



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

May 2016

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THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

“WITH THE SPIRIT’S GIFTS EMPOWER US FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY.”

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



These words are the refrain of hymn 528 of the 1982 Hymnal. This particular hymn is found in “The Church’s Mission” section of the

hymnal and is a regular at confirmations, ordinations, seminary graduations and sometimes at baptisms. It is a song of prayer for God’s aid for the church to live into Christ’s call to service. God’s help comes through the Holy Spirit’s power granted to us. On May 15th we are going to remember and celebrate the bestowing of this gift upon the disciples of Jesus and, through their ministry, its extension to the Church universal.

This all said, I ask myself: why do we ask God to give us something we already have? If our theological stance leads us to proclaim that the Holy Spirit dwells within the Church and its members, why do we continuously go back to ask for It?

I address the question by saying that our prayer is more of a reminder than a request. Not a reminder to God, but rather to ourselves. We need to recall the fact that the Church’s ministry is not our ministry but God’s. The universe is not a product of our will and power but rather that of God. Maybe it would be helpful if all our prayers, hymns and other forms of communication with the divine were to begin with the phrase: “God we (I) know you already know this but...” Jesus uses this kind of language when he speaks to God: *And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ (John 11:41-42)*

In my own life of prayer I have found that God’s response to what I have on my heart and mind was already before me, and that my act of prayer served simply as a catalyst for seeing such response clearly. There are many instances in which we ask for a blessing that has already been granted, or a transformation that has already

Inside This Issue

Page 2

From the Archives

Pantry Items

Page 3

Holy Spirit Potluck

Vestry Roster

Rector Joins Oakland

Citizens’ Police Review

Board

Page 4

Music at St. Paul’s

Page 5

SAVE Stand-ins

An Unforgettable Choir

Adventure

Page 6

Reading Faith: The Power

& Glory

Page 7

Saint of the Month

(Continued on Page 8)

FROM THE ST. PAUL'S ARCHIVES

Edited by Liz Hook

PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

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

May

Bottles of juice

June

Bottles of juice

July

Bottles of juice

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

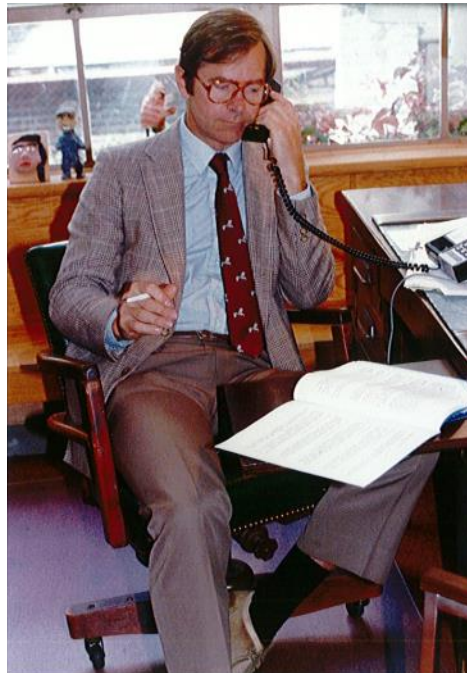
Thanks!

In April 1998 we were back in our church building; and the offices and parish hall were fresh, shiny new and safe. Although we were a functioning parish during the nine years of retrofit and reconstruction, we now needed to focus on being a fully active church again, not having the distraction of contractors and construction. St. Paul's lost members during the renovation years, and of course there were few weddings and no concerts then. Now we needed to focus on a five year plan, stewardship, outreach, a Mardi Gras party and plan for a Home Coming Picnic in September.

After five difficult years it was time for Fr. Jack Eastwood to take a long overdue sabbatical. The parish was reminded that a sabbatical is not a vacation. It is a time set apart for a priest to be away to reflect on ministry,



Lighting was improved and money saved when the original sconces in the knave were turned upside down to direct light down to the pews instead of into the air.



Head of school, Rick Ackerly works at his desk at the top of the stairs on the mezzanine where he kept track of everything.

normally on specific areas of ministry of the clergy's choosing. Fr. Jack went east to hone his sermon skills among other things, but he also managed to work in another passion that summer.

He visited a good number of baseball stadiums being the ultimate fan of the sport.

Meanwhile, Rick Ackerly, Head Master of St. Paul's Episcopal School, reported at a March 1998 Vestry meeting that 1996 and 97 had been full of stress and changes. In order to be competitive, a 6th grade had to be added to fit in with the start of other middle schools. They had purchased the apartment building on Montecito above the Casa Romano. It was vacant and the plan was to tear it down in June to create a playground with portables if necessary.

(Continued on Page 3)



In June the bulldozers demolish the apartment building on Montecito to make way for a playground.

Anticipating growth of the middle school, the school got a Limited Use Permit for 262 Grand Avenue, good for five years with the possibility of extension. The building needed retrofitting, which was done, and it became and still is their middle school. Now, head of school Ackerly hoped he could relax a bit.

As you read this St. Paul's School is celebrating their 40th Anniversary. The Casa is now a beautiful library, and about three years ago a gymnasium was added to the playground. St. Paul's Episcopal School is thriving and we wish them every success in the next 40 years.

FR. WILSON TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE AS COMMISSIONER OF THE OAKLAND CITIZENS' POLICE REVIEW BOARD IN MARCH 2016



PENTECOST/HOLY SPIRIT POTLUCK

Sunday, May 15 is Pentecost. Remember to wear red and bring something for a festive meal after the 10:00 am service. As usual, Alice will be in the kitchen before and after the service to accept your food. See you there!



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 MAY

Sunday, May 1, Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogation Sunday

10am, Choral Eucharist

This joyful Eastertide by Ch. Wood, *Thou visitest the earth* by Greene, *Stetit Jesus* by Regnart, sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Farr, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco, Director.

4pm, Evensong

Chapel College Ensemble of Men & Boys, Christopher Kula, Director.

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.

Sunday, May 8, Sixth Sunday of Easter/Sunday after Ascension

10am, Choral Eucharist

If ye love me by Tallis, *God is gone up* by Croft, *Ascendens Christus* by Handl, sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Farr, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco, Director.

Sunday, May 15, Day of Pentecost/Whitsunday

10am, Choral Eucharist

Missa Dum complerentur by Victoria, *Veni sancte Spiritus* by Byrd, *The dove descending* by Stravinsky, sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Farr, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco, Director.

Sunday, May 22, First Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday

10am, Choral Eucharist

I have set the Lord always before me by Bortniansky, *As truly as God is our Father* by Mathias, *Tibi laus* by Philips, sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Farr, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco, Director.

3:00pm, Concert

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra, Fifth Season Concert. Johannes Gustav Mahler *Symphony No. 5*. Eric Hansen, Music Director. FREE. More info at www.prometheussympphony.org

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, Dr. David Farr, Director.

Sunday, May 29, Second Sunday after Pentecost

10am, Choral Eucharist

David Farr's Final Sunday as Music Director, the Last Sunday of the Choir Season

Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd, *There is a balm in Gilead* by Saylor, *O God, thou art my God* by Purcell, *Laudate Dominum, omnes gentes* by Tallis, sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Farr, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco, Director

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.

AN UNFORGETTABLE CHOIR ADVENTURE

By David Farr, Director of Music

I have known Paul Tavernier for many years, during which he has sung for me occasionally as a choir bass and also as a soloist. For instance, he was a memorable Elijah for two performances of Mendelssohn's masterpiece at St. Luke's Church on Van Ness Avenue when I was music director there long ago. Most recently, he volunteered as a bass in our choir for the *St. John Passion*, performing the bit role of Pontius Pilate and the beautiful arioso *Betrachte, meine Seel* (with accompaniment of violas d'amore and lute). Paul loves to tell good stories, and at one of the rehearsals for the *St. John Passion* he brought me this one:

“A Special Day”

When I was an undergraduate at the University of Connecticut, the concert choir of which I was a member took a tour of Europe in the summer of 1971. This recounts one of those tour days.

Very early one morning, we took off on a bus to Check Point Charlie, the main guard station between West and East Berlin. We were supposed to go from Berlin to Prague in about seven hours and perform a concert in Prague at 3:00 p.m. The Authorities held us up at Charlie for five hours. There was no way we could make it to Prague on time for our concert.

Our conductor, John Poellein, was a Bach enthusiast. He decided that since we couldn't make it on time for the concert in Prague, why should we not take a little tour of East Germany? Somehow he convinced the bus driver of this adventure. It turns out the driver knew how to take us anywhere we

wanted to go, and wasn't fazed by the Russian soldiers on motorcycles with machine guns who accompanied us.

So, off we went to Leipzig, the city Johann Sebastian Bach served for many years of his mature career. Soon we were at St. Thomas Kirche with its statue of Bach standing in the adjacent plaza. The East German people were crying in their joy to see Americans in their beloved city. Standing in the gallery of his church, we sang Bach's great motet, *Komm, Jesu, Komm*.

Our next stop was Dresden. The Russians had left it in its World War II bombed-out state. We drove through this eerie place at sunset.

We arrived at the Czech border around midnight. We were held there for two hours. Then we drove a short distance and came to an inn. Somehow word had gotten out that Americans were coming! The village people lined our way into town. We arrived to find plates of food set out at tables and a band playing polkas. There was dancing, singing and eating in the middle of the night! It didn't matter that no one spoke English. Even the Russians seemed to be having a good time!

Oh, what a day!

Paul Tavernier

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:

- 5/14/16
90th and International

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

READING FAITH: THE POWER AND THE GLORY BY GRAHAM GREENE

By Thom Burchfield

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.

During the twentieth century, novelist Graham Greene was known for literary novels centered around the drama of his Catholic faith, books such as *The Heart of the Matter* and *The End of the Affair*. Nowadays, though, he's remembered more for his "entertainments," namely, his spy novels (such as *A Gun for Sale*, *Ministry of Fear* and *The Comedians*.)

The Power and the Glory is considered by some his greatest novel, a book that perfectly fuses his literary novels with his suspense work.

The novel takes us to Mexico in late 1930s, when, for a time, the Catholic Church was outlawed and suppressed (especially in the state of Tabasco). Priests were forced either to convert to secularism or face execution. The novel tells the story of one of these priests—a "whisky priest" (a phrase coined by Greene), a man steeped in sin, yet impeccable in the practice of his faith—through his own Stations of the Cross. He's fallen so far away Greene doesn't even give his name. But he's still a wanted man as far as the state is concerned. Even shorn of his vestments, he's still recognized, regarded as a danger by the state and is therefore in mortal danger himself.

The priest is indeed a profound sinner, a raging alcoholic and womanizer who's left behind a daughter whom he only acknowledges when it's too late. His sense of debasement is so complete, that he thinks himself a coward, the one thing he is not—he turns away from every chance at escape from his chief pursuer, a nameless lieutenant who pursues him with murderous determination. This lieutenant is the priest's mirror image: a religious atheist, sober and upright, certain of his own rectitude and absorbed with the rightness and justice of his cause, more pious and just as faithful as the holy man who is his quarry.

Greene was a Catholic leftist and this novel reflects his beliefs. "Conservatism and Catholicism," he once wrote elsewhere, "should be impossible bedfellows."

The novel is beautifully written, suspenseful and, at times, devastating. It's not for the faint of heart, but for those strong of spirit. It's paints a harsh, vivid picture of the backwaters of Mexico and with moments of great power. The light of Greene's faith shines through, even when the novel is at its darkest. Whatever the priest's fate, faith remains. God calls to us as we call to Him, no matter how far we may have fallen.

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SAINT OF THE MONTH

JACKSON KEMPER, FIRST MISSIONARY BISHOP IN THE UNITED STATES, 1789-1870



When the General Convention of 1835 made all the members of the Episcopal Church members also of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, it provided at the

same time for missionary bishops to serve in the wilderness and in foreign countries. Jackson Kemper was the first such bishop. Although he was assigned to Missouri and Indiana, he laid foundations also in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas, and made extensive missionary tours in the South and Southwest.

Kemper was born in Pleasant Valley, New York, on December 24, 1789. He graduated from Columbia College in 1809, and was ordained deacon in 1811, and priest in 1814.

He served Bishop White as Assistant at Christ Church, Philadelphia. At his urging, Bishop White made his first and only visitation in western Pennsylvania. In 1835, Kemper was ordained bishop, and immediately set out on his travels.

Because Episcopal clergymen, mostly from well-to-do Eastern homes, found it hard to adjust to the harsh life of the frontier—scorching heat, drenching rains, and winter blizzards—Kemper established Kemper College in St. Louis, Missouri, the first of many similar attempts to train clergymen, and in more recent times lay persons as

well, for specialized tasks in the Church. The College failed in 1845 from the usual malady of such projects in the church—inadequate funding. Nashotah House, in Wisconsin, which he founded in 1842, with the help of James Lloyd Breck and his companions, was more successful. So was Racine College, founded in 1852. Both these institutions reflected Kemper's devotion to beauty in ritual and worship.

Kemper pleaded for more attention to the Indians, and encouraged the translation of services into native languages. He described a service among Oneida Indians which was marked by “courtesy, reverence, worship—and obedience to that Great Spirit in whose hands are the issues of life.”

From 1859 until his death, Kemper was diocesan Bishop of Wisconsin. He is more justly honored by his unofficial title, “The Bishop of the Whole Northwest.”

Lord God, in your providence Jackson Kemper was chosen first missionary bishop in this land, and by his arduous labor and travel congregations were established in scattered settlements of the West: Grant that the Church may always be faithful to its mission, and have the vision, courage, and perseverance to make known to all people the Good News of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Dear Readers:
In an effort to reduce paper waste and printing/ mailing expenses, we are asking anyone who gets the on-line version of The Good News and no longer needs a paper version mailed to his or her home to let us know. If you don't get the newsletter online and would like to, or if you want to take yourself off the snail-mail list, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org. Many thanks.



St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

114 Montecito Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

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

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*)

THE SPIRIT'S GIFT

(Continued from Page 1)

been completed or maybe even a fortune that we have already spent. It is sometimes necessary to articulate a desire with words to understand a need or desire and then see it right before our very eyes.

I must also say that this applies to our petition for things we are not going to get, at least not in the way we ask for them. A simple example of this is asking God for a long life before asking ourselves if we have treated our bodies well enough to withstand

a journey of many years. Even simpler in this case would be to ask: How long is long?

The Spirit's gifts have already been granted, we have already been empowered. We now pray to recognize and accept these graces to be faithful servants of God in the World.