



GROWING TOGETHER  
ST. PAUL'S OAKLAND 150 YEARS

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# THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

## Wondering, Wandering, and Weaving-Our-Way with Y-H-W-H

Seasons of Spiritual Growth:

Let Go! – Let In! – Get It! – Grow Up!

A Lenten Series 2022 at Saint Paul's

Led by Dale Francis Trunk, M.Div.

Five Wednesdays on Zoom: March 9 – April 6

6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

7:00 – 8:30 Presentation and Discussion



Please click [here](#) to register on Zoom. You will be sent a link for the meetings.

In this discussion series (no readings required or suggested) we will explore four seasons of spiritual growth: “Let Go! Let In! Get It! Grow Up!” We change; things are taken away; things fall apart. We find help to keep going. Our brokenness is redeemed. We find home within and join others in the seasons of their Journeys.

Some ancient descriptions of spiritual growth adapted by early Christians denigrate God's Creation. Being human is seen as a condition from which to escape. Another approach sees Creation as God's work of love. God is already with us. We don't need a spiritual escape hatch.

“Lent” means “springtime”. It invites us to metanoia - seeing things in a new way through cycles of life-death-resurrection. Lent can become a negative practice of “holy” misery. Positive Lenten practices can increase our spiritual vitality and yield good fruits. How are we finding our way during this third Lent of Covidide?

Dale is a parishioner at St. Paul's. Here's what he says about himself. “By the age of five, three key aspects of my soul were unfolding: a Franciscan spirit, delight in horticulture, and being a gay foreigner in a straight world. After high school, I became a Franciscan friar. I was awarded a Master of Divinity from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, felt my heart open during two summers of Spanish immersion in Mexico City, completed two years of spirituality studies at the Franciscan and Jesuit universities in Rome, fulfilled one year of Clinical Pastoral Education at UCSF Medical Center, and graduated from the Spiritual Directors Institute at Mercy Center in Burlingame. My pastoral experiences as a friar included hospital chaplaincy, teaching, preaching, spiritual direction, and parish ministry. After 25 years as a friar, burnout, and the need to come out, guided me to leave the Order. I got hired as a flight attendant, which I valued as a ministry among stressed pilgrims. After 22 years, I lost that job to Covid. This led me to grow my ministries of horticulture, spiritual direction, preaching and teaching. One of my main schools of spirituality is living with my partner, John, and our guide dog, Joelle.” You may get in touch with Dale at [dalefrunk@aol.com](mailto:dalefrunk@aol.com).

## Rector's Message

### The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

#### LIVING BLESSED

One of my favorite church sayings is *Be Blessed and Be a Blessing*. I actually use this phrase as the closing line of my emails. I recently heard someone add a different edge *It is amazing to be blessed, but transformative to be a blessing*. I'm immediately drawn to the idea of being the source of transformation of another's life, of being the incarnation of the living and loving God for the betterment of another. It feels as though the willingness to be agents for transformation in the lives of others could easily be considered the essence of what it means to be a Christian.

Let me pause and pose the question: How can one know that they are a source of transformation without knowing what it means to be transformed? There's good reason, I believe, for both statements to have two parts, and they start with being blessed. If it is true that being a blessing is transformative, it means that the blessed have been transformed. In other words, if you have been blessed, you have been transformed.

Another question immediately comes to mind: Do you know that you are blessed? Or maybe the harder, deeper question is: Do you **believe** you are blessed? In my life's journey, I've had interactions with more than my share of Christians who unfortunately don't see themselves as worthy to be counted among the blessed and beloved of God, as if one could determine such status.

The easy, but most erroneous way of evaluating blessedness is to look at others and determine if they have more or less of what I may want: height, hair, looks, money, degrees, cars, children. The psalmist recites: *Do not be envious when some become rich, or when the grandeur of their house increases; for they will carry nothing away at their death, nor will their grandeur follow them. (ps.49:16-17)* Another person's apparent abundance or lack of blessing does not, in any way, serve as a representation of our own.

Being blessed is not about the material things we do or could have; it is rather about the favor of God being present for us. The beatitudes Jesus shared with the people present for what is known as the Sermon on the Mount proclaim as blessed those who were in margins of society.

I invite us all, during this season of Lent, to discern our blessedness. To take the time to converse with God and the Spirit that lives within us to see and better understand the ways in which God has favored and transformed our lives. I wish that we each arrive at a place in our soul where we can see, accept, and live our blessedness and belovedness. Feel yourself transformed once more, directly by God, as well as through the ways in which others have been sent into your life and made you know of God's loving presence. Then comes the part that brings great joy to the believer's heart: share the transformational power of blessing with others, most specially God's children in need.

May you have a blessed Lent.



#### Here's a BIG shout-out

To St. Paul's own **Stephen Tiffenson!** Stephen has been a mainstay of our worship and outreach service, especially throughout the pandemic. During his time with us, he discerned a call to the diaconate and was ordained to that order last December. Now he is leaving us for a position in another church in the diocese. We deeply appreciate his dedication to the people of St. Paul's and wish him all the best in the next stage of his life.

## Lent: Scheduled maintenance for the soul

The Rev. Anne Jensen

A notice flashed on the dashboard of my car: “schedule maintenance.” The mechanic will open the hood and check all the parts that make the car run to see if they need repair or replacement. They always check the fluids to make sure they are clean and full.

Lent is kind of like scheduled maintenance for the soul. Lent, the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) is a time of preparation. Lent is a journey that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at Easter during which we set aside time to open our hearts to God’s loving gaze. As we look at our lives in light of that love, we find courage to look honestly at our lives, recognizing the behaviors and choices that have cut us off from God. On this journey we can turn to scripture and prayer to get to know this loving and merciful God, whom we know best through Jesus.



In *Ashes to Easter*, Robert Morneau quotes Douglas Steere, one of the great Quakers of the twentieth century, who once stated: “To pray is to pay attention to the deepest thing that we know.” For Morneau Lent is a time of “paying attention, being alert to the stirrings of the Spirit, hearing the cry of the poor, being respectful of our own inner voices.” Paying attention is key to our spiritual journey. Pay attention to the empty spots of your soul. What do you long for? Look for the presence of God in daily life, a moment when your heart calls out with joy, surprise, hurt or sorrow. Read carefully and with interest the stories of how Jesus heals those who turn to him in faith. Pay attention to the journey Jesus is taking as he moves toward Jerusalem.

And take notes. Notes can take many shapes. They can be written in a journal, formed into a sculpture, sketched with a pencil, played on an instrument, and typed into a poem.

The hardest part of taking this journey for most of us is setting aside the time. Plan for 15 to 30 minutes to read scripture or a devotional book and respond with your own prayer or one from the Prayer Book.

The church is our companion on this journey, offering worship, study and opportunities for service. Plan on attending Wednesday Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom, followed by Dale Trunk’s discussion about spiritual growth. He has a wealth of experience guiding people on their journeys. Attending the special services of Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, as well as Sunday services, will enrich your experience of going deeper. All the prayers, music and readings are selected to assist us on the seasonal periodic maintenance of our souls. Blessings for the journey.

**Lent** is a season of the Church Year that calls Christians to focus on repentance and personal devotion in light of the coming celebration of Easter. The forty-day period of Lent connects with many Scriptural events important in the history of salvation: the forty days of the flood, the forty years of Israel’s wilderness wanderings, Moses’ forty days on Mount Sinai when he received the Law, and Jesus’ forty days of temptation in the desert.

**The season of Lent is decidedly somber. In the Church’s worship, a penitential tone is expressed in various ways:**

- Vestments are changed to purple, a color associated with mourning.
- Ornate crosses and other adornments are veiled in the church and all floral decorations are removed. The shout of praise “Alleluia” is eliminated from all acts of worship.
- The Eucharist begins with an acclamation that acknowledges our need for mercy. The Celebrant says, “Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins,” and the people respond, “His mercy endureth for ever.”
- The *Gloria* (“Glory be to God on high”) is neither sung nor said, and the service music changes to more penitential settings.
- The Decalogue (The Ten Commandments) is read or sung at the beginning of Sunday Eucharists.
- The priest’s final blessing over the congregation is replaced with a solemn prayer focusing on the Lenten journey.

## Lenten meditations from Episcopal Relief & Development

### Carolyn Knapp

Every year, Episcopal Relief & Development (the folks who've brought you Nets Over the Creche and One Thousand Days of Love during Advent in previous years) offers a series of daily Lenten meditations. These come straight to your inbox, so there's no need to search for a book or sign in to anything. And they're short and often family-friendly. Usually there is a brief line or two of Scripture, followed by a meditation written by a clergy- or layperson involved in relief and development work. Here's an example of one on John 14:1-3; the text appears at the top, so you don't have to consult your online Bible or Prayer Book.



When we experience loss, it's only natural for our hearts to be troubled. John's record of the words of Jesus includes promises that touch troubled hearts—encouraging words that help us live out and reaffirm our faith and hope in eternal life.

When we are separated from our loved ones and our soul is distressed, we can find peace again if we believe with all confidence that there is room for all believers. "In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places." The image used here is that of a group of travelers: one walks ahead and makes the necessary preparations for the others. And as Jesus prepares a dwelling for each of us, he also prepares us for that dwelling. We have the certainty that we will meet again. Even though Jesus physically left his disciples, it was only a temporary separation. Jesus is with us always.

Jesus tells his disciples that faith in God will heal their troubled hearts. He tells us the same.

Today, let us move forward, not losing sight of our Savior's cross.

*Patricia Martin is a lay pastoral leader in The Episcopal Church and also serves on the Board of Directors of The Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN)*

Episcopal Relief & Development says, "This year [2022], the Lenten Meditations will focus on that transformation. These reflections are organized into Episcopal Relief & Development's priorities: Women, Children and Climate, and include a focus on our Disaster Resilience & Response work. We invite you to read them throughout Lent and share with those close to you. As a part of our goal to become a carbon-neutral organization, Lenten Meditations are now delivered only via email and as downloadable PDFs.

"We hope that the 2022 Lenten Meditations will give you a glimpse into our meaningful work happening across the globe. May we continue to work together for lasting change in the lives of those most vulnerable."

To subscribe, go to <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/>.

## Music Borne of Joy

### A Message from Mark Bruce, Interim Music Director

(Many at St. Paul's will remember the years Mark Bruce was our music director. We are now privileged to have him back with us for a few months.)

I was born and raised in Olivet, Michigan, a village of about a thousand people and a small liberal arts college of the same name. My father's family were Presbyterian and Quaker, but I grew up in the Lutheran church, my mother's family being Swedish. My greatest ambition as a small child was to grow big enough to reach the pedals so I could play the organ. After spending most of my youth playing for services and local choirs and theaters, I took a sharp detour into rock and roll. (The money was better and I had fallen madly in love with the drummer in a local band.)

During a particularly messy midwestern winter I picked up and moved to Hawaii, where I lived for several years. There I reversed course and moved to singing in a church choir. I was also teaching music at St. Andrew's Priory School, a girls' school on the grounds of the Episcopal Cathedral in Honolulu. It was while I was there, playing for chapel services and rubbing shoulders with some wonderful clergy and teachers, that I reconnected with Christianity and the Church. I have been a church musician ever since.

I have continued to teach, in elementary and high schools, and more recently at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and have played with choruses, chamber groups, and orchestras, but for most of my career I have been directing music in Episcopal churches. That includes a golden period earlier in this century when I was Organist and Choirmaster here at St. Paul's.



It has been something of a Rip Van Winkle experience to find so much that is the same and also so much that is different from 15 years ago. Your choir has blossomed under the leadership of Philip Saunders, Chris Kula, Michael Page and David Farr. Your liturgy is even more beautiful with Fr. Wilson in charge. And you still have the marvelous Carolyn Bolton, always the model of what a Deacon should be. The delightful Elena and Danislav Nedevski still keep the place in order. Fr. Christian makes my arrival every Sunday morning a cheerful homecoming.

As this church knows, the music we offer God must not be any less than the best we can do. We also know that the God who created us delights in our efforts, even when they are less than perfect. Every beautiful moment I have had making music, whether it was directing a professional choir or orchestra, leading a group of pre-schoolers, playing rock and roll on the beach in Hawaii, or playing the organ with a congregation singing an old favorite hymn, has come from a place of joy. That's the place where I think we can most dependably find and know that we are with God. I am looking forward to many more of those beautiful events, worshipping with you here at St. Paul's, Oakland.



## Music Director Search Committee

### Sharon Pilmer, Chair

The search committee for our next music director has been formed. Our committee members include George Strait, Victoria Larson, John Prescott (and Joelle), Joseph Hughes, Irene Plunkett, and me. We share a love for music and a deep commitment to St. Paul's. Our first order of business is to discern the community's vision for our music program to help inform the creation of the job description and posting. On February 13 we met with the rector to discuss his vision for music at St. Paul's, and spent several hours the following weekend developing a deeper understanding of our current state and envisioning a future state. During our discernment process we will be reaching out to the congregation at large and our current singers to refine and validate the vision. This will allow us to complete the first phase of our work, which is the completion of a job description, essential skills, compensation, etc. While we need to respect the confidentiality of applicants, we want to be transparent in our process, which we will be working to develop as we go. Stay tuned for monthly updates via this newsletter. You can reach Sharon at [pilms@hotmail.com](mailto:pilms@hotmail.com).



This is the search committee, hard at work! Joseph Hughes, George Strait, Sheila Fischer, Irene Plunkett, Victoria Larson, John Prescott and Joelle. Father Wilson is ex officio; Sharon Pilmer, the committee chair, took the picture.

## Here's a BIG shout-out

to St. Paul's own **Karla Morris**,  
recipient of a **Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA)**  
**STEM**

**Science Spectrum Trailblazer Award**

as a

**Most Promising Scientist  
in Government**

Supported by her lovely family, Karla went to the BEYA conference in Washington D.C. in late February to receive this prestigious award. Karla is an engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, one of three National Nuclear Security Administration research and development laboratories in the United States. Her remarkable achievements there include being lead developer for important systems and the co-inventor of the widely used "Object-Oriented Programming in Fortran" course. Her Director, Andrew McIlroy, states that "Karla is most assuredly one of the Most Promising Scientist" at Sandia.

**Congratulations, Karla!**



## Concerts at St. Paul's Vicki Larson

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra  
Eric Hansen, Music Director

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra  
2021-2022 Concert Series  
Celebrating 57 Years of Music Making  
Sunday, March 27, 2022  
3 p.m. (Preconcert talk at 2:40 p.m.)

**Carl Nielsen • Symphony No. 5**

**Lili Boulanger • D'un matin de printemps (Women Composer Series)**

**Boris Papandopulo • Concerto for Xylophone and String Orchestra**

*Francis Chua, xylophone*

*Winner Khuner Young Artist Concerto Competition*



ADMISSION FREE

Audience members must show proof of full vaccination including boosters for admittance. Masks are required when in the church.

Reservations are required to attend this concert due to St. Paul's limiting the number of audience members. Please go to our website [www.prometheussymphony.org](http://www.prometheussymphony.org) for ticket information.

We will be recording the concert for later publication so if you don't have a ticket, you can still see the concert.

[See our website](http://www.prometheussymphony.org) for Covid protocols, updates, and parking details. Families with children (all fully vaccinated) are always welcome and the facility is wheelchair accessible

## Parish News Welcome...

**Donovan Lauter**



**Congrats to Katie & Digger!**

**and...**

**Jeffrey James McManus  
Congrats to Virginia and Jeff!**



## Passings...

**Gloria Balkissoon, 1925 -2021**

Indira Balkissoon

Gloria White Balkissoon passed away quietly with her family by her side and her cat, Lassie, on her lap on April 22, 2021. She traveled the world and “saw the sunset at the southernmost point of India where the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean meet. She saw the Himalayan Mountains in Nepal. She rode an elephant and a camel”. She married Dr. Basdeo Balkissoon in 1952. Her husband of 49 years predeceased her in 2001.

Gloria sat in the pew on the middle right side of St. Paul’s. She loved the fabulous people of the St. Paul’s community and listening to the organ, the choir, and the sermons.

Gloria served as a teacher in the Washington, D.C. school system for 35 years. After retiring, she was a dedicated volunteer at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Cathedral, and the Smithsonian African Art Museum. She also volunteered at the Oakland Museum of California.

Descendants include her daughter, Indira (a St. Paul’s parishioner), her son, Jai, and their spouses, Tom and Laurie, as well as 5 grandchildren - Christopher, Alexander (deceased), Sarah, Isabel, and Nicholas, and 1 great grandchild, Adeline Indira Seif-Naraghi who was born 26 days after she passed.

She is interred at the Chapel of Chimes in Oakland, California. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul’s on April 30, 2022. The service will also be available online via the church’s Facebook page.

May she rest with the Angels.



## From the Senior Warden

### Maura Lane

The Vestry Retreat took place on Saturday, February 5 from 9 – 1:30 via Zoom. The first session focused on definitions and structure. This included an ice-breaker, a review of the governance structure of the Episcopal Church, Parish Functions and the work of the Vestry, temporal affairs (theory versus actual), the Vestry Covenant, and Vestry Spirituality.

Session 2 focused on Goals and Activities. There was a presentation on Planned Giving at St. Paul's. (Editor's note: see separate article elsewhere in this newsletter.) The 2022 priorities will include updating the Strategic Plan, capital and finance priorities that will focus on maintaining the buildings, and the hiring of two positions: a Music Director and a Youth and Ministries Director.

The liaisons are:

Sharon Pilmer: Chair for the Music Director Search Committee and Stewardship

Will Cowart-Kadleck: Buildings and Grounds, the Strategic Plan

Matthew Schooler: Community Outreach

Indira Balkissoon: Stewardship

Maura Lane: Social Justice and the Strategic Plan

More to come as members discern where they would like to commit their time.

Session 3 was the usual Vestry business meeting with the approval of minutes and review of the budget. Please continue to pray for the Vestry as we undertake our fiduciary duties.

## Vestry Retreat 2022 – Highlights

### Flarnie Adams, Vestry Clerk

On February 5th, the Vestry met on Zoom for our annual retreat to renew our connections to each other, to God, and to our mission as Vestry members. The Vestry Retreat was also an opportunity to plan for the upcoming year.

Father Wilson opened by bringing to mind the mission of the Church. On page 855 of the Book of Common Prayer, we find the following passage:

“Q: What is the mission of the Church?”

A: The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q: How does the Church pursue its mission?

A: The Church pursues its mission as it prays, worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q: Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?

A: The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.”

The Church is us, not the building. It is not the Bishops, Priests, or Deacons who carry out the mission of the Church. It is through *all of us* that the mission is carried out. We will keep this mission in mind, to guide us, as we serve our terms on the Vestry.



*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  
2022 VESTRY**

- The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson, Rector
- Maura Lane, Senior Warden
- Will Cowart Jr., Junior Warden
- Flarnie Adams, Clerk
- Ann Goggins Gregory, Treasurer

**VESTRY BY CLASS**

- Class of 2022
- Will Cowart
- Ann Gregory
- Sharon Pilmer
- Class of 2023
- Flarnie Adams
- Brian Stanke
- Maura Lane
- Class of 2024
- Indira Balkisson
- Maria Paull
- Matthew Schooler

**DEANERY DELEGATES  
AND ALTERNATES  
2022**

- Delegates
- Melanie Blake
- Jeanette Dinwidie-Moore
- Tom McGarrell

Alternates  
-to be appointed-

After the opening prayer, the Vestry took a few minutes to get to know each other, to cover any questions about our role, and to discuss the importance of nourishing our spiritual lives and keeping the Vestry Covenant.

There was a discussion on the need to renew the Strategic Plan for St. Paul's; the current Strategic Plan was intended to cover the years 2018-2021 and we are now starting 2022. Will Cowart has agreed to lead a committee to update the Strategic Plan for 2023 and beyond.

In addition to starting work to renew the Strategic Plan, the Vestry continues to consider priorities for focus in 2022. Some areas that have already been identified for focus in 2022 include:

The search for a Director of Children and Youth

The search for a Music Director

Repairs and Preventative Maintenance for the building

The search for a Director of Children and Youth is ongoing, and Father Mauricio has recently revamped the job description to increase clarity and focus.

Sharon Pilmer has formed a committee to search for a Music Director. As part of the search, the committee seeks to clarify the picture of what we want from our music program in the future and how we will get there. They plan to share regular updates on progress with the congregation.

Will Cowart led the completion of inspections to the building and grounds in 2021 and presented the results of those inspections to the Vestry. Various repairs and preventative maintenance items are needed. The next step will be to procure estimates and identify the top priorities for completion in 2022. Will continues to lead in this area.

To wrap up the Vestry Retreat, the Vestry approved the minutes from the December and January Vestry meetings. A proposal was approved for redistribution of realized gains from 2021, which will fund old accounts and provide resources for future projects.

## February Vestry Meeting Summary

### Flarnie Adams, Clerk

In order to keep the Parish informed of the work that the Vestry Board 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 every fourth Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted, and the full minutes of the meeting are available to parish members upon request by contacting the parish administrator or a member of the Vestry.

What follows is a summary of the key discussions and decisions made by the Vestry at the February 23 Vestry meeting.

- ◆ The Vestry continues to discuss proposed plans for repaying a loan which St. Paul's holds in debt to the Diocese for costs related to the repairs and retrofit of the church building after earthquake damage.

- ◆ A motion passed to make the payment of \$31,421.82 towards repaying this loan.

- ◆ Discussion of this loan and the plans for repayment will continue in the next monthly Vestry meeting.
- ◆ A Buildings and Grounds committee has formed and will begin meeting in March, led by Will Cowart.
- ◆ Will Cowart is also leading a committee to update the Strategic Plan.
- ◆ The search continues for a Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries; a new updated profile for the open position is posted on the diocesan website and Forma (the Network for Christian Formation).
- ◆ A committee has formed to begin the search for a new Music Director, led by Sharon Pilmer. More detailed updates on the Music Director search will be published in this newsletter by the committee. Stay tuned!

## Treasurer’s Update

**Ann Gregory**

We got off to a slow start in 2022 with below-budget revenue and expenses. I’ve included a summary of financials below with some additional notes on revenue and expense for January.

	Year-to-date actuals as of January 31, 2022	Year-to-date budget through January 31, 2022
Revenue	\$15,172	\$26,732
Expense	\$37,662	\$40,656
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$22,490)</b>	<b>(\$13,924)</b>



It’s important to note that revenue – pledges and plate – have historically been below budget at the beginning of the year. This may be because parishioners are getting their pledges set up for the year and/or because church attendance sometimes dips after the holiday season.

**REVENUE DYNAMICS:**

Pledges are \$5.4K under budget for January (\$8.8K vs. \$14.2K).

Plate revenue is also below budget at \$1.6K vs. \$4.6K.

**EXPENSE DYNAMICS:**

Personnel is under budget by \$5K, driven by the open Children & Youth Ministries position.

Maintenance and repair is slightly over budget (\$1.2K more than anticipated) due to safety repairs and storage costs.

As always, I’m available for your questions or comments at [goggins.gregory@gmail.com](mailto:goggins.gregory@gmail.com).

## ST. PAUL'S LEGACY SOCIETY

### Doug Jensen

On February 9, 2022, the Vestry established The St. Paul's Legacy Society to recognize and honor all those parishioners who remember St. Paul's in their wills and estate plans. We plan to inaugurate the St. Paul's Legacy Society on Pentecost, June 5, 2022, at the Holy Eucharist. The Legacy Society task force includes, Doug Jensen, George Strait, and Sharon Pilmer, who will lead this effort.

As Christians we begin and end our lives in faith. We celebrate, grow, struggle, and mourn together. Our intent to lead a life of faith includes the legacy we would like to leave behind. A planned gift enables us to continue to express our faith in the One who has created, redeemed, and sustained us.

A planned gift enables us to help ensure that St. Paul's will be here for future generations. St. Paul's Legacy Society is a planned giving program that provides ways for each of us, regardless of age or wealth, to support and participate in the future ministry of St. Paul's.

Including St. Paul's in the final distribution of goods that takes place when you leave this world can be easy and simple to do. No gift is too small or too large. You also may be able to channel dollars to the church that otherwise would go to taxes.

There are many ways to include St. Paul's in your personal legacy. The best way for each of us depends on our individual circumstance and intentions. For example:

You could leave a bequest to the church.

Make St. Paul's a beneficiary of your IRA.

Make a gift of appreciated stock or real estate.

Buy a charitable gift annuity.

Your gift costs nothing now and can be changed any time.

During the next few months, we will explore these alternatives and other common approaches in detail, and we will provide resources for you to further explore your options.

During our recent stewardship campaign, six parishioners said that they had included St. Paul's in their will or estate plans. It is our hope that in the next few months more of you will consider becoming founding members of the St. Paul's Legacy Society. There's no obligation, and no dues or solicitation. It's just a way the church can thank you for making plans that will continue the ministry of St. Paul's for future generations.

Questions? Please e-mail Doug at [douglasjensen@me.com](mailto:douglasjensen@me.com) or text 510-316-5764.



Doug Jensen



George Strait

# Swords to Plowshares/ Guns to Garden Tools June 11, 2022

## Paula Hawthorn

Across the country guns are being forged into garden tools as in [Isaiah 2:4](#):

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares”.

This movement is coming to Oakland on June 11, 2022, and you are invited to be a part of this important work.

Faith in Action East Bay, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese of California, At Thy Word Ministries Church of God in Christ, Brady United and the Oakland Police Department are the current list of sponsors for a gun buy back on June 11 to be held at the church At Thy Word at 8915 International Blvd., Oakland. This is in close cooperation with the founders of this movement, [RAW-tools](#). With the training of the RAW-tools leaders, local Oakland blacksmith John Rogers and assistants will take guns that the Oakland Police Department has determined should be destroyed and will forge them into garden tools. The first 50 people turning in their guns at the buy back will receive a garden tool in exchange for their gun, in addition to a gift card for \$100 - \$300 depending on the type of gun.

Currently our greatest need is to connect with Oakland’s Urban Gardening community (i.e., people who garden in public spaces), so if you are a part of or know anyone in that community, please email [paula.hawthorn@gmail.com](mailto:paula.hawthorn@gmail.com). We want to build the connection between the urban gardeners and Guns to Gardens.

### GUNS TO GARDENS JUNE 11

At Thy Word Ministries 8915 International Blvd

Sponsored by:

*At Thy Word Ministries*

Brady United

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA

Soldiers Against Violence

Everywhere

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church



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**RAWtools/  
Swords into  
Plowshares**

FAITH IN ACTION- EAST BAY

**Oakland  
Police  
Department**

GARDEN TOOLS FORGED FROM GUNS

TURN IN A GUN AND GET A GARDEN TOOL AND \$100-\$300 GIFT CARD DEPENDING ON TYPE OF GUN

## The Windows of St. Paul's

### Robert Knapp

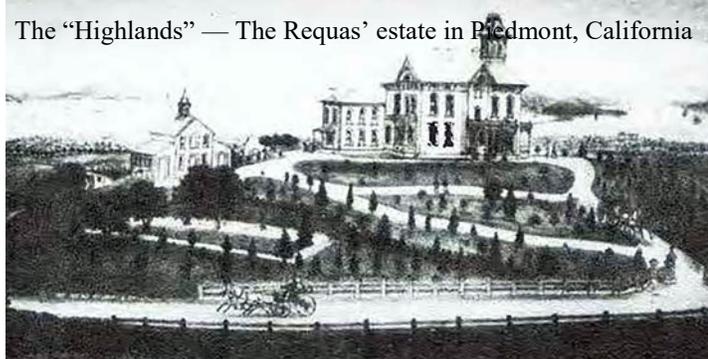
### The Requa Resurrection Window

The Requas originally came to America in 1689 via England as French Huguenot (Protestant) refugees. From the first they were a distinguished family. Isaac (1828-1905) was born in Tarrytown, New York. In 1850, he came by clipper ship around Cape Horn to San Francisco to follow a mining ambition. River mining on the middle fork of the American River proved successful, and eventually he moved on to Virginia City, Nevada, where he made his fortune in the Comstock Lode (silver). He was active in Nevada public affairs, being elected to the territorial legislature as a representative and eventually to the state senate of the new state of Nevada. Requa was involved in the creation of the Eureka and Palisade narrow gauge railroad that was built to support the mines. In 1863, Isaac married Sarah J. Mower in San Francisco. In the late 1870s, they built a home in Piedmont, one of seven in the town at the time. The 22-room Italian villa occupied an entire square block in the midst of an 80-acre plot of land. It was called "The Highlands," for which Highland Avenue was named. It was a landmark that could be seen from San Francisco Bay and had its own orchards, a farm, and a gas illuminating plant. It was torn down by order of Isaac Requa's son, Mark, at the death of Mrs. Requa in 1923. Requa Road



Sarah and Isaac Requa

The "Highlands" — The Requas' estate in Piedmont, California

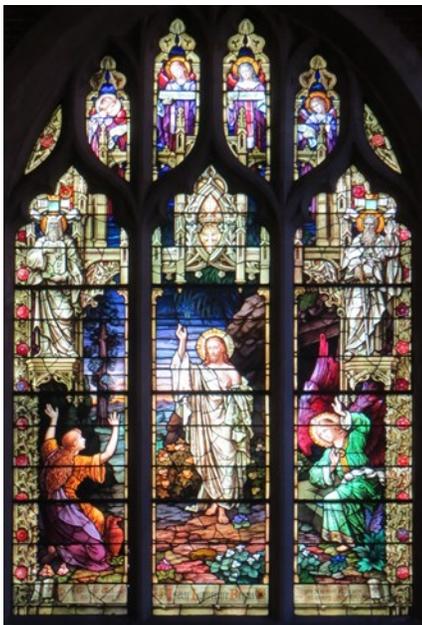


was named for Isaac himself.

Isaac and Sarah

Requa had a son and a daughter. In 1897 their son, Mark L. Requa, was elected to the St. Paul's vestry as a young member. He married a Herrick daughter and was known for his good work as a fuel administrator during World War I and for books he wrote about Nevada mining and politics.

Sarah Requa dedicated the window "To the Glory of God in Memory of Isaac Lawrence Requa" to her husband who had passed away in 1905. A good friend of the family and fellow Piedmontese, H. C. Taft, had been a vestryman and senior warden at St. Paul's from the late nineties. In 1911 he was a member of the building committee planning a new church building. It was he who suggested to Mrs. Requa that a beautiful window in honor of her husband would be an appropriate memorial in the grand structure planned. Mrs. Requa took up the idea and had the window designed and installed.



***NEXT MONTH: The story the window tells and its decoration and design.***

## March Worship Schedule

All services will be live-streamed on the [Church's Facebook page](#) Beginning with Ash Wednesday, RESERVATIONS FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED. This applies to all services--Sunday morning, Compline, Evening Prayer, and any other in-person services or events at St. Paul's. Vaccination status will be checked at the door. Masks continue to be required at all times.



### ASH WEDNESDAY

#### **Wednesday, March 2:**

12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in-person & streamed

7 p.m. Choral Eucharist, in-person & streamed

**ASHES TO GO:** 8 a.m. and following the noon and evening services.

#### **Sunday, March 6: First Sunday in Lent**

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist (streamed)

10 a.m. Choral Eucharist, in-person & streamed

4 p.m. Evensong in-person & streamed

#### **Sunday, March 13: Second Sunday in Lent:**

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist (streamed)

10 a.m. Choral Eucharist, in-person & streamed

#### **Sunday, March 20: Third Sunday in Lent**

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist (streamed)

10 a.m. Choral Eucharist, in-person & streamed

#### **Sunday, March 27: Fourth Sunday in Lent**

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist (streamed)

10 a.m. Choral Eucharist, in-person & streamed

8 p.m. Compline, in-person & streamed

#### **Tuesdays of Lent:**

10 a.m. Zoom Morning Prayer

Register here:

[TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER](#)



#### **Wednesdays of Lent:**

12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist (streamed, except Ash Wednesday; see above)

6:30 p.m., March 9 – April 6, Zoom Evening Prayer and Lenten Series. To register, click [here](#). For more information, see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Register here:

[WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER & LENT SERIES](#)

#### **Thursdays of Lent:**

10 a.m. Zoom Morning Prayer

Register here:

[THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER](#)

#### **Fridays of Lent:**

6 p.m. Stations of the Cross, in-person and streamed

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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](mailto:admin@stpaulsoakland.org) She will make a hardcopy and send it.***

## Newsletter contributors

### sought

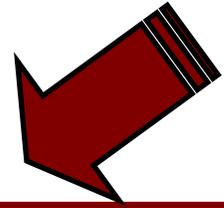
We are interested in hearing from writers and photographers; please email us if you would like to donate your talents.

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](mailto:csknapp@earthlink.net)

## From the Editors:

Watch for news on these fronts next month!



### Articles on

Buildings and Grounds Issues

Community Outreach Efforts

Social Justice

Children and Youth Ministries Director

*AND*

A preview of plans for formulating a Strategic Plan for the coming years at St. Paul's.

### St. Paul's History

The publication process of *Faith and Mission*, the St. Paul's history, continues. We hope the book will be available in March.