



Volume 15, Issue 2
April 2021

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THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Rector's Reflection

Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

KNOWING THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST



"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

This year's lectionary does not include the pericope of Jesus' encounter with two of his followers as they were making their way to the town of Emmaus. But I believe that story provides a good example of how many of us are feeling right now as we continue to live through the uncertainties that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought. The two disciples in this story were not unlike the other followers of Jesus immediately after the crucifixion. They were afraid, hopeless, ashamed, and not in the mood for celebration. The news they share with the stranger walking with them in verses 19 to 24 tells us about their state of mind as they explain the reason for their sadness and hopelessness:

"The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the

[Continued on last page](#)

In-Person Palm Sunday! Easter is Next!

Holy Week got off to a grand start with our first all-church gathering in 55 weeks! Over 50 parishioners and friends gathered in the parking lot and lawn of the Veterans' Building to celebrate the beginning of our faith's holiest time. Our vocalists were there with their usual glorious music. Our clergy was decked out in the finest garb.



We even had our traditional procession, singing *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* as we walked through the parking lot and around back to our seats.



Father Wilson reminded us of the importance of Palm Sunday and all the events of Holy Week culminating in the Resurrection of our Lord. The remaining days of Holy Week are full of opportunities to worship. See next page for details.

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Holy Week

Holy Week services will be streamed on Facebook and on Zoom, but may be in-person as well. Please check the St. Paul's website for the latest information.

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 1

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Park

Morning Prayer, across Grand Avenue from St. Paul's at Lake Merritt Park! Please join us for a masked and socially distanced lay-led Morning Prayer Service. Please feel free to bring your own folding chair if you need to be seated.

Officiant: Pamela Kruse-Buckingham

Please email pamela.kruse.buckingham@gmail.com for any questions, or to indicate your interest.

4:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy, streamed

Watch the stream on our Facebook Group page [HERE](#)

or Zoom (Register in advance [HERE](#))

Commemorate the Last Supper.

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Supper Gathering, Zoom

Join with Zoom. Register in advance [HERE](#)

You are invited to join with a light meal of your own during which time we will share time for reflection and fellowship in breaking bread.

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2

12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy, streamed & Zoom

Watch the stream on our Facebook Group page [HERE](#)

or Zoom (Register in advance [HERE](#))

Traditional Good Friday three hour service with the Passion Gospel and Veneration of the Cross.

Music: Brahms, *Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen?* — Victoria, *The Passion According to John* —

Victoria, *O vos omnes* — Byrd, *Emendemus in melius*

Officiant: The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

Music Director: Christopher Kula. With St. Paul's Soloists.

3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross, streamed

Watch the stream on our Facebook Group page [HERE](#)

A devotion to the Passion of Christ, recalling a series of events at the end of Jesus' life from his condemnation to his burial.

HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 3

8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter, with kindling of New Fire, Exultet, the first Mass of Easter. Streamed & Zoom

Watch the stream on our Facebook Group page [HERE](#)

or Zoom (Register in advance [HERE](#))

Music: Wood, *Communion Service in F* — Byrd, *Haec dies à 6* — Stanford, *Why seek ye the living?* — Pachelbel, *Fugue in D (P.153)*

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

Music Director: Christopher Kula. With St. Paul's Soloists.

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4 CHRIST IS RISEN! Join the Celebration!

STREAMING POSSIBILITIES ARE LISTED BELOW, BUT THE SITUATION IS EVOLVING. VISIT THE ST. PAUL'S WEBSITE

<http://www.stpaulsoakland.org>

TO GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT STREAMING

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, streamed

Watch the stream on our Facebook Group page [HERE](#)

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

10:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist, in-person, streamed & Zoom

Watch the stream on our Facebook Group page [HERE](#)

or Zoom (Register in advance [HERE](#))

In-person on Montecito Avenue, with distribution of Communion.

For those not comfortable gathering with others, the clergy will be available at the door of the church until 12:30 pm distributing the Eucharist to those who wish to come by.

Easter baskets will be distributed to children at the end of the service.

Music: Byrd, *Gloria* from *Mass for Four Voices* — Schubert, *Deutsche Messe* — anon., *This joyful Eastertide* — Tallis, *O sacrum convivium*

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

Music Director: Christopher Kula. With St. Paul's Soloists.

4:00 p.m. Evensong, streamed & Zoom

Watch the stream on our Facebook Group page [HERE](#)

or Zoom (Register in advance [HERE](#))

Music:

Dupré, *Te Lucis ante terminum* — Tye, *If ye be risen again with Christ* — Elgar, *Poco Allegro* from *Vespers Voluntaries* — Music Director: Christopher Kula. With St. Paul's Schola Cantorum.

Remainder of April

As during Holy Week, services will be streamed via Facebook and Zoom, and there will be in-person events as well. Please consult the Church website, <http://www.stpaulsoakland.org/> for the latest information.

Streamed Church

Join us for our streamed services, online, on our [Facebook Group](#), and on Zoom (see Zoom links with each service listing). Click to the [Facebook page](#), and ask to join the Group. One of us will let you in, and you can watch all live stream services as they occur, and once they end, all can be found under the Media/Videos tab.

Later, streamed videos are posted on our [Streamed Services page](#). Messages from the Rector are posted first on Facebook, then placed on the [Daily Messages page](#).

All videos are also available on our YouTube Channel [HERE](#).

Zoom Church & Gatherings

Opportunities to gather via Zoom, include;

- Most church services, see website listings for links. <http://www.stpaulsoakland.org/>

- Morning Prayer 10am Tuesdays

- Happy Hour 5pm Saturdays

- Coffee Hour 9am every Sunday

Details are on the church [calendar](#).

In-Person Church

- Morning Prayer 10am Thursdays, across the street in Lakeside Park.

No reservation needed.

- Morning Prayer 9:15am Sundays.

In-person with limited attendance, by reservation only. If you didn't receive one, send an email to the rector, rector@stpaulsoakland.org.

Living in the Spirit

A series on Christian spirituality

The Rev. Anne Jensen

“...the Holy Spirit ...will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.”

**—John
14:27**

THE

2021 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio
Wilson, Rector
Senior Warden
Sharon Pilmer
Junior Warden
Scott Buckingham
Clerk
Erica Terry-Derryck
Treasurer
Ann Gregory

VESTRY BY CLASS Class of 2021

Erica Terry-Derryck
Sergio Prieto
Lisa Strait
Class of 2022
Will Cowart
Ann Gregory
Sharon Pilmer
Class of 2023
Flarnie Adams
Scott Buckingham
Lane Ceric

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

2020
Delegates
Melanie Blake
Tom McGarrell
Alternates
Saundra Anderson
Jeanette Dinwiddie-
Moore

WHAT IS SPIRITUALITY?

In truth, there are many definitions floating around on the internet and in bookstores in the area called Religion and Spirituality. In the minds of many it's a kind of nebulous entity that floats in the ether and doesn't have much to do with real life. Definitions can be slippery since we're talking about the mystery of God or the cosmos as the spirit within us. I find this definition to be a good starting point.

Spirituality involves the recognition of a feeling or sense or belief that there is something greater than myself, something more to being human than sensory experience, and that the greater whole of which we are part is cosmic or divine in nature... An opening of the heart is an essential aspect of true spirituality. (www.rcpsych.ac.uk)



In the Gospel of John 14:25-27 Jesus says to the disciples, “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

For Christians, our spirituality is a gift from God and the way we stay connected to the source of our being, to each other, to the natural world and to the cosmos. When we experience wonder, awe and reverence, we are experiencing the fruit of that gift. Something in your soul/spirit shifts to another way of being. For many of us that can come most easily in the natural world. Maybe you remember your mom or your dad showing you a beautiful sunset or the majesty of a redwood forest and making reference to Creation.

There are also moments of awe in worship, in learning, in small moments of human connection. While certainly those moments of wonder can be inspired by outside forces, by the glorious splendor of a sunset that takes your breath away, what that teaches us most of all is that movement of the spirit really is about us. It is about the disposition of our hearts. Our sense of wonder and awe can in fact lead us to a deeper connection with all that is good and holy in the world. It is really a matter of whether or not we are open and paying attention.

(With appreciation for the Rev. Molly Field James whose work I drew upon.)
<https://lifeandministryreflections.blogspot.com/2021/03/awe-and-wonder.html>

From the Senior Warden Sharon Pilmer

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be deep into Holy Week. For me, the inability to physically participate in the rhythms of Holy Week has been the most difficult transition during this endless shelter in place. But, there is a glimmer of light and hope at the end of the tunnel. Many of us have been vaccinated. COVID cases are trending down, for the moment. Restrictions are cautiously being lifted.



At St. Paul's we are starting to physically regather. We have two in-person outdoor morning prayer services, one on Thursday mornings in the park and one at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the courtyard. We are planning outdoor in-person worship (both live streamed) for both Palm Sunday and Easter morning. These will be logistical challenges to be sure and not what we are used to, but it will be good to be together and celebrate the resurrection! Hopefully we will not be overcome with FONO (fear of normal), or bad weather!

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who works so hard to support our parish. In particular I want to acknowledge Fr. Wilson and our clergy, for their commitment to the liturgy and our ongoing faith formation in the face of pandemic induced logistical challenges. I am grateful to Chris Kula, our music director, and our soloists for continuing to provide beautiful music for worship. And I am grateful to all those behind the scenes making this all possible—the altar guild lovingly preparing the sanctuary, the group working to evaluate and select upgraded equipment and systems to permit higher quality broadcast, and our members supporting our website and publication of this newsletter, just to name a few.

So much of the work of our church is done by volunteers, many of whom have full time jobs (sometimes more than one job), families and other commitments. Please join me in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for our small army of folks who invest their time and talents to further the mission of St. Paul's.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have a question, concern, or a desire to help out. I can be reached at pilms@hotmail.com or senior-warden@stpaulsoakland.org

Please join me in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for our small army of folks who invest their time and talents to further the mission of St. Paul's. thanksgiving for our small army of folks who invest their time and talents to further the mission of St. Paul's.

PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

During this time of sheltering in place and physical distancing, we are working on trying to find creative ways to continue the process of serving the needy members of our community.

Thanks for your continued support and prayers.

From the Junior Warden Scott Buckingham



Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

This month the big news is about our new professional grade, HEPA filter vacuum for Dan and Elena to use in cleaning our space. This vacuum is backpack style and battery operated for ease of use and mobility, so no more having to find an outlet or yanking on cords.

I have created a place for this vacuum to live in the ambulatory closet between the sanctuary and Altar Guild sacristy. The unit and all its accessories fit into designated foam cut-outs for safety,

cleanliness and unit longevity. The closet has a locking hasp on it for security. This should go a long way towards keeping our space cleaner and making it easier for Dan and Elena in the process.



Dancing in the Street

Well...not exactly dancing, but worshiping in the street. We've had our permit application approved by the City of Oakland to close off the street in front of the church for our Easter Sunday service. After all this time apart from each other, some of us may want to dance.

Just Floored

I have reached out to Teevan in San Francisco to start the process of having the floor at the front of the chapel inspected for damage. I had mentioned in last month's report that the buckling in the floor in that area has become very pronounced. Teevan is the company who did such a fine job of restoring damaged areas of our main sanctuary flooring back in 2017. I look forward to having them look at it and help us come up with a plan to resolve this problem.

Youth and Family Ministry Sergio Prieto

Greetings St Paul's Families! My family and I recently attended the small in-person service and it felt great to be back to our spiritual home! Seeing some of our church family warmed our hearts and filled our souls. For those who feel comfortable enough to attend, I highly recommend it. Safety precautions are carefully planned and it really felt special to be back.

As Easter approaches and St. Paul's prepares to take over Montecito Ave for in-person Easter service, there is a lot of buzz in our family. We are very much looking forward to this glorious event. Easter Angels are busy preparing Easter baskets for children who attend the service. Hope to see you there!



Treasurer's Report Ann Gregory

Treasurer's Update By Ann Gregory

With two months of 2021 under our belt, St. Paul's Church expenses are tracking almost exactly to budget. Revenue – driven primarily by pledges and plate contributions – had a slower-than-expected January (\$9K less than budget) and a better-than-expected February (\$4K above budget). This may be because pledges for this year are still coming in. As you saw in last month's Stewardship Corner, stewardship plays a huge role in

what we are able to do to advance our ministries and build our faith community. Thanks to all of those who have pledged to date. Here is where we stood at the end of February:

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$37,110	\$47,131
Expenses	\$68,841	\$69,163
Net Income	-\$31,731	-\$22,032

In other financial news, you may recall that last year the Church received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$56K to support staffing costs during COVID. The PPP allows recipients to apply for

loan forgiveness if certain parameters are met. We have submitted the forgiveness documentation to our bank and are hopeful that we will receive forgiveness in the coming months. We will keep you updated. While the stock market continues to experience volatility, our investment portfolio continues to perform well. We monitor our investments carefully to make sure that church funds are put to mission-focused work, whether now or later. As always, I'm available for your questions or comments at goggins.gregory@gmail.com.



Stewardship Corner Sharon Pilmer

Pledging is crucial to the financial health of our parish. Combined with the active stewardship of our talents and time, we make St. Paul's what it is. This is how our pledging currently stands.

**February: 33 pledges \$135,734 — Early March: 36 pledges \$145,834
Three new pledges! Thank you!**

If you haven't pledged yet, it's not too late! Just go to the Church's home page (<http://www.stpaulsoakland.org>) and click on "pledge" below and to the right of the banner picture.

Watch for news of our on-going stewardship plans!

Music at St. Paul's Chris Kula, Music Director

Watch for news next month on music offerings at St. Paul's worship services.

Vestry Monthly

Erica Terry Derryck, Clerk of the Vestry



In order to keep the Parish informed of the work that the Vestry does as the elected volunteer leadership of the church, we will be reporting monthly on the Vestry meetings and sharing a written summary each month in the bulletin and newsletter.

As a reminder, 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 (get in touch with the Senior Warden, seniorwarden@stpaulsoakland.org, if you would like to attend); the full minutes of the meeting are available to parish members upon request by contacting the parish administrator or a member of the Vestry.

Key decisions made by the Vestry at the January 17, 2021, Vestry meeting conducted via Zoom.

Fr. Mauricio Wilson appointed Sharon Pilmer as Sr. Warden

The Vestry voted to approve Scott Buckingham as Jr. Warden, Ann Gregory as Treasurer, Erica Terry Derryck as Clerk, and Will Cowart as St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry representative to the Saint Paul's Episcopal School board.

The Vestry also reviewed proposed updates to the church's Facebook page policy.

Key decisions made by the Vestry at the February 6, 2021, Vestry Retreat conducted via Zoom.

The Vestry reviewed the strategic plan and assigned new leads for the various ministries as follows:

Adult Faith Formation: Anne Jensen

Youth and Family Program: Sergio Prieto

Welcoming and Hospitality: Will Cowart

Communications: Sharon Pilmer

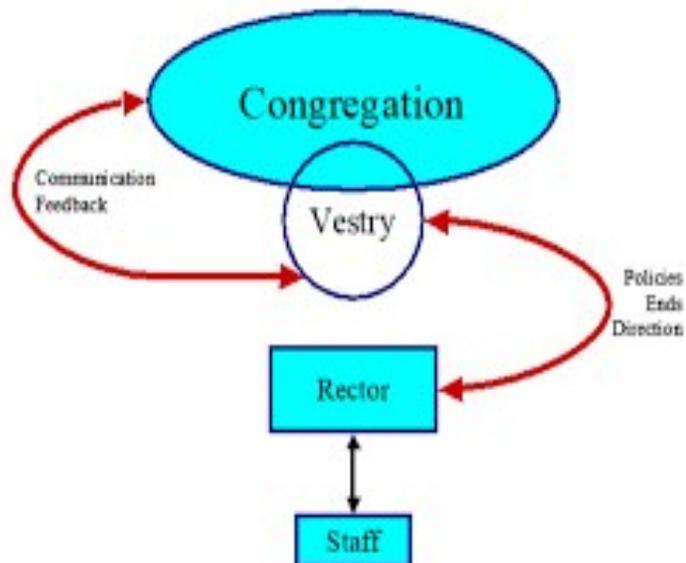
Stewardship: Sharon Pilmer

Finance: Ann Gregory

Buildings and Grounds: Scott Buckingham

Outreach and Social Justice: Lane Ceric

The Vestry also approved the closing of the 2020 financials and engaged in team building to welcome new members: Scott Buckingham, Flarnie Adams and Lane Ceric.



Key decisions made by the Vestry at the February 23, 2021, Vestry meeting conducted via Zoom.

The Vestry agreed to meet later in the month to review in depth a proposal from Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore to support foster care youth.

The plans for the Lenten season were outlined, including a discussion of possibly

hosting outdoor services for Easter and Palm Sunday. Almost 100 people participated in “ashes-to-go” for Ash Wednesday which were safely administered by the clergy.

Sunday morning in-person prayer services were scheduled to kick-off using a reservation system feature deployed through the church’s existing database.

January 2021 financials showed income is roughly half of what was budgeted while expenses are as predicted.

No major issues were reported with the church building apart from the need to investigate an issue with the floor at the front of the church.

Fr. Wilson is planning for a two-month summer sabbatical which was not taken in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Broadcasting Our Services

Erica Terry Derryck

AV Committee Update

With the support of the Rector and the Vestry, and based on a referral from committee member Robert Knapp, the AV committee paid to engage Ben Stiegler of Performing Arts Audio to consult with the committee in order to properly scope the St. Paul’s audio-visual improvement project.

The purpose of engaging Ben was twofold: 1) ensure uniformity in the bidding process with a properly specified request for proposals, and 2) create clarity around the needs of the church in securing a new AV system that can be clearly related to bidding vendors.

As part of this process, the consultant visited the church and met with key stakeholders including Rector Wilson, music director Chris Kula, and representatives from the St. Paul’s Episcopal School facilities and IT teams, as better wi-fi connectivity is part of this project.

In the coming weeks the Vestry will determine if the engagement with Mr. Stiegler will continue through the vendor selection and installation process, assuming we secure a bid that meets our needs and budget constraints.

While the clergy and parish volunteers work to make the current streamed online worship experience better, it’s important to note that the AV committee’s charge is a separate workstream designed to enhance the audio experience once in-person worship resumes, while enabling high-quality online access to services to continue following the pandemic.

The AV committee will keep the congregation abreast of its progress. In the meantime, we ask for your continued patience and grace as our clergy and volunteers work to address the technical issues with the current online services.

Local Music Events in April

Victoria Larson

During these times of Covid 19, we encourage everyone to take advantage of the live streams, recordings, lectures, and other offerings by our outstanding local musicians. Search for your favorites online to watch and contribute, as you are able. *A few upcoming events are listed here.*

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra 2020-2021 Lecture Series

Our Music Director, Eric Hansen, is offering a lively series of lectures about music, music theory and history. And you're all invited to join us! Eric will delve into the main composers, the important developments of the orchestra genre/musical form, the changing makeup of the orchestra (types of instruments, size of the orchestra and who were the musicians), the cities/countries that produced flourishing orchestras and regional styles, who supported orchestras and the effect that had (religious vs secular), who was in the audience, and what were musicians' lives like?

Watch the lectures series here <https://www.prometheussymphony.org/lectures>



San Francisco Choral Artists <https://www.sfca.org/> **Songs of Love and Laughter — Magen Soloman, Artistic Director** **Premiering Sunday, April 18 at 5pm PST**



Spring is in the air! Let us escape into what is shared by all cultures and centuries: **Love & Laughter**. With a charming variety stretching from the **14th to the 21st century** we will offer music from France, Australia, Serbia, England, Germany, Italy, and, of course, the US. Including Works by Monteverdi, Conte, Finzi, Clara Schumann and more. This will be a fun mix of **newly-recorded pieces** and recordings from previous live concerts – hand picked for this occasion.

You're invited to **pay what you wish for unlimited access.**

[Click HERE for more details and tickets](#)

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir: Concert Choir, Ensemble, Ecco, Ancora [Making History - Singing the Earth](#)

Saturday, April 10 - 4:00 - 5:00 PM - [YouTube Premiere](#)

Join PEBCC's most advanced choral ensembles as they sing stories of the earth in a time of unprecedented change. In partnership with the Stanford Chamber Chorus, we'll present the world premiere of Kerry Andrew's *Wake Up!* - a powerful meditation on the climate crisis through the eyes of young climate activists from around the globe. We'll also celebrate songs of spring in a collaboration with Finnish youth choir Vox Aurea and medieval ensemble Yr Awen, and share gorgeous but rarely heard partsongs by the Black English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Don't miss a performance! Make sure to subscribe to [PEBCC's YouTube channel](#) to receive concert notifications and reminders.



Diocesan Doings

Carolyn Knapp

Bishop Marc's message following the shootings in Atlanta

March 17, 2021

I am stunned and deeply saddened to learn of the deaths of eight people yesterday in Atlanta at the hands of a gunman.

Although the police are still trying to determine the motive, we know that the majority of the victims were Asian. We also know that violence against people of Asian/Pacific Islander heritage is happening across our country and here in the Bay Area, sparking tremendous fear. This is unacceptable, and we as individuals, and as a nation, must do everything in our power to make the violence stop. Please join me in praying for the dead, their families, and all who are touched by gun violence and hate crime.



Almighty and merciful God, whose only Son came to preach peace to the nations: hear us, we beseech You, and comfort us with Your steady Hand, as we come before You this day in the wake of unspeakable violence. In a world that seems hopeless, help us to remember that our hope rests always in You, and in the resurrection of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

In response to the recent shootings and discrimination against Asians, the Rev. Debra Low-Skinner, former Chair of DioCal's Asian/Pacific Islander Commission, created a list of resources to share ways in which everyone can stand in solidarity with the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community to oppose anti-Asian American bias and violence.

1. *A letter issued by Suffragan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Allen Shin, of the Diocese of New York addressing the recent mass shootings in Atlanta.*
 2. *The 1-3/4 recording of the March 18th Zoom on-line weekly briefing to faith leaders by the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) that addressed anti-Asian racial violence.*
 3. *A recent op-ed from the "Seattle Times" that describes the long history of anti-Asian bias and violence, based on misogyny and the sexual-objectification of Asian women.*
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What is a LEM and Where are They Now?

Maura Lane

As a child, I always wondered about the “civilians” who were at the altar after communion. Since they weren’t wearing robes (clergy, choir, altar helpers, verger) I also wondered what they were carrying in the box-like items they received at the altar.

It was not until going through confirmation studies that I finally had a better understanding of the extra people at the altar and their “presents” (the little box-like item). So, a **Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)** is used to denote a lay person who assists **the priest** in administering the sacraments of holy communion, the consecrated bread and wine. They may also take the sacraments to those who are ill, or otherwise unable to attend the service.



If one is not assigned to serve at the altar, he or she may be assigned to come up from the congregation (without vesting) and help administer the chalice. They come up to the altar to be given a communion kit and are commended (prayed over) by the priest and “sent out” by the congregation to those to whom they will bring communion.

How does one get to be LEM? According to Canon III, Ministry, a confirmed adult communicant in good standing (and yes, a mature teen in high school qualifies) may serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM). One is licensed as a Lay Eucharistic Minister after receiving training in how to distribute the bread and the wine, and in the service of Holy Eucharist according to *The Book of Common Prayer*.

At present, the role of the LEM at St. Paul’s has been suspended because of COVID. St. Paul’s is fortunate to have five members of the congregation who serve as LEMs. One of the joys of gathering again will be receiving communion and the return of our LEMs: Liz Hook, George Strait, Annette Blue, Saundra Anderson, and Doug Jensen.

Outreach and Social Justice Ministry

Lane Ceric

Gun violence has plagued Oakland for many years and there has been a spike of gun related deaths in 2021. Lives are lost and lives are destroyed far, far too frequently. The Social Justice ministry at St. Paul's is planning to host a virtual "Gun Summit" this spring, inviting leaders of violence prevention groups to discuss strategies for getting guns off the streets of Oakland. If you're interested in helping organize the "Gun Summit" or if you have other ideas about ending gun violence, please email me at ceric@sbcglobal.net

**Lives are lost and
lives are destroyed
far, far too
frequently.**

Interested in joining the St. Paul's Social Justice team? This group will identify opportunities to engage in ministries serving our community in support of social justice. Any and all are welcome to participate. Together we can change lives. Please email me if you'd like to join the group or if you have ideas for social justice ministries: ceric@sbcglobal.net

His Name Was Pak Ho: Standing up for our Asian American Neighbors

The Sacred Ground Alumni

Irene Plunkett, Alice Brilmayer, Trudy Hsu, and Indira Balkissoon

St. Paul's Church offers its condolences to those experiencing the increasingly pervasive racist and violent acts of hatred towards our Asian American neighbors. The tragic and despicable murders committed in Atlanta are not isolated and are occurring here within our own Diocese of California. We would like to remember Pak Ho, an elderly gentleman, a Senior Market volunteer known to members of our Parish, who, for several years, managed most of the vegetable displays. Mr. Ho



was attacked and fell at the corner of Jayne and Perkins. A sign has been placed honoring him so that he will be remembered as a beloved neighbor and father, and a vigil for him was held there the evening of March 20th. We at St. Paul's need to speak up and condemn these types of sinful, xenophobic, ungodly acts and speak up to confront racism at every turn.

On March 31st, Hella Heart Oakland and the Brotherhood of Elders Network held a virtual event with distinguished scholars and activists discussing the historical context of Black and Asian relations-tensions, solidarity movements, and issues facing us today. Speakers included Michael Omi (UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies, Department, Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies); Jason Seals (Chair Ethnic Studies at Merritt College, Brotherhood of Elders Network); and Alvina Wong (Asian Pacific Environmental Network and Oakland Chinatown Coalition).

To learn more contact Hella Heart Oakland whose mission is to strengthen and improve the health and wellness of the Asian/Asian American women and girls of Oakland at aapip.org or Stop Aapi Hate at stopaapihate.org

Which of these, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"The lawyer said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:36-37

"U.B.E. Started Blessing My Soul at St. Paul's" Karen Ragland

UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS (U.B.E.)



U.B.E.'s mission is to remove racism from the Church and to stimulate the growth of black membership.

In the foreword to the autobiography of The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris, *Hallelujah, Anyhow! A Memoir*, the Rev. Canon Edward Rodman writes, "Some forty-nine years ago I first met Barbara Harris at the formational meeting of the Black Clergy and Laity Organization held at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1968. The Union of the Black Clergy and Laity Organization (UBCL) would become the Union of Black Episcopalians (U.B.E.)."

Despite my status as a 'cradle Episcopalian', christened at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, I first learned of the Union of Black Episcopalians after I moved to Oakland, joined St. Paul's Episcopal Church in November 1991, and attended a Christmas event at nearby St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. A luminary, Vivian Traylor, immediately took me under her U.B.E. wings. I quickly learned that U.B.E.'s initial mission was to remove racism from the Church and society and to stimulate the growth of black membership. As a new transplant, in joining U.B.E. I saw the opportunity to make new acquaintances and expand my network. But it was a door opened to so much more.

The history lessons, the journey with Black clergy and lay leaders, the lessons of church politics and the friendships have been life changing. Even today, 30 years later, we continue to work for greater presence of people of color at all level of decisions of the Church. We make sure that people of color are members of our diocesan Standing Committee, Budget and Finance committees, Commission on Ministry, and Commission on Liturgy and Music. U.B.E. wants to ensure that professors of color are teaching in our seminaries. U.B.E. wants to work towards saving our Black churches on the verge of closing their doors.

My journey continues: I now work as a financial consultant to the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, working with many of the declining churches to re-establish financial recordkeeping; manage investments; apply for Diocesan grants; and restore programs and ministries to keep the doors open. I serve on the Diocesan Budget Committee and I also serve annually as Verger for the Philadelphia Cathedral at the U.B.E.-sponsored Celebration of the Blessed Rev. Absalom Jones Day. Thank you, St. Paul's and Vivian Traylor!

For more about the current U.B.E. Mission & Vision, go to <https://www.ube.org/Who%20We%20Are/mission%20vision.html>



The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris (1930-2020) was the first woman ordained bishop in the Episcopal Church.

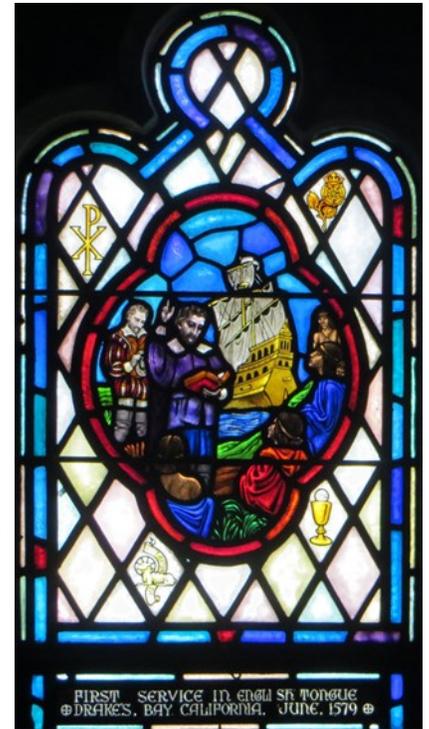
The Windows of St. Paul's Robert Knapp

The Chapel of the Pacific Sir Francis Drake

In June 1579, Sir Francis Drake with his chaplain, Francis Fletcher, sailed the *Golden Hinde* into what came to be known as Drake's Bay in Marin County. This window illustrates the first service in English on the West Coast using *The Book of Common Prayer*. The chaplain's journal states that Drake, in the presence of the local Indians, with his hands raised to heaven, prayed, "beseeking God if it were his good pleasure to open by some means their blinded eyes; that they might in due time be called to the knowledge of him the true and everlasting God, and of Jesus Christ whom he hath sent, the salvation of Gentiles."



Sir Francis among the Indians
(Théodor deBry, *Historia Americae*, 1599
[Bancroft Library])



A broader look at Drake reveals a more complicated picture than the one provided by our window. He was a man of his times. His heroism against the Spanish Armada (1588) saved England from Catholic Spain's domination and with it the possible obliteration of Anglicanism. His circumnavigation of the world (1577-1580) was a spectacular achievement. On the other hand, early in his life, he was active in the African slave trade. In war, he was a merciless victor who slaughtered his defeated foes. His claim for England to New Albion, as he named our area of the West Coast, came not from a desire to convert natives, but only sought to deprive hated Spain of New World territory. But, Drake's interaction with the native Miwoks of California does seem from his journals to have been peaceful, which differs from the way many English and other Europeans treated New World natives. Of course, we don't have the Miwoks' view of the encounter.

In the quatrefoil, Drake holds *The Book of Common Prayer* in the presence of Native Americans and his own men. Clockwise from upper right are: a crowned Tudor rose symbolizing Drake's Tudor monarch, Elizabeth I; a host embossed with IHS, the first three letters of the Greek word, Jesus (Ἰησοῦς), and chalice; an image of the Lamb of God with halo and banner announcing *Ecce agnus Dei* ("Behold the Lamb of God"); a XP (chi rho) symbol, the first two letters of the Greek word, Christ (χριστός). The text on the glass reads, "First worship service in English tongue Drakes Bay. California, June 1579." Although Drake and his men are dressed appropriately for their time and his ship, the *Golden Hinde*, is well illustrated, the Native Americans are dressed in colorful, but unhistorical, garments.

The Cummings Studio of San Francisco created this window in 1942. It is dedicated to Edward Mercer Huie (1871-1910) and his wife, Elizabeth Hernster Huie (1876-1941). Nothing more is known of this couple. Previously, in 1939, lights and lanterns in the chapel and a silver baptismal bowl were dedicated as memorials to Edward.

From the Editors

This month, we share with you the vision, values, and mission of St. Paul's:

Our Vision

St. Paul's dares to be an open embracing community; discovering, celebrating, and sharing the Love of Christ.

Our Values

St. Paul's is Joyfully Christ-Centered.

We value growth on our spiritual journey as members of the Body of Christ.

We value our Anglican heritage as an authentic, evolving tradition.

We value loving, compassionate service.

We value gratitude and generosity as stewards of all God's gifts.

We value everyone and welcome all to find a place to belong in the worship, fellowship and ministry of this parish.

Our Mission

St. Paul's invites you to a spiritual journey:

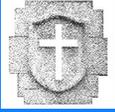
to love God and your neighbors near and far;

to worship, pray and serve joyfully in our community;

to strive to become more Christ-like in living out the promises of our baptism that all may know Christ's healing love.

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



St. Paul's

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Dear Readers:

In an effort to reduce paper waste and printing/ mailing expenses, we are asking anyone who gets the online version of The Good News and no longer needs a paper version mailed to his or her home to let us know. If you do not 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



From the Front Page

Rector's message

one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

We too are living in a time such as this, when the call to be a people of hope, a people who preach of God's grace and the resurrected Jesus, does not seem to have the power for us to overcome this season in which the incredible number of people who have died, is coupled with the many instances of violence and discord locally and around the world.

The message of the empty tomb serves as an essential component of the ministry we are called to exercise in our world today. As the angel says to the women: *Why do you look for the living among the dead? Luke 24:5.* Our call as God's people in the world today is to remember and remind others of the power of God lifting us above the powers of sin and death. Inviting people to move away from a walk of fear and hopelessness to feel the burning presence of the Holy Spirit within us. No plague, pestilence, or famine is more powerful than the one who died on the cross and now lives. We must be diligent in our spiritual practice so that we may know of Christ's presence with us always.



While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."
Mark 24:36