



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

July/August 2016
Volume 10 Issue 7

THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

MINISTRIES AT ST. PAUL'S By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



As I step away for some R&R I invite you to take some time to reflect on the wonderful ongoing possibilities of ministry that are part of the life of

their volunteers a day of reflection, training and collegiality.

In chapter 10 of the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus gathers his disciples and gives them instructions regarding their upcoming ministry in the world. These instructions include well-known quotes such as: *Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons* (v. 8); *If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.* (14); *Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul* (v. 28) and many more. As people called to ministry in God's Church, it is essential that we remember the need to gather and reflect on the general and specific aspects of our particular call. The Episcopal diocese of California and most diocese in the Episcopal Church require the clergy to be involved in regular continuing

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St. Paul's. Two very important events are coming our way in the month of September. In early September we will have a ministry fair, an opportunity to showcase the many ways in which you can serve inside and outside of St. Paul's. Pam Buckingham, who serves as Altar Guild coordinator, is leading this effort and will work with other ministry coordinators to ensure a successful fair. The other event will be a Saturday ministries retreat. Rev. Annie Pierpoint is taking the lead on coordinating with the coordinators of the various parish ministries to offer

DR. DAVID MONTGOMERY CALLED TO SERVE AS MUSIC DIRECTOR

David Montgomery took early studies in organ and piano in his native state of Texas before entering the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. During that period he travelled to Europe and studied languages in Vienna. After taking a Masters degree with Paul Badura-Skoda (piano) and Karlos Moser (choral and opera conducting) at the University of Wisconsin he returned to Europe as an opera coach and worked under René Leibowitz, who gave him a start in conducting. While in Europe he had the opportunity to play a number of historical organs, which renewed his interest in historical



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PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

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

July

Bottles of juice

August

Bottles of juice

September

Bottles of juice

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

Thanks!

DEANERY DELEGATE LETTER TO THE PARISH

My fellow St. Paul's parishioners,

As I had announced this last Sunday at the 10:00 am service, some things have been happening at Deanery. The biggest thing is the recent Special Convention called by Bishop Andrus and held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 to address the issue of more direct oversight of community service organizations, such as Episcopal Senior Communities, as well as a clarification of the conditions under which such organizations can exist and operate under the diocesan umbrella. The Report of the Committee on Canons, Proposed Special Order, Report of the Committee on Governance and Submitted Resolution by the Committee on Canons can be found at Diocese of California Special Convention.

The Submitted Resolution provides the technical background to this issue before the diocese. In summary, the governing boards of Episcopal Senior Communities and Senior Resources of the West wish to sever their organizational ties to the Diocese of California in an effort to access funding sources for their continued financial support and operation that are not currently available under IRS regulations as an umbrella organization of the Episcopal church. The Diocese contends that both of these organizations are current iterations of community service organizations founded by and for the greater church mission, dating back to

the establishment of the Protestant Episcopal Old Ladies Home in San Francisco in 186 and followed in 1896

by the John Tennant Memorial Home in Pacific Grove. As such, these organizations have since been continually supported and reaffirmed by the diocese and under existing canon cannot abrogate that relationship without diocesan approval.

Unfortunately though, Pam and I as two of your Deanery representatives, had a sudden car breakdown the morning of the Special Convention which kept us from being able to attend. None of our other current representatives or alternates were able to attend, either. Rev. Wilson did attend and informed me that the resolution and canon changes did pass. The diocese is currently in legal proceedings with these organizations over this issue, and it is fair to say there have been no lack of varied opinions about it, but the convention was well debated, relatively non-contentious, proceeded smoothly and was passed and concluded in keeping with procedure. If you wish to discuss this in further detail, feel free to talk with me about it.

The other thing going on with your deanery these days is our efforts to assist our parish missions through brainstorming on ways to help the various out-reach and in-reach programs throughout the Deanery of Alameda. Our first consideration is how these various programs may be able to combine resources or tasks to strengthen each other's capabilities to serve our parishes and communities. To get a clearer picture of what that might look like, we need to build a base of information about these

programs. At our last convocation we set a goal for ourselves. As your representatives, our assignment is to create a list of all programs run by each parish and present it at our next convocation in September.

For this we will need your help. We are calling on all chairs, leads, etc. to get in touch with us and tell us about your program and its particular needs. Are there any areas of your program which prove to be difficult to afford, staff or otherwise support? Our goal is to see if our various parish programs could combine forces to help each other further your mission. Our vision also is to foster and support a sense of family and community within and between our parishes within the

Deanery of Alameda.

I will be the contact

for this project and really appreciate your help with this. Catch me most any Sunday at the 10:00am service, email me, call me, or whatever works for you. I'm pretty flexible and we'll find a time to chat about your program. I'm excited to learn more about all the things St. Paul's does for its parishioners and community.

Peace,

Scott Buckingham

V.P. Deanery of Alameda

(510) 904-8412

b.scott.buckingham@gmail.com



A GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER HERE AT ST. PAUL'S

"Sell your possessions and give alms" – Luke 12:13

Yep, its time for some garage sale fundraising! The proceeds will be applied to our parish ministries – Food Pantry, Children's Program, among others.

Date: Saturday, July 2, 9am 'til 1pm

Option A: If a receipt for donated items is *NOT* required of you, simply make a donation of goods, we'll take it from there. Donations accepted Friday Evening, July 1, 5pm-8pm and Saturday Morning, July 2, 7:30am – 10am.

Option B: If you require a receipt, **you'll need to come staff your sales table personally for the set-up, sale duration and removal of unsold items.** Your end-of-event sales proceeds will be reflected on your annual statement. Set-up begins at 7:30am sharp.

For additional info please contact: Tom McGarrell by email at tgmgarrell@aol.com & by phone at (267) 808-1921 or Sandra Anderson by email at saundrene@gmail.com & by phone at (510) 813-2749.

We will endeavor to keep the "fun" in fundraising—thanks for your participation.

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
Sandra 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 JUNE

**Sunday, July 24, Tenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

8:00pm, Compline

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.

**Sunday,
August 28,
Fifteenth
Sunday after
Pentecost**

8:00pm, Compline

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
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Sung by St. Paul's Choir. Philip
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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 15th of the
month previous
to publication.*

*Please send your sub-
missions of no more
than 500 words to:
halice@pacbell.net.*

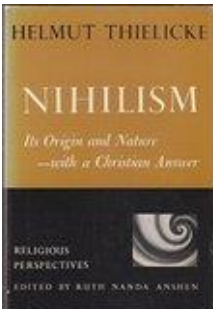
NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR CALLED TO SERVE

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performance and sacred music. He returned to the States and finished a Ph.D. in musicology at UCLA, and after several years of university teaching he was hired by Sony Music in NY as a translator and writer. Sony Music sent him to Sony Classical in Hamburg as editor and advisor for their ancient music labels. While in Germany he conducted 7 CDs for Arte Nova Munich with the former East German Jena Philharmonic Orchestra, to whom he also introduced works once banned under Nazi and Stasi regimes. In 2000 he returned permanently to the U.S., working as an organist-choirmaster, teacher, university professor, and conductor in California and the greater Washington DC metropolitan area. In these years he wrote his first book, "Franz Schubert's Music in Performance" (Pendragon, 2003/2010) and has returned to California to work on a second book. He enjoys teaching young musicians, working with choirs and orchestras and is an enthusiastic promoter of great musical experiences in venues ranging from home to concert hall and sanctuary.

READING FAITH: “NIHILISM: ITS ORIGIN AND NATURE WITH A CHRISTIAN ANSWER” BY HELMUT THIELICKE

By Thom Burchfield



I bet some of you are thinking: *Why in the good name of Christ would you read such a book?* To answer that, I'll share some personal history.

You might call me a “Wilderness Christian.” My family was firmly irreligious during the 1950s, when mainline American Christianity was at its height. My Christian cultural experience was nothing: I only saw the inside of a church twice while growing up. God was hardly spoken of, the topic being either ignored or scoffed at. (And no, we were *not* free-thinking progressive liberals.)

I entered adulthood mired in passive hopelessness. To me, the world was a “rubble heap of discontinuous facts” (as Dr. Thielicke’s book puts it). All roads seemed to lead nowhere, all doors opened into nothingness. Even the experience of cause and effect had broken down. I thrashed about for decades, sensing it was wrong, but seeing nothing I could do about it. After all, in a Cold Dead Meaningless Universe, all gestures are fruitless, aren’t they?

That is what’s called *nihilism*, in part. (There’s also “active” destructive nihilism, of the type practiced by Hitler et al, but that’s another discussion.)

In the midst of the muck I had no perspective. Now, as a “lapsed secularist,” I feel better able to grasp things thanks, in part, to Dr. Thielicke’s book. It was first published in Germany in 1951 and was drawn from lectures he delivered to young survivors—including German and other nationalities—in bombed-out postwar West Berlin.

Of all ideologies created by humans, nihilism is the most tyrannical and totalitarian. It even destroys itself, a snake swallowing its own tail. According to Dr. Thielicke, “the question of meaning is no longer negated but is simply no longer allowed to appear.” All sense of unity (or community) is denied. In its passive sense, all is forbidden.

Nihilism, like all human ideologies, is one that *no one can live by*. Every single day, even the most religious atheist acts like life means something, even with a kindness as simple as helping an old person cross the street.

Dr. Thielicke’s book is dense and demanding, maybe more suitable for intellectual/theological readers. As it was written in the 1950s, parts of it are somewhat dated (especially its take on schizophrenia).

Nevertheless, its center holds true for me, as it may for you. The Christian response to emptiness is a faith that rises, is born, from within doubt and despair, that leads from meaninglessness to the meaningful embrace of God, which underlies everything, which awaits everyone. He is there to catch us when our souls fall. As the French mathematician and theologian Blaise Pascal says: “We would not seek thee, O God, if thou hadst not already found us.”

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 11a.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:

- 7/9/16
Market & West Grand

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

'JESUS TELLS US TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES'

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.

Letter to Episcopal Church from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry & President of House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings



Dear People of God in the Episcopal Church:

We all know that some things in holy Scripture can be confusing, hard to understand, or open to various ways of understanding. But some essential teachings are clear and incontrovertible. Jesus tells us to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, and he tells us over and over again not to be afraid (Matthew 10:31, Mark 5:36, Luke 8:50, John 14:27).

There's no confusion about what Jesus is telling us, but it often requires courage to embody it in the real world. Again and again, we become afraid, and mired in that fear, we turn against Jesus and one another.

This age-old cycle of fear and hatred plays out again and again in our broken world, in sickening and shocking events like the massacre targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Orlando, but also in the rules we make and the laws we pass. Most recently, we've seen fear at work in North Carolina, a state dear to both of our hearts, where a law called the "Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act" has decimated the civil rights and God-given dignity of transgender people and, by extension, drastically curtailed protections against discrimination for women, people of color, and many others. We are thankful for the prayerful and pastoral public leadership of the North Carolina bishops on this law, which is known as House Bill 2.

North Carolina is not the only place where fear has gotten the better of us. Lawmakers in other jurisdictions have also threatened to introduce legislation that would have us believe that protecting the rights of transgender people—even a right as basic as going to the bathroom—somehow puts the rest of us at risk.

This is not the first time that the segregation of bathrooms and public facilities has been used to discriminate unjustly against minority groups. And just as in our painful racial past, it is even being claimed that the "bathroom bills," as they are sometimes called, ensure the safety of women and children—the same reason so often given to justify Jim Crow racial segregation.

But we believe that, as the New Testament says, "perfect love casts out fear." On June 10, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church stood against fear and for God's love by passing a resolution that reaffirms the Episcopal Church's support of local, state and federal laws that prevent discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression and voices our opposition to all legislation that seeks to deny the God-given dignity, the legal equality, and the civil rights of transgender people.

The need is urgent, because laws like the one in North Carolina prey on some of the most vulnerable people in our communities—some of the very same people who were targeted in the Orlando attack. In a 2011 survey, 78 percent of

transgender people said that they had been bullied or harassed in childhood; 41 percent said they had attempted suicide; 35 percent had been assaulted, and 12 percent had suffered a sexual assault. Almost half of transgender people who responded to the survey said they had suffered job discrimination, and almost a fifth had lost housing or been denied health care due to their gender identity or expression.

In keeping with Executive Council's resolution, we are sending a letter to the governor and members of the North Carolina General Assembly calling on them to repeal the "Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act." When legislation that discriminates against transgender people arises in other places, we will also voice our opposition and ask Episcopalians to join us. We will also support legislation, like a bill recently passed in the Massachusetts state legislature, that prevents discrimination of all kinds based on gender identity or gender expression.

As Christians, we bear a particular responsibility to speak out in these situations, because attempts to deny transgender people their dignity and humanity as children of God are too often being made in the name of God. This way of fear is not the way of Jesus Christ, and at these times, we have the opportunity to demonstrate our belief that Christianity is not a way of judgment, but a way of following Jesus in casting out fear.

In the face of the violence and injustice we see all around us, what can we do? We can start by choosing to get to know one another. TransEpiscopal, an organization of transgender Episcopalians and their allies, has posted on their website a video called "Voices of Witness: Out of the Box" that can help you get to know some transgender Episcopalians and hear their stories. Integrity USA, which produced the video, and the Chicago Consultation are two other organizations working for the full inclusion of LGBT people in the church. Their websites also have online materials that you can use to learn more about the stories of transgender Christians and our church's long journey to understand that they are children of God and created in God's image.

When we are born anew through baptism, we promise to respect the dignity of every human being. Today, transgender people and, indeed, the entire LGBT community, need us to keep that promise. By doing so, we can bear witness to the world that Jesus has shown us another way—the way of love.

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE PARISH HALL

Grab some friends and join us for swashbuckling family fun this summer at St. Paul's! Movie nights in the Parish Hall provide all the fun of an outdoor movie without the chilly evening air. We'll bring the popcorn, you bring dinner & the lawn chairs.

- Friday, July 22 - Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13)
- Friday, August 26 - Jonah: a VeggieTales movie (G)

Doors open at 6:00PM, movie starts at 6:30PM. A free event!



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*)

MINISTRIES

(Continued from Page 1)

education. There isn't an expectation that clergy would accumulate degrees and diplomas but rather that they remain refreshed and up-to-date. It is equally important for those who serve as lay volunteers in the many ministries of our church to remain inspired, renewed, and up-to-date on the issues that first inspired them to take part in their particular form of service and to discover new things for the journey ahead.

It is our hope that a great number of you will take advantage of these opportunities to gather with other members of this parish who share a call to serve. These are days filled

with possibilities for learning, teaching, deepening relationships with Christ and each other.

In the first verse of the 11th chapter of Matthew's Gospel we read: *Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.* I look forward to the possibilities for ministry at St. Paul's in the coming 2016-2017 program year through worship, formation and service. These two events (the ministry fair and retreat) are a wonderful way to jumpstart our continued response to the Holy Spirit.