financial advisors.

As always, I'm available for your questions or comments at brian_stanke@yahoo.com.

Concerts at St. Paul's

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra

Eric Hansen, Music Director

58th
Season



Modest Mussorgsky

Pictures at an Exhibition

Sergey Prokofiev

Violin Concerto No. 2 in G Minor

Ava Pakiam, violin soloist

Khuner Young Artist Concerto Competition Co-Winner

Admission Free (Tickets Required*)

Audience members must be fully vaccinated to attend

SUNDAY May 21, 2023, 3:00 pm

Preconcert talk at 2:40 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

114 Montecito, Oakland 94610

www.prometheussymphony.org

*see our website www.prometheussymphony.org for tickets & parking details

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Summer Hiatus for *The Good News* is Coming!



WE'LL BE BACK!

Watch for our next edition coming to you on September 1st.

SUMMER HIATUS

The June 1st edition of *The Good News* will be the last one until the September 1st issue arrives. Please send in any announcements of July and August activities by 25 May. We'd love to hear about -- and see photos of -- what you're doing during the summer, though, so please continue to send in articles during the hiatus. We'll have a special section for them in the September *Good News*

Windows of St. Paul's

St. Martin of Tours and the Beggar

Robert Knapp

In a trefoil arch, St. Martin offers his cloak to a beggar. Wearing a soldier's armor, he is preparing to cut the cloak in half with his sword to share with the half-clothed and emaciated man. To the right, the beggar kneels, his crutch behind him, as he pleads for help. A tongue of flame is in the lunette.

St. Martin (ca. 316-397 A.D.) is one of the most popular patron saints of France. Originally from Pannonia (modern Hungary, more or less), and from a young age a committed Christian, he was forced to adopt his father's profession of soldiering. He served in the cavalry in Gaul (modern France) but lived as much as he could a life of social justice and piety. Sulpicius Severus (c. 363 – c. 425) in his *Life of St. Martin* tells the famous story of the beggar and the cloak:

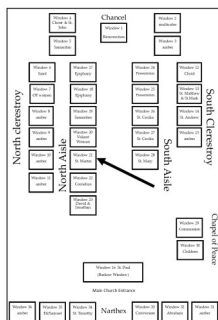


St. Martin and the Beggar
by El Greco (1541-1614)

At a certain period, when he had nothing except his arms and his simple military dress, in the middle of winter, a winter which had shown itself more severe than ordinary, so that the extreme cold was proving fatal to many, he happened to meet at the gate of the city of Amiens a poor man destitute of clothing. He was entreating those that passed by to have compassion upon him, but all passed the wretched man without notice, when Martin, that man full of God, recognized that a being to whom others showed no pity, was, in that respect, left to him. Yet, what should he do? He had nothing except the cloak in which he was clad, for he had already parted with the rest of his garments for similar purposes. Taking, therefore, his sword with which he was girt, he divided his cloak into two equal parts, and gave one part to the poor man, while he again clothed himself with the remainder.

Central to St. Martin's cult was the relic of the remaining half of his cloak. It was deemed to be so important that the kings of France used it as a royal banner in war, and they swore sacred oaths upon it. The structure in which the half-cloak was preserved was referred to as *cappella* ('little cloak'), a term that came to be used widely for buildings that served to keep relics and from which the modern word 'chapel' is derived. Alas, his half-cloak, attested into the early Middle Ages, does not survive.

At a later point, St. Martin came under the influence of Hilary of Poitiers (ca. 310-367), an important leader of orthodox Christianity against Arian challenges. In 361, Martin founded a monastery at Ligugé and shortly thereafter was consecrated Bishop of Caesarodunum (Tours) in 371. He healed the sick and championed the oppressed as well as diligently attacking and destroying pagan religious sites around Tours.



Text on Glass: *St. Martin of Tours.*

Text at Bottom: *Follow after the things that make for peace.*
(Romans 14:19)

Text on plaque below the window: The honorific text is shared with the adjacent window, The Valiant Woman, for which see the April 2023 edition of the *Good News*.

The Cummings Studio, San Francisco, created the window in 1947. The studio's signature is etched on the lower right-hand corner.



Clovis, King of the Franks, with St. Martin's cloak as a talisman in battle



St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

114 Montecito Ave

Oakland CA 94610

Phone (510) 834-4314

Email:

admin@stpaulsoakland.org

Web:

stpaulsoakland.com

Dear Readers:

Currently, the newsletter is not being distributed by regular post. If you know of someone who does not have access to the electronic version, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org. She will make a hardcopy and send it.

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 400 words

to csknapp@earthlink.net

The Good News is a publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakland, California. Carolyn Knapp, editor, and Robert Knapp, composition and graphics.

From the Editors:

Watch the next *Good News* for

News of progress on the strategic plan

News of the Stewardship Committee

A Pentecost Sonnet

Malcom Guite

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.

This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.

The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace.

Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

Malcom Guite is an Anglican priest. In a varicolored career, he has been a Bye-Fellow and chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge, and associate chaplain of St. Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge. Now Guite performs as a singer and guitarist fronting the Cambridgeshire-based blues, rhythm and blues, and rock band Mystery Train.

As a poet, Guite likes to use "old" forms such as the sonnet for modern messages. Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, remarked that Guite "knows exactly how to use the sonnet form to powerful effect" and that his poems "offer deep resources for prayer and meditation to the reader"

You can hear Guite recite this sonnet here:

<https://malcolmguite.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/pentecost-poem.mp3>