



THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Volume 15, Issue 5
September 2021

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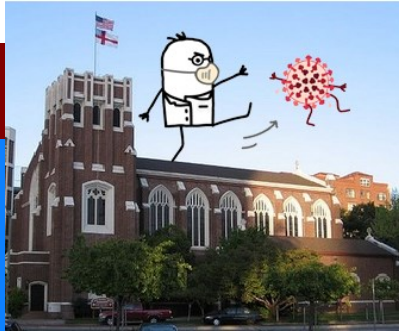
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WE ARE BACK! 12 September 2021 THE GREAT INDOOR REGATHERING

On September 12, we will resume indoor worship for the first time in 18 months. We look forward to this milestone, long in coming, with a mix of joyful anticipation and some trepidation as the Delta variant of the Coronavirus continues to make its presence known in our community, country and world. As your leaders, we want to do everything we can to ensure your safety while we welcome all those who seek us. We are excited to see you in person!

As we return to in-person worship, many things will be familiar, but there will be some changes. We ask for your grace and kindness as we navigate these waters together.

What we are doing to keep you safe

Requiring masks for everyone age 2 and older.

Requiring all eligible participants to be fully vaccinated at a date to be determined soon.

Enforcing physical distancing by roping off every other pew and limiting attendance to 75 participants initially (i.e., 25% capacity; an average pre-pandemic congregation was 75-100).

Enhancing ventilation and air cleaning by keeping doors and windows open, using the blower to bring in fresh air, and using 8 large capacity HEPA air purifiers in the church and smaller devices in all other shared spaces.

Making surfaces and hands extra clean through cleaning protocols for the church; hand sanitizer dispensers are stationed throughout the building, and touchless devices for paper towels and soap are in bathrooms.

What you need to do

GET VACCINATED if you are eligible and haven't already done so. The Vestry, at a meeting on August 25, was UNANIMOUS in support of requiring proof of vaccination as recommended by the diocesan leadership.

INVEST in and WEAR good quality face coverings

Make a reservation if you want to attend the indoor service, as this speeds up entry and allows us to manage capacity in the building and to contact you for public health reasons if necessary.

STAY HOME if you have tested positive for COVID, if you feel unwell, if other family members are unwell, if you have had an exposure to COVID, are in quarantine, or are waiting for the results of a COVID test.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the thinking behind requiring vaccina-

[Continued on last page](#)

Everyday Spirituality

The Rev. Anne Jensen

Do you ever feel like life gets in the way of the spiritual life you wish you had? Maybe you have visions of being able to find a quiet place away from interruption where you can take a deep breath, rest in God's presence, read poetry, immerse yourself in music, and feel as if you are completely open to the movement of the Holy Spirit within you.

I think that's a lovely vision, and at some level I wish I could find the discipline to make it my regular practice. The truth is I don't. Tasks abound and truthfully, I can be rather task-oriented. There's laundry to do, a garden that needs tending, an extended family that I love and care for, a calling I'm blessed to have, and a desire to keep up with current events, get exercise, and read works of professional interest as well as for pleasure. There's just not enough time in the day!



I'm sure most people have a similar list of what takes up their day-to-day lives. How then, might we find openings within those tasks that will feed our souls? There's always singing in the shower, where you sound great and no one else can hear you. The doxology is an easy song of praise. I like singing the Jubilate in the morning as I ready. Pick your favorite—"All things bright and beautiful," "I sing a song of the saints of God," "Be thou my vision." We have a very long list to choose from.

The church has a wonderful saying, *Ubi caritas, deus ibi est*. "Where there is love, God is there." Love takes many forms—caring for the needs of a family, compassion for those who suffer, and joy shared with others are all examples. Recently I gave my granddaughter a chapter book by Louise Erdrich, a favorite author of mine who also writes stories for older school children. My granddaughter has dyslexia and finds reading hard. She looked at the book for a few minutes and then asked, "When we were going to pick up Nora?" We still had an hour in front of us, so I asked her if she would like me to read the book to her. "Yes!" she replied with enthusiasm that surprised me. We really got into the adventure of a sister and brother who find their canoe caught in the rapids and who almost careen over the falls. That shared hour of story was a pure gift of found time and shared experience, a graced time. When I asked her if she would like to take the book with her, her emphatic "Yes!" was music to my ears and to my heart. It was even better than making brownies together. *Ubi caritas, deus ibi est*.

You may find yourself noticing with pleasure the mystery of growth in a child or in the beauty of a flower, a work of art, or a walk along a mountain path. Wonder, awe and gratitude are gateways to the holy. At that moment you are in the realm of the Spirit.

September Worship Schedule

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>
 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.

Wednesday, September 1
 12:00pm
 Holy Eucharist (streamed)

Sunday, September 5
 8:00am
 Holy Eucharist (streamed)
 10:00am
 Choral Eucharist with hymns, in-person
 (by reservation) & streamed

Wednesday, September 8
 12:00pm
 Holy Eucharist (streamed)

Sunday, September 12
 8:00am
 Holy Eucharist, in-person (by reservation)
 & streamed
 10:00am
 Choral Eucharist, in-person (by reservation)
 & streamed

Wednesday, September 15
 12:00pm
 Holy Eucharist (streamed)

Sunday, September 19
 8:00am
 Holy Eucharist, in-person (by reservation) &
 streamed
 10:00am
 Choral Eucharist, in-person (by reservation)
 & streamed

Wednesday, September 22
 12:00pm
 Holy Eucharist (streamed)

Sunday, September 26
 8:00am
 Holy Eucharist, in-person (by reservation) &
 streamed
 10:00am
 Choral Eucharist, in-person (by reservation) &
 streamed
 8:00pm
 Compline, streamed

Wednesday, September 29
 12:00pm
 Holy Eucharist (streamed)

From the Senior Warden Sharon Pilmer

The St. Paul's Community Covenant

About a year ago, when we were 6 months into the pandemic, the regathering team began to work on some communication strategies as we anticipated re-entering the building Advent 1 of 2020. That didn't happen, as you know. Nevertheless, the concept of the Community Covenant was born (thanks to Carolyn Knapp) and turned into the signage which now graces our entry for outdoor -- and soon to be indoor -- worship. A covenant, an agreement between parties, has both contemporary and biblical meanings. In the biblical sense, a covenant involves a strong, solemn agreement between parties. Covenants may make two into one—a change in relationship. They may involve promises: promises not to harm one another, or promises to protect each other.



Our regathering team was intentional about the choice of language. We are bound together as Christ's body of St. Paul's Oakland, and make a promise to each other to keep each other safe by agreeing to a set of behaviors around the pandemic. The original covenant consisted of four behaviors:

Mask wearing

Staying home if not feeling well or if potentially exposed to COVID

Maintaining physical separation

Hand hygiene

We are now into our fourth wave of COVID infections, now with a variant that is much more infectious, that is causing a surge in cases locally and straining health care systems in some parts of the country. We also have at our disposal another behavior that will reduce transmission risk and prevent most serious illness and death: vaccines. The available vaccines have been shown to be safe and effective, and one (Pfizer) was granted full approval (not emergency use) by the FDA this week.

About two weeks ago, our diocese made the strong recommendation that we require proof of full vaccination to participate in any indoor worship activities. We have seen more and more businesses issue mandates for the same. After careful consideration, the rector and vestry came to the unanimous decision to adopt this practice for individuals over the age of 12 who are eligible for the vaccine. **So our covenant has added a fifth behavior: getting vaccinated.**



We recognize that this will be uncomfortable for some. We also recognize that this action may create tension with our desire to be welcoming to all. We are working hard to make sure that other options are available to those who prefer not to receive the vaccine (on-line worship and other on-line activities, as well as outdoor options). If you are unvaccinated we encourage you to speak with your medical provider if you have questions about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

Get Connected!

Sharon Pilmer

One of the many challenges of the last 18 months has been staying connected and fostering a sense of community. We all got proficient at Zoom, and used it for coffee hour, happy hour (thanks Pam and Scott Buckingham and Alice Brilmayer), vestry meetings, the Lenten series, town halls and even worship. Robert and Carolyn Knapp stepped up to the plate to produce a great newsletter every month.

Even with this, though, it has been difficult, and many of us are feeling a sense of loneliness and isolation. As we move back into the building and worshipping together, the vestry would like to invite you to outdoor informal gatherings in the courtyard after church on Sunday mornings at 11:30. These will be informal, socially distanced, masked check-ins, with chairs, shade and good conversation. Bring your own coffee thermos! For those not comfortable with the in-person route, some Zoom groups will be set up as well.

Families and Children

Sergio Prieto

Greetings St. Paul's Families! I am wishing everyone a healthy and safe return to in-person learning!!!! While there are still many unknowns as we navigate this pandemic, the return to in-person learning has brought a small ray of light to many. As we begin to prepare to welcome back our congregation to in-person worship, there have been many discussions held as well as prayers on how best to navigate the return for our youngest congregants.

In my opinion one of the most precious gifts of our parish comes in the form of our youngest members, ages 0-3. Remembering the joy and abundance of love we felt whenever we celebrated the birth of a new life fills my heart. With the re-opening of St. Paul's and the return to in-person worship we have had to think of how to protect our most vulnerable. Our temporary solution is to limit the use of Mustard Seeds to short visits to re-group or support in calming a baby. For those needing to use the restroom, we will encourage the use of the restroom located in the Priest's sacristy. This will help limit the traffic in the Mustard Seeds space. Below is a list of the Guidelines when using Mustard Seeds, these guidelines will be in place until further notice.

- Mustard Seeds is limited to use by one family at a time
- Please use this space for quiet time and re-grouping
- This space is currently not intended for long term use
- Please wipe down surfaces before exiting the space
- Please ensure that the air purifier is on and in use

FaithQuest our volunteer run, on-site Sunday school will continue its hiatus until there is a better handle on the virus and its variants and a more robust collection of parent volunteers. If you are interested in participating or would like to suggest a virtual gathering for our youth, please reach out to me at sergio_j_prieto@yahoo.com I would love to hear from you.

St. Paul's is still actively seeking to fill the position Director of Youth and Family Ministries. If you know of the perfect candidate, please do not hesitate to reach out. Here is the link for additional information: https://www.stpaulsoakland.org/uploads/8/9/7/2/89723977/21-07_youth__childrens_ministries_job_description.pdf

Adult Faith Formation

Anne Jensen

Summer is planning time for churches. At St. Paul's we have been 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](#):

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](#)

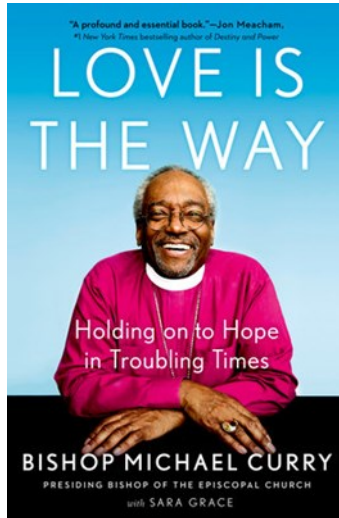
People have also asked about having a book group. We haven't had one in several years. One book we might read together is *Love is the Way* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. If people are interested in creating a reading group, please contact the Rev. Anne Jensen at annehj@aol.com. Life-long learning 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.

[Editor's note: Irene Plunkett, one of our parishioners, offers a review of *Love is the Way* on the next page of this newsletter.]

Book Review

Irene Plunkett

Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, with Sara Grace



Bishop Curry is now well-known, even to those outside the Episcopal tradition, partly because of his presiding at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

This book manages to cover a great deal of ground in its 264 pages. Curry (and Grace) blend the biographical information from his life with his theology and world events in a way that makes this narrative compelling, informative, and interesting.

In many ways, this book reads like a spiritual autobiography: with the advantage of age, Curry relates the details of his growing up, his youth marred by severe illness and finally the death of his beloved mother while he was still a child. At the same time, he is careful to point out the moments of grace and generosity his community offered him, especially in the person of Josie Robbins, a family friend who showed up for years to care for him and his siblings. This spirit of gratitude informs his perspective and his developing theology throughout.

Along the way, Bishop Curry offers insight into the racial conflicts of the U.S. as well as the agonizing that characterized the Episcopal Church coming to terms with issues of gender equality, especially LGBTQ+ rights (and rites).

For those parishioners who took part in the Sacred Ground series recently—and those who are considering it as well—the section on his participation in the Standing Rock demonstration—is especially heartening. In his participation in that protest, including his acknowledgment of MNI WICONI. WATER IS LIFE, he shares his realization: “Racial reconciliation and care of creation aren’t distinct at all. They are part of the same issue.” He continues by noting that environmental degradation harms not only indigenous communities, but many communities marred by racism and poverty, like those of Flint, Michigan.

Throughout, Curry notes that love is not only a process to be followed, but a feeling to be gained. As he says, “The way of love is a commitment to seeking the good and well-being of others. ... In fact, if we all made the commitment—to loving beyond our nationality, our ethnicity, our politics, our religion, or any other difference—we and the earth itself would be blessed.”

[Editor’s note: we may have a reading group to discuss this book. See Anne Jensen’s article on the previous page of this newsletter]

Social Justice Update

Sharon Pilmer

Social justice work is thriving at St. Paul's as the Vestry looks for a liaison to replace Lane Ceric. The food pantry has continued to serve 60-70 clients out of the church twice monthly with a committed group of volunteers. In August, we collected over \$1100 toward 60 bags of basic back-to school supplies for needy students. Anne Jensen and Jeanette Dinwiddie Moore assembled bags in the courtyard.



Sorting and bagging food



Anne Jensen and Jeanette Dinwiddie Moore assemble some backpacks

A/V Project Update

Richard & Vicki Larson, co-chairs

The A/V Committee is continuing its work to research, and then make recommendations for, long-term options that can provide consistent and improved on-line streaming of church services. The parish currently uses an iPhone connected to 5G, which has proven unreliable. Therefore our committee also is looking at ways to achieve a wired-internet connection (possibly to be shared with St. Paul's Episcopal School) to stream services for those who cannot attend in person. In addition, our committee has recently prepared a step-by-step instructions guide to assist the set-up and operation of an iPhone, for filming/recording services (for use until an improved system is in place). If interested, contact Richard rla.designoffice@gmail.com

INSIDE ST. PAUL'S

A REOPENING PREVIEW

EVENSONG INSIDE

31 JULY 2021



Building on Sacred Ground Immigration and Refugee Rights in Today's World



Members from the [Church of the Resurrection, Pleasant Hill](#), inspired by their participation in the [Sacred Ground curriculum circles](#), are planning four programs to address various subjects about race in America with the support of the Faith Formation Working Group. The first program is set for Saturday, September 25 at 10 a.m. and will address Immigration and Refugee Rights in Today's World with an emphasis on how it affects the Bay Area. The panelists for this presentation are Emily Arnold Fernandez, the executive director of [Asylum Access](#), a local Bay Area non-profit that addresses refuge rights; Niloufar Khonsari, a co-director of [Pangea Legal Services](#), a non-profit that addresses the rights of immigrants; and Harris Mojadedi of the [Afghan Coalition](#), also a non-profit, which addresses immigration issues for Afghans in the Bay Area. Whether you are already involved in immigration ministries or are just learning about this work, all are welcome to attend and learn about ways to be involved. [Register here](#) for the Zoom link.

Another program being planned for October will address historic housing discrimination issues involving people of color in the Bay Area. There are also two more programs being planned for 2022. If you have any questions about the programs, registration, or would like to partner with Church of the Resurrection, please contact Amy Cook: amyc@diocal.org

[Editor's note: Want to keep up with other offerings by the Diocese? Signup for Diocal, the weekly newsletter and keep up with them in other ways: <https://diocal.org/connect>]

Concert!
The Prometheus Symphony Orchestra is back at St. Paul's!
2 October at 3:00 p.m.

WE ARE OPEN!

After a disappointing season without concerts we are very pleased to announce our
2021-22 Season.

First Concert
Saturday, 2 October
3:00 PM
Preconcert talk at 2:40 PM

ADMISSION FREE

Franz Joseph Haydn • *Symphony No. 99 in Eb Major*
Hector Berlioz • *Overture des "Les Francs-juges"*
Sergei Prokofiev • *Summer Night Suite, Op. 123*

Check the website for Covid protocols, updates and parking information at
www.prometheussymphony.org

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra

Eric Hansen, Music Director

57th
Season



Vestry Report

Erica Terry Derryck Clerk

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
Sharon Pilmer, Senior Warden
Will Cowart Jr., Junior Warden
Erica Terry-Derryck, Clerk
Ann Goggins Gregory, Treasurer

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 Stanke
Maura Lane

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

2020

Delegates
Melanie Blake
Tom McGarrell
Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore
Alternates
-vacancy-

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.

The Vestry has been on summer hiatus.

At the June meeting, the Vestry voted in Brian Stanke to replace Scott Buckingham, and in May the Vestry elected Maura Lane to replace Lane Ceric. Both Lane and Scott had to step down before the completion of their three-year terms, which Maura and Brian will complete.



In-person worship resumed on May 30 with services held outdoors in the courtyard, and the food pantry has continued over the course of the summer. The AV Committee is now being chaired by Richard and Vicki Larson, as Erica Terry Derryck had to step down as chair. The Vestry asked this committee to pause their work to hire a vendor to install a new AV system so that the broader congregation could be engaged, given the size of the potential investment.

The Vestry voted to approve \$2000 to support travel by members of the Choir to attend a choral event at the Cathedral in Gloucester, England.

The work of the stewardship, family and children, and social justice ministries were reported on at the May and June meetings, with a respective focus on annual fund planning, organizing summer and regathering activities for the parish youth, and the food pantry operations. Additionally, the building and grounds committee is reviewing the items on the church facilities audit list to develop a plan for addressing deferred maintenance needs.

During the summer hiatus, the Vestry leadership has continued to engage closely with the Diocese regarding health and safety protocols related to the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of developing a set of protocols that will allow in-person worship to resume in the sanctuary.

The Vestry also continued to track church finances; investment income is holding steady, but fluctuations in plate contributed to the deficit between income and operating funds that the church has historically run during the summer.

Treasurer's Report

Ann Goggins Gregory



It's hard to believe we are already past the halfway mark of the year. Through July 31, 2021, we are behind in our net income projection by ~\$19K. I've included a summary of financials below, with some specific notes on revenue and expense trends.

	Year-to-date actuals as of July 31, 2021	Year-to-date budget through July 31, 2021
Revenue	\$ 151,352	\$ 178,316
Expense	\$ 259,842	\$ 268,297
Net Income	\$ (108,490)	\$ (89,981)

REVENUE DYNAMICS:

Pledges are tracking close to budget year to date.

Plate revenue is significantly off budget. This may be because we haven't been able to fully reopen. It may also be due to a summer slowdown in plate contributions.

Investment income is below budget, but this is a timing issue (investment income is "lumpy").

EXPENSE DYNAMICS:

Personnel is under budget by 8%, or \$13K. This is due to the open Children & Youth Ministries position and, to a lesser extent, small savings in a few other personnel areas.

Maintenance and repair is over budget by \$10K. This is due to A/V sound system maintenance, elevator contracts and repairs, and minor maintenance in other areas associated with preparing for reopening.

On the balance sheet side, our investment portfolio continues to perform well. As always, I'm available for your questions or comments at gog-gins.gregory@gmail.com.

The Windows of St. Paul's

Robert Knapp

Founding of the Episcopal Church in Hawaii

In the St. Paul's Archive we find this account of one of the windows in the Chapel of the Pacific:



King Kamehameha and
Queen Emma

Good Queen Emma and her husband, King Kamehameha IV sought the assistance of Queen Victoria in approaching the Archbishop of Canterbury with a request to establish a Mission in Hawaii. Bishop Kip visited England in 1860. As a result, a bishop and other missionaries sailed from England in 1862.

King Kamehameha translated the Book of Common Prayer into the Hawaiian language. The King and Queen were confirmed on Christmas Eve; a procession with torchbearers sang Christmas hymns along the streets. King Kamehameha died Nov. 30, 1863 (St. Andrew's Day). The cathedral be-

came a memorial to him and was named after St. Andrew. The tower was added in 1912 as a memorial to Mrs. Alice Mackintosh who had lived in the Islands from childhood, married a clergyman, and spent a remarkable life of faith and good works. Our window is a memorial to one of Mrs. Mackintosh's daughters and a communicant of this parish-- Bertha Louise Glade.

Bertha Mackintosh, "one of Honolulu's prettiest daughters," was the wife of Frederick W. Glade, a Hawaiian sugar magnate. The Glade family moved to Oakland in 1914 where Frederick continued as a "capitalist," that is, a businessman, until his death in 1918. Bertha became an active member of St. Paul's Auxiliary.

In the window's quatrefoil, the Hawaiian king and queen stand behind the royal coat of arms which is surmounted by a crown. A tall ship is behind the king to the right. A palm tree is above and behind the queen to the left and king to right. Between the heads is the torchlight procession just mentioned. Above that is the Cathedral of St. Andrew. To the queen's right is a Hawaiian with a lei. To the king's left is a small child. Around, clockwise from top: the Hawaiian royal crown over a St. Andrew's cross, symbolically attesting that the cathedral was built by the royal Hawaiian house. Next come the United States flag, Hawaiian royal cape, Hawaiian royal scepter, and finally a shield with a monochrome Union Jack. Below in a banner is the Hawaiian *Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono*; below, the translation: "The strength of the land served in righteousness." Below that is the label, *Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma invite the Anglican Church to Hawaii, 1861*. The plaque below the window reads: In loving memory of Bertha Louise Glade, 1866-1941. Cummings Studio, San Francisco, created the window in 1942.



St. Paul's

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Dear Readers:

Currently, the newsletter is not being distributed by regular post. If you know of someone who does not have access to the electronic version, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org. She will make a hardcopy and send it.

If you are receiving a paper copy of this communication, it is because we do not have a current email address for you. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please provide us with your current email address by contacting our parish administrator, Jackie Kamakate, at admin@stpaulsoakland.org.

From the Front Page

We are back!

tion?

On August 25, the Vestry met to discuss the strong recommendation of the Diocese that we require proof of vaccination for participation in indoor worship for all those who are eligible to receive the vaccine. The Bible commands us to 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' and getting the jab is an act of great love for both yourself and your neighbor. Remember that children under the age of 12 are not eligible for the vaccine yet, and they especially need your love and protection.

When do I need to start showing proof of vaccination?

We have not yet established a "go live" date. Nevertheless, now is the time to take the step to get vaccinated.

How do I make a reservation?

You should get an e-mail invitation from Jackie Kamakate, the Parish Administrator, on Tuesday or Wednesday. If you don't see it, go to the church website, <https://www.stpaulsoakland.org/>, find the service you wish to attend, and click on the yellow button below the description.

Will there be singing?

Yes, both by the choir and the congregation, with everyone masked.

What about communion?

We will have communion, but without a common cup.

Can we pass the peace?

Yes, within your household group. For folks outside your household, maintain 6 feet of distance and bow or do an air hug. We welcome you to connect with your fellow parishioners in the courtyard after the service concludes.

Are the restrooms open?

Of course. There are two restrooms in the church building that can be used, one in the Mustard Seeds room and one next to the Priest's sacristy in the ambulatory. Please use the second option if a family is using the Mustard Seeds room. If you require an accessible bathroom, an usher can assist you in accessing one on the first floor of the school building.

What about coffee hour?

We have delayed the start of formal coffee hour. However, you are welcome to BYOC (bring your own coffee) in your favorite insulated mug and socialize in the courtyard after the service.

Which services will be in person?

At this time, we are planning for **all SUNDAY services** (Sunday 8 am, Sunday 10 am, Compline 4th Sunday 8 pm, Evensong first Sunday 4 pm), all inside the church, to be in person, predicated on a sufficient number of ushers. All of these services will also be broadcast via our Facebook group page. The Wednesday noon service will be only online. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information as we get closer to September 12.

How can I get a vaccine?

You can schedule an appointment for a vaccine via <https://myturn.ca.gov/>

What is a good face covering?

One with at least three layers of material that fits your face well without gaps around mouth, nose and face. Masks that offer a high degree of protection (N95, KN95 or KN94) are readily available. For more information, [click here](#).

I am uncomfortable being indoors just now. What are my options?

All services will continue to be online on our Facebook group page. Look for the link on the church website.

We will have chairs set up in the courtyard with the entry door open. If you are un-

comfortable being inside, you are welcome to sit outdoors, follow along on Facebook, and partake of the sacrament of communion if you wish.

What can children and youth do at St. Paul's?

We have decided to delay the start of Faith Quest until we have a better understanding of parental interest and COVID spread in the community associated with children going back to school. Children are welcome to attend service with their parents.

There will be no Mustard Seeds program initially. The Mustard Seeds room (aka Bride's room) will not be staffed but will be available for use for family respite, one family at a time.

What about other church activities?

We are taking a phased approach to other activities. All meetings will be outdoors, weather permitting, or virtual until further notice.

What happens if we can't worship indoors?

In the event of an outbreak, or very poor air quality (AQI > 150), we may opt to temporarily return to virtual worship.

How are decisions made about regathering?

The Regathering Task force, chaired by Sharon Pilmer and Bill Davis, with a number of leaders from a variety of ministries and subject matter experts, developed our regathering plan which is consistent with Diocesan, CDC, and ACDPH guidelines. The Rector and Vestry have reviewed and approved both this current plan and all previous regathering policies. We will have a town hall on Zoom September 8 at 7 pm, to answer your questions.

What role does the staff play in controlling COVID?

Staff have been trained in disease transmission, prevention and when to stay home

Notify the church office at 510-834-4314 should you test positive for COVID within 10 days of attending a service in person, and they will initiate contact-tracing.

Can you guarantee that I won't get COVID at St. Paul's?

Unfortunately, no.

The delta variant of COVID-19 is highly transmissible. We are taking every precaution to keep you safe, and have been extremely cautious in our reopening. Whether you decide to attend in person is a decision that you must make based on your degree of risk tolerance, your own health and the health of your close contacts. We hope to see you but we completely understand if you feel this is not in your best interest. We will do our best to provide options to allow you to worship in ways you feel most comfortable, and stay connected!

From the Editors:

Watch for news on these fronts next month!



Outreach and hospitality

Junior Warden

St. Paul's School news

Stewardship

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