



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

June 2016

Volume 10 Issue 6

# THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

## CHANGE IS COMING

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



With or without the retirement of our Music Director, David Farr, this is a true statement.

going to bring his own flavor and touch to each of them.

The music program of our parish is on a good path and it helps us all deepen our devotion to God, but it is my expectation, and I hope of each of you as well, that David's successor will not just simply rest on the laurels David has laid down, but rather seek to earn his own by taking this program to a new level and by opening creative paths to other dimensions for the musical future of St. Paul's. The parish is now almost 150 years old and nothing is what it was when we first started, though we do hope that generation after generation have made this a better place. It is our responsibility as the current inhabitants and bearers of the St. Paul's name to continue the legacy of creative tension that has been a hallmark of the ministry at St. Paul's. We cherish and value what

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Change is always only but a moment away. We are ever changing beings living in an ever changing world. No matter how much we try to keep things the same they change anyway, like trying to hold on to a fist full of sand, the harder we clinch the more we lose. I myself don't know exactly what is going to change when our, still to be named, new Music Director arrives. I am certain however that some things will be different. None of our current worship services are going away, but I believe it is a safe guess to say that this person is

## PRIDE POTLUCK

June means it's time for our annual Pride Potluck. June 12, to be exact. Get ready to celebrate!

Bring your contributions to the feast to the kitchen before or after the 10:00 am service.

Alice will be there, and the ovens will be on if you want to contribute a hot dish.

See you!



## PANTRY OF HOPE

### Item of the month

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

#### June

Bottles of juice

#### July

Bottles of juice

#### August

Bottles of juice

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

Thanks!

## FROM THE ST. PAUL'S ARCHIVES

Edited by Liz Hook

Since we are going into transition of Organist/Choir Director this summer, I thought it might be interesting to learn about Connell Keefer Carruth, an organist who played here at St. Paul's for 29 years, from 1919 to 1948. An article in the Oakland Tribune dated March 21, 1978 is titled, "Ordinary Oaklander is Organist Extraordinary." However, she claimed to have been raised by ordinary parents in Oakland.

Connie began playing the organ in 1916 while singing in the choir at Old St. James Church in East Oakland. St. James is a state historical landmark, one of the early redwood churches, and is now 158 years old. The Tribune article describes that in those "pre-electricity days," muscle was needed to provide air to work the pipes. So Connie's father and brothers manned the pump below the organ whenever she practiced or played. She once told me that her hands became so strong playing that organ that they were like "weapons!"

Connie studied music theory at Mills College as well as organ with William Carruth, an accomplished musician at Mills. He had studied in Paris with the famous French organist Widor, who was considered to be the finest organist in the world at that time.

William and Connie were married around 1923, and she moved into his family home at 2924 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where a pipe organ was housed in a back yard building named The Abbey. The Tribune article tells us that "many famous organists stayed with them and it was there that the excellent Paganini String Quartet was formed by European Refugees during WW II."



*Organist Connie Carruth at the keyboard at St. Paul's, March 21, 1978. Tribune photo by Howard Erker.*

William Carruth died in 1954 after both had retired from the faculty at Mills College, where a chapel organ was later installed and dedicated to both of them. After his death Connie moved to Carmel playing for 17 years at Carmel's Church of the Wayfarer before returning to Oakland in 1970.

The Tribune article I've referred to was from the "Human Angle" section of the paper and was written by John Dengel. The story was also announcing that Connell Carruth was to play a free concert the next day at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the program to be made up of old composers she most revered. It included Bach's "Oh Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall." Dengel writes, "That had nothing to do with the time she fell in Carmel during Easter week and broke her right wrist, but still persevered in playing for that important day."

The Bach selection was a favorite for several reasons. It was arranged by Dr. Albert Schweitzer, an organ playing

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acquaintance of her late husband. It was also rated by William's teacher, Widor, "the greatest piece of instrumental music ever written."

When Connie came back to Oakland she returned to St. James and played the organ there almost until her death in 1984. Friends were invited to a

Requiem Mass at St. Paul's with a reception to follow at St. Paul's Towers where she lived for the last ten years of her life. Organist and composer Richard Purvis played for the service. Connell Keffer Carruth was 89 years old and had been an active organist for 62 years and always a close friend of St. Paul's.

## DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF BISHOP MARC ANDRUS

The Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews



On Thursday, May 26, clergy and lay people from throughout the diocese gathered to celebrate 10 years since the Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus was elected the Eighth Bishop of California. The celebration took place at an Evensong at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco.

The service began with a longer and more colorful procession than usual as many clergy of the diocese vested and processed. The Very Rev. Malcolm Young, dean of Grace Cathedral, was the officiant, and the service music was sung by the cathedral's Choir of Men and Boys. In a nod to Andrus' installation, the hymn "Bring many names" was sung before the psalm by the assembly. The lessons were Exodus 3.1–12 and Acts 7.30–38. The office was set by William Smith, and the canticles were from Mary Badarak's Evening Service. The anthem after the sermon was John Joubert's "O Lord the maker of all

things," and the final hymn was "The canticle of the turning," a paraphrase of the Magnificat.

The Rev. Sylvia Vasquez, rector at St. Paul's, Walnut Creek, offered the homily for the service. During her remarks, Vasquez praised Andrus as a prophet among the people. She said that he was a prophet with vision and a prophet willing to face tough criticism — and even arrest — to lead God's people in the Bay Area. Vasquez highlighted Andrus' passion for justice for all people.

She also praised his commitment to transparency and collaboration as much as is possible with the organizational structure of The Episcopal Church, so much so that he's working to change the culture of an entire church. Vasquez noted that while Andrus is gentle, he is fierce and tough-skinned — because that's what prophets need. She expressed how impressed she continues to be by Andrus' being a lifelong student, which she said was embodied by his continually inviting those with whom he disagrees to serve on committees with him.

*This is an excerpt. To access the full text, please go to [www.diocal.org](http://www.diocal.org).*

## 2016 OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

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

## VESTRY BY CLASS

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

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

**Class of 2018**  
Alice Brilmayer  
George Strait  
Saundra Anderson

## DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 2015

### Delegates

Izabella (Bella) Sempari  
Scott Buckingham

### Alternates

Pam Buckingham  
Sheila Sims

## MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

### SPECIAL MUSIC IN JUNE

#### Sunday, June 5, Evensong

#### 4pm, Chapel College Ensemble of Men & Boys

Evensong is a short Anglican service combining the end-of-day monastic offices of Vespers and Compline. Since the latter part of the 16th century, England's greatest composers have contributed to the rich musical tradition of this uplifting and beautiful liturgy. Christopher Kula, Director.

#### Sunday, June 12, Concert

#### 4:00pm, San Francisco Choral Artists: 21st-Century Baroque with guest artist Galax Quartet

In a bit of musical time-travel, SFCA collaborates with 2016 *SFCA +1* guest artist Galax Quartet to present a radical, diverse, and engaging program of contemporary and Baroque music featuring new-old pairings of works. Six world

premieres by Ted Allen, Veronika Krausas, Robinson

McClellan, Roy Whelden, and SFCA's two resident composers—John Kelley and Shawn Crouch—are framed by masterworks of the chamber choir repertoire. Together SFCA and Galax Quartet—two violins, cello and viola da gamba—explore the realm where early music and Baroque instruments intersect with new music and living composers. Megan Soloman, Artistic Director. Tickets and info at [sfca.org](http://sfca.org).

#### Sunday, June 19, Concert

#### 8:00pm, Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs Tour Concert

More info at [piedmontchoirs.org](http://piedmontchoirs.org)

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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 submissions of no more than 500 words to: [halice@pacbell.net](mailto:halice@pacbell.net).*

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## ON MAY 29, WE WISHED DAVID FARR BON VOYAGE INTO A HAPPY RETIREMENT



## HARRY T. BURLEIGH: A SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By David Farr, Director of Music

*In Christ there is no East or West,  
in him no South or North,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.*

These wonderful words, from Hymn 529, were written by John Oxenham (1852-1941) for the London Missionary Society in 1908 and adopted subsequently by various hymnals in America, for Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian use. Its tune, “McKee,” was adapted from the African-American spiritual “I know the angel’s done changed my name,” a song popularized in the latter part of the nineteenth century by the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University. The British historian and composer Charles Villiers Stanford challenged its provenance, claiming that the tune was Irish, brought by immigrants to the US and adopted into the Black spiritual tradition.

In any case, enter Harry T. Burleigh, whose family roots were in the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie, Pennsylvania, where his parents were married in 1862 by the dean, Dr. John Franklin Spalding. The Burleighs were among several African American families in the parish, many of them leaders in the Episcopal Church at the time. As a child, Burleigh attended St. Paul’s on Sunday mornings and then accompanied his blind grandfather to the Himrod Mission, there the choir sang spirituals. In an excellent article in the current issue of *The Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians*, Jean E. Snyder says of Burleigh that his “lifelong commitment to church music and to an Episcopal mode of worship was nurtured at St. Paul’s. His faith informed his sturdy moral code and contributed to his commitment to

excellence ‘for the glory of God.’ These values were fostered by his mother and reinforced throughout his childhood and youth at St. Paul’s Cathedral,” where the congregation was known for its music, and where Burleigh sang in the men and boys choir.

Burleigh went on to sing solos in many prestigious local places, such as Park Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, the Hebrew synagogue and many other venues; he was frequently reviewed by the newspapers. In 1892 Burleigh became a student of the National Conservatory of Music in New York (where Antonin Dvorak was Director). He eventually became baritone soloist at St. George’s Episcopal Church in Stuyvesant Square, where Dr. William S. Rainsford was the Rector and J. P. Morgan the Senior Warden. The audition was “blind,” and only after Burleigh was selected was it revealed that he was African-American, causing a mini-scandal in the committee. However, the Rector and the Senior Warden strongly supported Burleigh’s election, and he remained in the position for many years, where his performances were frequently reviewed by the press. Burleigh composed many art songs, hymns and anthems. He retired as soloist in 1946 and died in 1949.

Harry T. Burleigh named this hymn’s tune “McKee” after The Rev. Elmore McKee, rector of St. George’s from 1936-1946. The hymn became enshrined in our use first in *Hymnal 1940*, where I first fell in love with it. Burleigh was a man of significant influence in the Episcopal Church. We are proud to remember him in his 150<sup>th</sup> year.

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### 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:

- 6/11/16  
Stanford & Market
- 7/9/16  
Market & West Grand

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

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## READING FAITH: “THE GOOD BOOK” BY PETER GOMES

By Thom Burchfield

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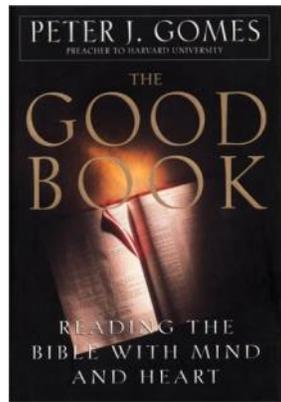
### WORSHIP ROTA ONLINE

The current rota for the Sunday worship services is posted on the St. Paul’s Web site at :  
http://  
www.stpaulsoakland.org/  
RotaSchedule

The rota includes the names of readers, subdeacons, intercessors, and lay Eucharistic ministers.

New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Fr. Mauricio or the Ven. Carolyn Bolton to volunteer or if you have any questions.

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I’ve read the Bible once in my life, as a teenager, day by day, chapter by chapter, word by word, cover to cover. Including the begats. Now that I’m reading it again decades later, I’m seeking a historical/theological guide to the Bible’s origins and history for non-academics. *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart* by Peter Gomes, which I bought with that purpose, is not that book. But it’s still a good book about the Good Book and well worth your time.

Gomes, who was Preacher to Harvard University until his passing in 2011, arranges his book around three central questions intelligent readers might bring to the Bible: “What is it? How is it used? What does it have to say to me?”

Like most important questions, they’re tough ones. Still, Reverend Gomes provides some help with rich and easy eloquence, bringing this ancient, but still essential, book into a modern reader’s consciousness.

As Gomes points out, the Bible is really a library of many books, each expressing a different point of view. Within its dense pages, we find values that, in many cases, are completely irrelevant and dangerous in our time, as yesterday’s justice becomes today’s injustice. Some of the books deal with practical matters relevant to wandering desert tribes thousands of years ago (and anyone building a full-size tabernacle in their workshop).

While some of the Bible’s books are like instruction manuals, the most essential thing about it overall is how it helps us grasp the experience and presence of God in history; it brings us to those “thin places” where the barrier between us and the Divine seems to almost fade.

*The Good Book’s* central theme, in Gomes’s words, is “the risk and joy of the Bible: risk that we might get it wrong, and joy in the discovery of the living Word becoming flesh.” It’s also a search for ways in which the Bible remains relevant to our hyper-modern, secularized country, ways in which we can get and stay closer to God.

The book is structured around three main themes and a variety of subthemes. The subthemes are where most of the interest lies for contemporary readers, as Gomes discusses the Bible and its relation to our current debates over race, anti-Semitism, women’s rights and gay sexuality.

The third section discusses what the Bible says regarding the “good life,” suffering, joy, evil, temptation, wealth, science and mystery. Throughout, he makes it clear that what the Bible says about these matters is nowhere near as clear and absolute as fundamentalists, evangelicals and secular ideologues would have it. To read the Bible as instructional and ideological text is not only wrong and superfluous, but quite possibly idolatrous. To read the Bible with a literal mind is to miss God.

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## PICTORIAL GUIDE TO MAY 2016

### ST. PAUL'S CHOIR



### LAUREN MCNULTY'S LAST SUNDAY, MAY 22



### SEMINARIAN & DEACON RICHARD HOGUE'S FAMILY VISIT TO CELEBRATE HIS GRADUATION



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



# St. Paul's

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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*)

## CHANGE IS COMING

(Continued from Page 1)

we do now but I'm willing to take the risk of change to arrive at a better place—a more inviting, welcoming and Spirit filled place.

May God's Holy Spirit continue to inspire and guide this faith community to worship and serve in ways that reflect God's glory in the world and God's love for the rich diversity that is humanity and the ways in which it is reflected among us.

If all goes according to plan the next edition of this newsletter will include a full biography and photo of the individual selected for the position music director. It is my intention

that the official start date will be no later than August 1.

We are deeply grateful to David for his years of service as music director and choirmaster at St. Paul's and for the many years before that he served as church music director around the country. We pray that the years to come will provide him the time to creatively add to the musical repertoire of the church.

"Change is the only constant in life." "No one ever steps into the same river twice." Both quotes are from the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher Hiraclitus.