



THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Volume 15, Issue 4
July-August 2021

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Why I Pledge Katie Lauter



Friends, it has been a long year apart, and I am grateful to have had our church community through it all. I was invited to join the stewardship committee this year, and I am excited to be part of this thoughtful, caring group. While we won't be pledging until later this fall, I urge you to start thinking about it! I would like to take the space here to tell you why I pledge.

My husband, Digger, and I first came to the church in 2017, and as soon as Father Mauricio finished his sermon, I knew it was the place for us. What a joy to have found such a welcoming community! Our son, Wesley, was baptized in June 2019, and wow, I was so proud to have our family and friends arrive at a church with a Pride flag flying, and then to have that welcome mirrored on the inside through the congregation was wonderful. This past year, I was especially grateful for Father Mauricio's words that helped me through some aw-

[Continued on last page](#)

Life in the Spirit Anne Jensen



Usually this time of year I write about how summer is a time when things slow down and we can take time for rest and reflection.

Longer summer days, warmer weather and vacations open up the possibility of more time to relax and reflect. The last 18 months have turned everything upside down. Now that the infection rate of illness from COVID-19 has dropped significantly, the pace of life has stepped up. People are starting to go back to work in person, restaurants are open for inside dining, and parties are happening! While it's wonderful to gather with friends without needing to be masked, we can't ignore the effects of illness and isolation as well as the social shifts and violence we experienced during the pandemic. Spiritual growth occurs when we take the time to honor the fullness of our experience, including the painful parts. 2020 and half of 2021 have tried our spirits. Fear raised its ugly head, and fear's first cousin, anxiety, was close at hand. Police

[Continued on last page](#)

Senior Warden Report

Sharon Pilmer

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

THE

2021 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio
Wilson, Rector

Senior Warden
Sharon Pilmer

Junior Warden
Will Cowart Jr.
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
Brian Stanky
Maura Lane

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

2020

Delegates
Melanie Blake

Tom McGarrell

Alternates

Jeanette Dinwiddie-
Moore
-vacancy-

A story is told that during the bombing of a city in World War II, a large statue of Jesus Christ was severely damaged. When the townspeople found the statue among the rubble, they mourned because it had been a beloved symbol of their faith and of God's presence in their lives.

Experts were able to repair most of the statue, but its hands had been damaged so severely that they could not be restored. Some suggested that they hire a sculptor to make new hands, but others wanted to leave it as it was—a permanent reminder of the tragedy of war. Ultimately, the statue remained without hands. However, the people of the city added on the base of the statue of Jesus Christ a sign with these words: "You are my hands."

We have weathered a terrible pandemic. We have adapted. We are resilient. And yet, there is work to do. Many of our existing ministries will need new hands. Some new ministries will emerge out of the pandemic isolation—specifically people willing to run our new audiovisual system when it is up and running. Some things require specific skills, many others don't. Some ministries require regular time commitments; many don't. What I know for sure is that we will need many hands to live into the community God has called us to be. Look for more specific information on how you can get involved over the next few months.

As we begin to regather, I ask you to reflect: how are you Christ's hands in our community?

Diocese of California creates and celebrates Juneteenth feast day

Episcopal News Service, Faith IN.FORM.ED, and Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore

Juneteenth is recognized by most states as a secular holiday and celebrated in many American communities on June 19. In 2021, it became a national holiday. This year, the Diocese of California took its Juneteenth commemorations a step further with its inaugural feast day worship service for the holiday, which celebrates the emancipation of American slaves.

The diocese added Juneteenth to its calendar of feasts by a vote of its convention in October 2020. The resolution that accompanied it asked congregations to celebrate June 19th as a diocesan feast day, create a liturgy, work towards getting Juneteenth recognized in Lesser Feasts and Fasts for the Episcopal Church, and encourage the state of California to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday. The diocese has already acted on many parts of this. Members of the regional chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians worked with the diocese's Afro-Anglican Commission to develop the Juneteenth liturgy for a service at Grace Cathedral on June 19th. The diocese also will propose adding the feast day to the churchwide calendar when the 80th General Convention meets next year.

Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore has sent along a link to the George Floyd Litany

<https://vimeo.com/554838700>.

What I Learned in Sacred Ground

Alice Brilmayer

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

Jesus did not say that members of the dominant religion would inherit the earth or that societies with the most advanced technology or fire power had the right to subjugate others. Yet, it seems that’s how the spread of Christianity throughout the world unfolded.

In our discussions with the Sacred Ground program, we learned about a Papal Bull “Inter Caetera,” issued by Pope Alexander VI on May 4, 1493, which put forth a Doctrine of Discovery. The Bull decreed “the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and be everywhere increased and spread, that the health of souls be cared for and that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself.”



Through this Bull, the pope gave the stamp of approval to all sorts of exploitation. Europeans had permission to take native lands and exterminate native cultures. Indeed, under this doctrine, converting heathens was considered God’s work. Native people were murdered and enslaved, with racial hatred continuing into the present day. Right up until the 1960’s, children were taken away from their parents in the name of bringing them into white society.

It appears some people will take advantage of others for their own enrichment and/or quest for power, and they’ll look for socially acceptable explanations to justify their greed and cruelty. When the church held great power in Europe, this was often accomplished through corrupt use of religion.

I’d noticed the same pattern of rationalization in science. As we entered an age where science guided our understanding of the physical world, the explanations became more “scientific” and less religious in nature. Bogus science supplanted bogus religion.

One of the most pernicious and stubborn of these theories holds that people of recent African heritage are genetically inferior due to their IQ, a measure that has accumulated its own racist history. Every few decades, a new set of researchers rediscovers this “truth.” There never has been any data or logic to support this theory, but it’s convenient for systems invested in maintaining the status quo, so it persists.

How we should treat each other is a moral question, not a scientific one, but it can be informed by faith. First, we should be aware of our biases so we don’t act on them. Then, we should respect all people and cultures as equally human to our own. Once we’ve accomplished that, we can strive for truth and reconciliation and the true meaning of scripture.

Read more about Sacred Ground at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>. Interested in participating in a group? Email Anne Jensen: annehj@aol.com

July-August Worship Schedule

The times they keep a-changin'!

All services will be live-streamed on the Church's Facebook page and can be viewed later on YouTube. For details go to: <https://www.stpaulsoakland.org/streamed-services.html>.

Reopening

We are on track to reopen on Sept 12, and will be working over the summer to tie up a few loose ends

You will need a reservation to attend in-person services. Folks on the Parish e-mail list will receive an invitation the Tuesday before the Sunday service. Missed the invitation? Go to the [Church website](#) beginning Wednesday morning and follow the directions there.

Sunday, July 4

8am, Holy Eucharist, streamed

10am, Choral Eucharist, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

Wednesday, July 7

12:10pm, Noonday Prayer, streamed

Sunday, July 11

8am, Morning Prayer, streamed

10am, Sung Matins, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

Wednesday, July 14

12:10pm, Noonday Prayer, streamed

Sunday, July 18

8am, Morning Prayer, streamed

10am, Sung Matins, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

Wednesday, July 21

12:10pm, Noonday Prayer, streamed

Sunday, July 25

8am, Morning Prayer, streamed

10am, Sung Matins, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

8pm, Compline, streamed

Wednesday, July 28

12:10pm, Noonday Prayer, streamed

Sunday, August 1

8am, Holy Eucharist, streamed

10am, Choral Eucharist, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

Wednesday, August 4

12:10pm, Noonday Prayer, streamed

Sunday, August 8

8am, Morning Prayer, streamed

10am, Sung Matins, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

Wednesday, August 11

12:10pm, Noonday Prayer, streamed

Sunday, August 15

8am, Morning Prayer, streamed

10am, Sung Matins, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

Wednesday, August 18

12:10pm, Noonday Prayer, streamed

Sunday, August 22

8am, Morning Prayer, streamed

10am, Sung Matins, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

8pm, Compline, streamed

Wednesday, August 25

12:10pm, Noonday Prayer, streamed

Sunday, August 29

8am, Morning Prayer, streamed

10am, Sung Matins, in-person in the courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

Wednesday, September 1

12:10pm, Holy Eucharist, streamed

Sunday, September 5

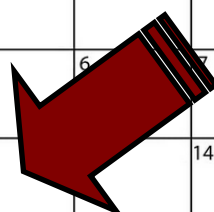
8am, Holy Eucharist, streamed

10am, Choral Eucharist, in-person in courtyard (by reservation), and streamed

Wednesday, September 8

12:10pm, Holy Eucharist, streamed

SEPTEMBER 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12		14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



the

Sunday, September 12

Treasurer's Report

Ann Gregory

At our recent Vestry meeting we reviewed financials through May 31, 2021. As you'll see below, we are seeing lower-than-budgeted revenue and higher-than-budgeted expenses in a few areas.

	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget
Revenue	\$112,041	\$126,828
Expense	\$187,743	\$179,037
Net Income	\$(75,702)	\$(52,209)



REVENUE DYNAMICS:

Pledges and plate down by \$6.3K. This revenue has been “lumpier” (i.e., up and down month to month) than we’d expect or hope.

Investment income off by \$6.6K (timing issue)

Space use down slightly, ~\$1K

As always, I’m available for your questions or comments at goggins.gregory@gmail.com

EXPENSE DYNAMICS:

Personnel over budget by ~\$3K driven by how Chaplaincy Services (that the church provides to the school) are accounted for.

Maintenance and repairs ~\$3K above budget driven by elevator repair and A/V repairs.

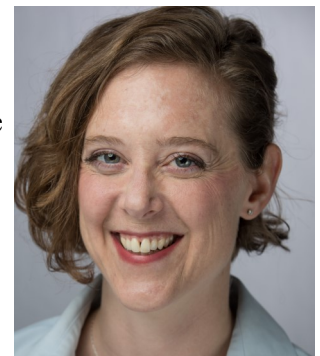
Administrative expense over by ~\$3K. This was almost entirely due to a large billing error for telephone services that is being addressed in future bills.

On the balance sheet side, our investment portfolio continues to perform well.

Meet Your Deanery Rep & Diocesan Delegate, Melanie Blake Carolyn Knapp

The parishes in the Alameda Deanery will be asking what they can do together to create a different and better community, according to Melanie Blake, who thinks that the pandemic caused many people and many organizations to reassess their lives and their society. She’s optimistic that the Deanery’s focus on looking after the needs of different parishes can improve equity throughout the Diocese, a way to “seek and serve Christ in all people,” as Father Wilson frequently puts it.

Melanie grew up in a Roman Catholic home and was part of a church music group in her teens. It was the diverse musical tradition of the Episcopal Church -- and her now-husband, Ben Clausen, a St. Paul’s Choir member -- that drew her to St. Paul’s. She moved to Oakland from San Francisco in 2016 and became a Deanery Representative in 2019, where she’s begun to understand how St. Paul’s and the work it does fits into the Diocese as a whole.



For the past year and more she has been running virtual events for her literary travel company, Classical Pursuits (<https://www.classicalpursuits.com/>) and she is eager to get back to in-person activities. Melanie looks forward to a refreshing of community spirit in the Diocese after many months of Zoom meetings and muted interaction. You can reach her at melanieb50@gmail.com.

Adult Faith Formation

Anne Jensen

Summer is planning time for churches. At St. Paul's, we are thinking about fall programming. We will be offering *Sacred Ground* again this year. The people who participated in this program all agreed that it was worth the time and effort. We especially valued reading *Children of the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman, getting to know one another, and honest discussions of the films and readings. Here's the official description:

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

Please contact the Rev. Anne Jensen if you are interested. (Annehj@aol.com)

We are also offering another program from the national church. *The Way of Love* focuses on how to live as a follower of Jesus and is also part of *Becoming the Beloved Community*. For more information, click here: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/way_of_love_introduction.pdf

Some people have asked about the national program for Black people, *Healing Internalized Oppression*. This program is not available on the parish level and is offered by the office of Black Ministries as a workshop. This course is open to all Black Episcopalians. To learn more click here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/black-ministries/healing-internalized-oppression/>.

People have also asked about having a book group. We haven't had one in several years. If people are interested in creating a reading group, please contact the Rev. Anne Jensen at annehj@aol.com.

Life-long learning is part of our journey in faith. If you have an area of church life, tradition, history, ethics or any other field connected to our faith, let us know of your interest.

Diocesan Ecotracker

Interested in what the Church is doing about stewardship of the earth?

Check out <https://www.sustainislandhome.org/>

Report from the A/V Committee

Richard and Vicki Larson

The St. Paul's Audio Visual Committee continues its work of improving the quality and reliability of streaming on-line church services and events and improving microphones and speakers for in-person services and events. A new AV system would include new internet service, new control equipment, new microphones, and remote-controlled cameras.

Having identified major goals for such a system, hired an expert in the field, and found a vendor, the committee is now working out the specifics of scope, costs, schedule, etc., for recommendation to the Vestry.

The Vestry is currently looking for parish members who would like to be trained on the operations of the new (eventual) system, to work the control board or set up online streaming. Our consultants have assured us that this will be relatively simple and straightforward, and would not require prior experience.

The St. Paul's AV Committee is: Bill Davis, Erica Terry-Derrick, Richard & Vicki Larson (co-chairs), Kent Lewandowski, Robert Knapp, John Prescott, and George Strait.

For questions, please contact Richard Larson: rla.designoffice@gmail.com.

Families and Children

Sergio Prieto

Greetings St. Paul's Family,

Hoping everyone is staying safe and beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

We are excited to announce that St. Paul's is looking for a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. This position will spearhead activities and ministry for our youngest congregants. This role will work with volunteers on FaithQuest and help engage our tweens and teens. This is such an important role and we can't wait to see it filled! If you know of anyone that would be perfect for this position, please direct them to

https://www.stpaulsoakland.org/uploads/8/9/7/2/89723977/21-07_youth_childrens_ministries_job_description.pdf

As we continue to look forward to the safe re-opening and in-person worship in September, Youth and Family ministry is thinking of ways to stay connected, engage our children and offer support during the summer months. Suggestions are welcome so please reach out to me directly with ideas at sergio_j_prieto@yahoo.com. Thank you all for your support and I look forward to seeing you and your children in person!



Loaves and Fishes: Feeding our Family

The personal experience of Alice Brilmayer



Recently, I was blessed to act as a test case for a new ministry at St. Paul's. Loaves and Fishes, started and run by Katie Lauter, offered volunteers the opportunity to make sure I was fed after my hip replacement therapy. I had folks with me for the first week after surgery, but I needed help for the second week.

All kinds of people signed up. I can't mention all the great food I got, but it included mushrooms and chicken in cream sauce, real baked macaroni and cheese, Asian tofu and eggplant, and a spicy curry I finished the second day over leftover fried potatoes (sounds weird, but it was delicious).

On top of all the yumminess, I had visits from so many people in my St. Paul's family. Especially with the pandemic, I'd seen so few of y'all in person, and your smiles brightened my days. No hugs this time, but that could

change in the future.

If you're dealing with an illness or other problem that makes cooking difficult, let Katie know, and she'll make sure you get fed. If you see a call for volunteers, sign up. The process is very simple, and you can order food delivered if you don't have time to cook. You'll be glad you did. If you are interested, here are the ways you can help:

1. **Cook** a meal at home and deliver it to the parishioner requesting meals.
2. **Buy a pre-made meal** and have it delivered—or deliver it yourself.
3. Be a **delivery person** between the two homes.

There is no specific commitment for you to join (we certainly don't expect you to be able to participate for every call for meals). If you are interested or would like more information, please email katie.a.lauter@gmail.com with "LOAVES & FISHES" in the subject line.



Life-long learning is part of our journey in faith. If you have an area of church life, tradition, history, ethics or any other field connected to our faith, let us know of your interest.

The Windows of St. Paul's

Robert Knapp

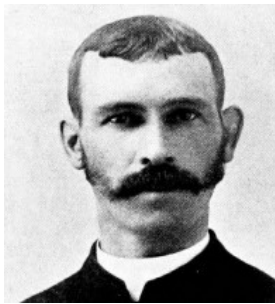
The Chapel of the Pacific

Founding the Diocese of Alaska



Anvik Episcopal Church

ministered to the needs of the Inuit people for 18 years. Later came a woman teacher, a woman doctor, and **Peter Trimble Rowe** as the first Missionary Bishop of Alaska. In 1895,



Bishop Rowe

The first Episcopal missionary, the Rev. Octavius Parker, arrived in Alaska in 1886. Next year he was joined by Rev. John W. Chapman. The two clergy founded and helped to build Christ Church, Anvik on the lower Yukon River in western Alaska. The Episcopal Church also sent a missionary, Dr. John Driggs, to Port Hope on the Arctic Coast where he

Rowe travelled through the Yukon country and focused on the needs of the miners in gold rush towns as well as native peoples being ravaged by White man's diseases. He always maintained a deep concern for the welfare of native peoples. Rowe founded hospitals throughout the

Alaska Territory as well as boarding schools for orphaned Native children. I have been unable to find anything about orphanages or if these or other Episcopal schools in Alaska participated in the common practice of seizing Native children and sending of them to assimilationist boarding schools away

from their communities. Rowe remained bishop for 47 years.

In the window's quatrefoil, Bishop Peter Rowe sits with his arms around an Inuit and another Native American. To the right, a woman doctor helps a Native American. To the left a female teacher leads two Inuit children, and a man prepares a log for a log cabin. Above Rowe's head is St. Mark's Episcopal Church Nenana, one of the first four mission churches established in Alaska, surrounded by the Northern Lights. Clockwise from the top are: seal of the Diocese of Alaska; igloo; totem pole; elk; and a boat that represents the Pelican--an early gift from children's Lenten offerings to Bishop Rowe for his summer visitations along Alaskan waterways.

At the bottom of the window is the text, *Peter Trimble Rowe, First Missionary Bishop of Alaska, 1895-1942*. Below that, the text on the plaque reads: *In loving memory of Ambrose Morton Beebe, 1872-1940 faithful vestryman and usher*. Bishop Peter Trimble Rowe died in June 1942. Ambrose Morton Beebe was a resident of Piedmont. The Cummings Studio, San Francisco, created the window in about 1942.





St. Paul's

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Currently, the newsletter is
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have access to the electronic
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4314, Ext. 501 or [ad-
min@stpaulsoakland.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsoakland.org)
She will make a hardcopy
and send it.***

From the Front Page Life in the Spirit

brutality resulting in the death of Black men and women has pierced our souls. I believe God knows our souls and hears our cries. I also believe that we can grow from these experiences. God redeems our pain when we can learn from them and grow. If we can acknowledge our own fear, anxiety, anger, and frustration, we can harness the energy behind those feelings, developing compassion or working toward justice. If these feelings have moved us to seek comfort and strength in prayer and worship, we grow in faith. If our response to injustice moves us to educate ourselves in the social issues that plague us, we can work to create a more just world. Then we will be doing the work Jesus calls us to.

It would be a great mistake to simply say all that we experienced during these last 18 months is behind us and we're going to return to the way things were. Spiritual growth, like any other kind of growth, takes time. The most important step is the first one we take.

Why I pledge

ful and difficult times in our country. Finally, I was able to participate in this year's Lenten series on race which was incredible and deeply enriching—I cannot stress enough what a blessing that group was to me.

For all of these things and many more, I am so grateful to be part of St. Paul's community, and so I pledge my money to the church to help the work continue *and* to grow.

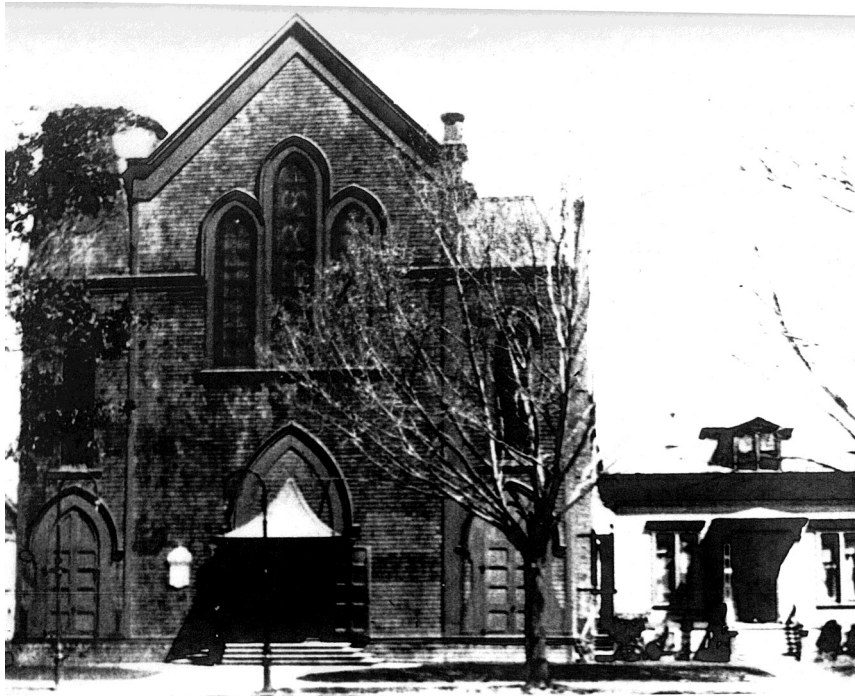
What does our church community mean to you? I will leave you with the church vision, and the feeling it brings me is that I want to see more of this in the world, and it needs our support to help it flourish:

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

From the Editors:

Watch for news on these fronts in September!

Vestry Report
Junior Warden's Report
Local Music Events
Vestry Representative to St. Paul's School
Social Justice



St. Paul's is 150 years young in 2021. This is the original 1871 building, the re-purposed chapel of the College of California, 14th and Harrison, downtown Oakland. The rectory is on the right.

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
