



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church Walnut Creek, CA

## *The Epistle*

SEPTEMBER 2010

### God in Culture

In his first novel, *Putting Away Childish Things*, Marcus Borg writes about a professor of religious studies in a liberal arts college in the Mid-west. I'm only on chapter 5 as I write my article for the September Epistle—but even from the first few pages I was filled with my own questions of the role of religion in day to day life as his protagonist questions how much she should “show” of her Christian faith in her classroom and the struggle to be a person of reason and intellect and also accept the mystical and divine elements of Christianity.

I am a deeply spiritual person who also believes in the efficacy of organized religion—and if you are an active member of our parish, you and I are an oddity in the very secular world of the San Francisco Bay Area. I say that because our parish is set amidst a population, about 90% of who don't believe in organized religion. (There's small joke about that: Why are you Episcopalian? Because I don't believe in organized religion!)

There is a post-Christian struggle at play in our time—a struggle to believe in a God in the form of a human we call Jesus Christ. The struggle is multilayered. How do the mystical and miraculous and ritualistic parts of our faith traditions square with the very rational and intellectual ethos of our culture?

Humans are capable of holding many truths at the same time—sometimes those truths seem contrary to each other. We are increasingly aware that the world



is not either/or, black/white, true/false—but rather both/and, gray with shading, and truth is often dependent on perspective. There are many right answers—not only one.

There is a widely popular PBS series called the *Power of Myth* that was made into a book by the same title. The *Power of Myth* is a discussion between American Mythologist, Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers, host of many PBS series (and an ordained Baptist minister himself). In his life's work, Campbell found that all cultures create their own myths—their own hero's story.

In the culture of Alcoholic's Anonymous (AA) there is the significant need to believe in a “higher power”—something outside of ourselves that is bigger than we are. It is part of humanity to long for the “Other”—that entity that is wholly outside of ourselves and seemingly beyond our grasp.

In our faith tradition we call that entity God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit. We don't need to prove our faith—we live our faith. The rituals and symbols we employ act as passageways to catch glimpses of the Divine and when those moments do come—we are lifted from the limits of our humanity.

I live for those moments—those inexplicable moments of grace that fill my heart and soul with peace and joy.

*Rev. Sylvain*

## Why a Men's Retreat?

A better question is: "Why Not a Man's Retreat?"

The men at St Paul's want improved ways on which they can travel and grow in relationship with each other and God. Good works in many dimensions will come out of this growth.

Such ways are not just created overnight. The retreat, details below, is intended to lay the initial foundation stones for a thriving men's ministry at St. Pauls. We are blessed to have the services of Roger Dill, a strong member of a dynamic team, who provide stimulus and vision to religious groups. They have lead our recent very successful Vestry and Staff retreats. The retreat is also designed to create and strengthen the bonds between those attending and with God.

The retreat's theme is Throw me a R.O.P.E.....Saving male friendships in the 21st Century

Most will meet in the evening at Walker Creek Ranch near Petaluma. Some will join us early on Saturday. We will be in our own two story building. We will eat all three meals on Saturday in the general large cafeteria.

Cost: \$160 for overnight and all day Saturday.  
\$75 for Sat only

After you have let Don know that you are attending, get your checks to the office, made out to St Pauls, marking the "for" line with "Men's retreat"

We are organizing car pools. Let us know if you can offer to drive.

Don Adolphson 925-465-5495    Ken Jessup 925 932 6571  
ndadolphson@astound.net                      Kenj747@aol.com

## Let Your Love Overflow

St. Paul's inspiring words to the church in Philippi tell us:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy...for all of you because of your sharing in the gospel ...(and) God's grace with me ...And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best...through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

All of our gifts of stewardship derive from our love of God, our hope in Jesus Christ, and our devotion to our church. Whether we arrange flowers, clean up after Coffee Hour, help with the Rummage Sale, pray with the sick, or simply write a check when funds are needed, we do these things in gratitude and thanksgiving for the message of Jesus Christ.

In the coming months, your Stewardship team together with Vestry members & Finance Committee will set forth St. Paul's plans for the coming year and what it will take to realize how we are called to be Christ's Body in this world. We ask for your prayers and in time, faithful consideration of our message. Thank you.

### 2010 Stewardship Dates

Sunday, Oct. 17 - Eat, Pray, Pledge: 2011 Budget Basics Brunch

Sunday, Oct. 24 - Pledge packets available

Sunday, Nov. 14 - Pledge Sunday

Jory Sandusky, Chair

Janice Foster

Helen Greenwood

Mike Siebert

## Fall Rummage Sale

It's that time of year again to support St. Pauls' Outreach Committee with the Fall Rummage Sale.

The sale will be Oct. 9 and 10. We will set up the week of Oct. 3-9.

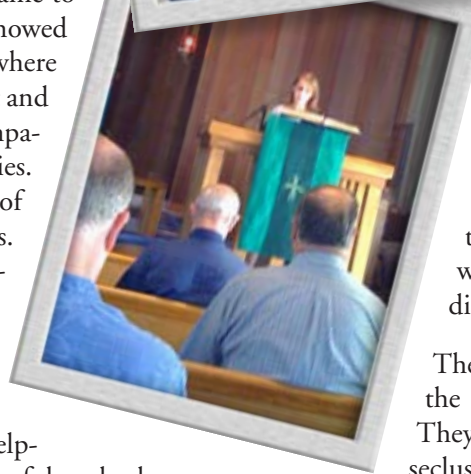
Donations are being accepted Sundays through Oct. 3 at the Rummage closet. Donations include gently worn clothes, working household appliances, books, toys, linens, jewelry, electronics, and furniture (by arrangement) the week of the Sale.

We need volunteers for all activities. Sign-ups will be in the Parish Hall during Coffee Hour. All proceeds benefit many worthy causes, both locally and nationally.

## Clare Mission Trip Sermon

Whenever I told people I was leaving for ten days to go to South Dakota, the response was “Do you have family up there?” Back then, I thought I was going to a state that I had never been to so I could help work on an Indian reservation in some way. For a while I didn’t even know which Dakota we were going to. After a two-day long journey (and of course learning where we were specifically going), we arrived at a sad-looking church with another depressed little house next to it, both surrounded by waist-high grass, in the middle of nowhere that happened to be close to the Missouri river. We were told what work we would be doing during our stay, which included repainting and reroofing the little house, which we were fixing up for priest who worked at the church, Father Rob. In addition, would be repainting the church, which was also our motel. Our location wasn’t actually on the reservation like I had thought, but it was close to it. Despite the inconveniences of the hot sun, pesky bugs, bipolar weather, and no running water, we workers survived on the food and transportation our youth leaders. We showered in a nearby high school so that we all could live a little less pigpen.

During our trip we also interacted with the locals, who although they were Native Americans, referred to themselves as Indians. For instance, a Lakota girl named Anna came to help us work almost every day and showed a better beach than the one right by where we were staying. She also spent a night and the following day with us and accompanied us on other mission trip activities. The Lakotas have a very open idea of family and were extremely generous. We attended the Lakota people’s annual powwow and every day afterwards we learned something about each aspect of it, like the dancing, music, costumes, and the meaning behind it all. Knowing the people we were helping made our job seem more meaningful and when we left, Father Rob expressed his gratitude and that of our hosts through a long, heartfelt voicemail. If I ever go back, and I hope I do, if anyone asks me again if my reason is to visit family, I will now be able to say that though we’re not blood related and I didn’t even meet them until the summer of 2010, I have family in South Dakota.



## Luke Mission Trip Sermon

Going in to this years mission trip I was second guessing a little as to what I had gotten myself into this time. I had heard of the Indians, seen them in movies and read about them in books. But never had I met any or even thought about what they could be like in person. The first thing that shocked me was the sense of family of all of the Indians. Father Phil told us a story about an Indian man committing a murder to another Indian. Normally a family would have been angry at the killer and would have wanted justice, but instead, his punishment was to join the family of the victim.

While we were on the res, we got a little of the story of what has happened to these people. They have been treated terribly by other Americans and with no thanks to our government. You may have heard that the suicide rate on the reservation is to an astronomical rate. You could tell just by seeing the people that some look so defeated and without hope. Greater than the death of flesh is the death of hope. A long time ago when I was a young lad, I remember watching an old sci-fi film on tv. Now this was just your average dungeons and dragons sort of movie but there was one thing that stuck out to me. One of the wizard like figures was talking to the young hero of the story after zombies had just attacked their village. This wizard said “there is a greater darkness than the one we fight. It is the darkness of the soul that has lost its way.” Now me, not knowing weather he was referring to the zombies or what, took this under a more general context. How I see it, in a little more extreme sense of the situation, the Indians are the zombies. They are still very much their own people, but it seems like they have just given up and become lost, and who do you think started them in the wrong direction?

There is a strange feeling of sadness I have for the Indians of the Standing rock reservation. They are trapped here in the res, but use their seclusion as a defense from outside influences. I always thought of them as the wisest of all, whether it was spirituality or life or just people in general. But now I see that they are in the same boat as us. We struggle, we fight, we love, we hate, we get confused, and we get lost. Nobody is left out from the current of life. It drags us along in every sort of uncomfortable place that we can imagine, but as long as we keep believing, we will eventually reach the sea.

# Richard Mission Trip Sermon

On the afternoon we left the reservation, Fr. Rob had left 2 long messages on my phone before I was able to answer his 3rd call. He was that determined to make sure the youth knew the impact they made on the community in South Dakota.

The message told us about the rest of his day after we left the reservation. That afternoon Fr. Rob attended a couple of events. One was a birthday celebration for a prominent member of the tribe, and the other was a local family gathering. (Remember, the sense of family on the reservation is expanded beyond the immediate family. So there were a large group of people at each of these events.).

At these kind of family events, many people get up to talk about the person of honor or about the family. Fr. Rob said that at these two specific gatherings, people got up talked a minute or two about the family, but then went on for 3 to 5 minutes about the work this small band of teenagers did. And not just their gratitude for what the youth did, but what that person wanted to do to continue the work. Some wanted to finish painting the areas where we couldn't reach with our ladders; Another said they could work on the sheet-rock inside the rectory now that the roof was fixed; Still another wanted to fix the bell tower. He said it went on and on. He had a hard time putting into words what was happening. He said it was unprecedented.

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus did an unprecedented thing by healing a woman on the Sabbath.

So why did he do this? He could have waited until sundown, when the Sabbath was over and then performed that miracle. The woman had been crippled for 18 years. A few hours more probably would not have made a big difference for her.

And I have to believe Jesus knew about this rule, so he didn't do it out of ignorance.

No, I believe by performing this miracle on the Sabbath and deliberately going against the expectations of the people, he forced everyone present to look at the world with a different

lens, a different world view. Going against their expectations was his way of saying, "Things are changing and you better pay attention".

How often do you and I shrug off the unexpected as just something to tolerate or ignore?

From listening to the youth this morning, I believe they had experiences that were not expected.

From the comments that Father Rob relayed to us, I think the people of Wakpala also encountered the unexpected. Youth mission trips have been going to the Standing Rock Reservation for years. They have been painting and digging and building for many summers. In fact, 15 years ago, our Bishop, Marc Andrus, brought a group of teenagers from Virginia to the Standing Rock Reservation to paint that same church we slept in. But there must have been something different about this group of loud, energetic, and engaging teenagers to get this response.

For me, seeing the generosity of the Lakota People was unexpected. The church on the reservation has a long standing custom to give a Niobrara Cross to everyone that is confirmed or ordained in the Diocese of South Dakota. This cross can't be purchased. During the Sunday service the day we left, we were presenting some Anglican Rosary that we had made, to some of the people that worked and stayed with us during the week. When Tony was given a rosary by one of the teenagers, he immediately took off his cross, which he had received decades before, and placed on the youths' neck.

So I started to think that maybe encountering the unexpected is a gift.

If that's true, one of the many gifts I receive by traveling with teenagers on a mission trips each summer is that I am always encountering the unexpected. These youth, like Jesus, force me to look at the world with a different lens. And in doing so, I get to see the love of Christ being worked in the world with every encounter. It is a pretty good gig. And I look forward to the next one.



# Nominating Committee Formed

The Nominating Committee is interested in hearing from parishioners that are considering running for election to either the 2011 vestry or to be an alternate delegate to the 2011 Diocesan Convention. These are wonderful opportunities to serve and share your enthusiasm and vision.

The vestry meets 7PM-9PM on the third Tuesday of every month to conduct the business of the church. Between vestry meetings, the vestry members are involved with their various ministry areas and bring to the vestry meetings items for discussion, decision and information. The activities of the church have been organized into twelve ministries which are chaired by one or more vestry members.

Administration, Liturgy & Music, Adult Formation, Membership, Children, Youth and Young Families, Parish Life, Communication, Pastoral Care, Evangelism/Church Growth, Property, Faith in Action (Outreach), Stewardship

Being an alternate delegate is a two year position given alternates become delegates the second year of their term. Meetings are quarterly and conclude with attendance at Diocesan Convention every October. The quarterly deanery meetings rotate among different parishes in the diocese.

If you are passionate about a particular activity in the church or want to share your leadership talents, please contact the 2010 Nominating Committee through the parish office (925 934-2324 or [info@stpaulswc.org](mailto:info@stpaulswc.org)). We would be happy to answer any questions you might have and warmly welcome candidates.

Michael Kus, Linda Banwell, Nancy Burchett, Sarah Greene, Linnea Jessup.

## Nominating Committee Provisions of Bylaws

**4.2 Tasks of the Nominating Committee.** At the first vestry meeting in November of each year, the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates for election to the vestry and election as delegates/alternates to the Diocesan Convention. The Committee shall submit at least one candidate, and preferably two, per vacancy to be filled on the vestry. Parish members wishing to serve as candidates may submit their names to the Committee before October 15 and if they are eligible under Section 4.3 of these Bylaws, their names will be included on the slate. Members of the congregation may submit names

to the committee sixty days before the parish meeting date as well, and with those persons' agreement and eligibility under Section 4.3, their names will also appear on the slate. The slate shall be published to the parish at least forty-five days before the annual parish meeting. During the month of September this section of the Bylaws, plus Section 4.3, shall be published at least once in the Epistle (monthly Parish newsletter) and in the parish Announcement Sheet (weekly information leaflet). (Amended by the congregation at the Annual Meeting January 21, 1996) 4.3 Eligibility of Nominees. All nominees for election as vestry members or delegates/alternates to the Diocesan Convention shall be communicants in good standing registered in the parish for at least one year, age eighteen or over, and regular contributors to the support of the parish as confirmed by the pledge treasurer. A retiring or resigning vestry member may not again serve on the vestry until one year has elapsed, except that a member completing less than two years of service may be elected for a full term. Incumbent delegates/alternates to Diocesan Convention may again be nominated and elected as delegates/alternates on expiration of their terms. (Amended by the congregation at the Annual Meeting January 27, 2008)



## St. Paul's Women's Retreat

Please join us for a wonderful weekend of spiritual renewal and fellowship. Brochure and registration form is posted on the St. Paul's website or Contact Donna Colombo. Spaces filling fast. Information meeting September 12 after the 10 am service in the Livingston Conference Room.

[http://www.stpaulswc.org/women\\_retreat.htm](http://www.stpaulswc.org/women_retreat.htm)

# Mormonism in America

— By Jory Sandusky

At the time I'm writing this article the St. Paul's Mormonism in America class has completed two of the six sessions. We've covered such topics as Joseph Smith, the great move from Palmyra New York to Kirkland Ohio to Nauvoo Illinois. We covered the subject of modern day revelation, and their belief in Polytheism. The class has covered the great Real Estate bubble burst of the 1830's, Joseph Smith's curious family and terrible luck. We've covered the fact that Joseph Smith destroyed a newspaper who was going to print a "tell-all" about him. And we covered the subsequent murder of Joseph following that event. We covered the core message of the Book of Mormon and the story of Jesus coming to America. So in other words, we've barely scratched the surface!

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is a fascinating faith tradition based squarely on the testimony of Joseph Smith. The theology is one that is complicated, not logical, not historically accurate, and one with evolving truths. It's a community of believers who are fiercely dedicated, have missionary zeal, and who model some amazing family habits we can truly learn from. It's a story of America- overcoming huge obstacles and seeking a better life for their people

I try my best to keep talking about motives with the class. Why do the Mormons put so much pressure on themselves? Why do they have mandatory giving of 10% and willingly supply the church with their W2's each year? Why would they give up coffee and beer? Why do their young men forfeit two years of their lives to be completely and totally cut off from all family and friends to go on a mission on the other side of the globe? Of course that always leads to why do we do what we do as Episcopalians?

The story of the Episcopal tradition, in my very biased opinion, is one of simple love, simple grace, and simple logic which, when placed all together, makes it very hard for the world to accept. Even while we were yet sinners God sent his Son to die for us and redeem us into everlasting life. No works, no checks, nothing we can do of ourselves can ever match up or save us. It's free love, free grace, and a beautiful and logical equation.

Please join us as we wrap the final four sessions of our class: Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22. Ninety Minute classes starting at 7pm at Livingston Conference Room.

# Walk for Fall Prevention

Saturday, Sept. 25

in Pleasant Hill

— By Emily Hopkins

Please support the 2010 Walk for Fall Prevention Saturday, September 25 (first Saturday in the fall) 9 a.m. to noon, 500 Ellinwood, Pleasant Hill CA 94523.

Falls are the leading cause of unintentional (accidental) injury deaths among Contra Costa County residents 65 years and older, and the leading cause of unintentional injury hospitalizations for residents of all ages. You can help the Fall Prevention program continue our work to reduce preventable injuries, loss of independence, costs and deaths associated with falls among seniors and people with disabilities.

Here's how you can help.

- Walk with us! The "course" is around a small lake shaded by trees, and isles than half a mile (about 4 city blocks). Walk one lap, or as many as you wish!
- Support walker Emily Hopkins and the St. Paul's team by making a donation
- Come to Ellinwood on Sept. 25 and cheer for our team, enjoy refreshments and entertainment, and get information about fall prevention.

To support us with a check or cash donation, see Emily. You can also go to the web site [www.fallpreventionwalk.org](http://www.fallpreventionwalk.org) to register online using a credit card, and you can also print registration and sponsor forms.

All money donated to the walk goes to the Fall Prevention Program, and is tax deductible (except for an online convenience fee, waived for seniors age 60 and over).

Fall Prevention is a program of Meals on Wheels by Senior Outreach Services. More information is at <http://www.mowsos.org>.

Thank you for your support!

# Lifecycles — Forming Community Through Story

## Encountering Our Story

One of the most engaging threads in human life is story-telling. Experience the power of faith through telling of our own stories, listening to scriptural stories, learning stories of the saints, and wrestling with how our faith story calls us forth to restore God's creation.

Please join us for six Monday evenings that will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30 pm. Our time will include time for gathering, check-in, group activity and reflection, with closing prayers by 8:45 pm.

Where? The Parish Hall

13 October: Telling Our Stories - identify the importance of story in our lives and begin to see how story shapes our lives and shapes the Christian community.

20 October: The Community Tells Its Stories of Creation: Genesis -- explore the meaning of the creation stories for the Church and ourselves.

10 November: Stories of Loving in John – an introduction to different concepts of love and the ways in which love shapes Christian relationships.

17 November: Being Set Free -- explores the concepts of fear/imprisonment and freedom and introduces participants to modern-day saints Absalom Jones and Dorothy Day.

8 December: Creating Our Story of Restorative Justice -- introduces the ethical concepts of justice and enables exploration of the meaning of restorative justice and its place and role in Christianity.

15 December: Review and Celebrate -- a time for to reflect on individual learning and growth and as a group.

Materials used during the course include Hebrew Bible, Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Wonder Love & Praise, and the 1982 Hymnal, Daily Office, and the Book of Common Prayer.

Reserve a seat and a Workbook – Invite a Friend! Sign up in the parish hall each Sunday or send an email to: [specialevents@stpauls.org](mailto:specialevents@stpauls.org), putting the title of the event (Encountering Our Story) in the subject line. Make sure to include your name, how many will be attending and the best way to contact you.

Contact for more information: Laurie Suda



## Warm Winter Nights 2011 Save The Dates

St. Paul's will begin 2011 by hosting homeless families and seniors from Monday January 3rd through Monday January 17th as part of the "Winter Nights" program. The program coordinates a network of churches that together operate as a "rotating shelter". Funding for homeless support services including shelters has been cut in recent years and these families would be living in their cars or under bridges but for the Winter Nights program. Most of these families are in need of temporary shelter while recovering from some crisis such as divorce, illness, disability or job loss.

Our guests will live in our Parish Hall during the evenings and weekends, where we will provide them with food, warmth, safety and fellowship. The Winter Nights program will provide a staff person to handle most of the administrative details but there must be a member of St Paul's in the parish hall at all times while the guests are there. So we need LOTS of volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, prepare meals, provide weekend and evening supervision, tutor the children and stay overnight (sleeping in the Livingston conference room).

Sign-ups will be posted at the end of October.

Can you help out 2-3 hours during the first two weeks of January? Can you help out on more than one day/evening? Please keep some time open during the first two weeks of January to help with this important service. This is an easy way to help our less fortunate neighbors.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call Leslie Dawson at 586-2396 or e-mail [Leslie@forensiccpa.com](mailto:Leslie@forensiccpa.com).



## Faith in Action Update

Faith in Action Ministry is comprised of several committees: Living our Faith, Outreach, Mission, and Fundraising

**Meetings:** Members of the Faith in Action Ministry meet monthly. Next meeting: September 20, 7 pm, Livingston Conference Room

### Upcoming Events

**Blanket Drive** – September 26 and October 3- Leslie Dawson

**Crop Walk** – October 3 – Mark Sturgess

**Rummage Sale** – October 8-10 - Leslie Dawson/Joan McDavid

**Lend a Hand** – Day of Prayer 10.10.10

**Shelter Meal Week** – Anne Morton

### Programs Under development

Outreach Ministry highlights - Schedule presentations on Sunday – invite ministries we support to make a presentation during Fellowship hour

Adopt a college student- mentor program - Develop mentorship program for students from foster/group homes that are in college and have no family support. Start local with DVC.

International Day of Peace 9/21 - Evaluate for opportunity to partner with outside events

### Aftercare programs for youth

Opportunities for assisting youth aging out of Youth Homes - FiA would like to support Youth Homes in the area of advocacy and mentor programs and ongoing collection of donations for residents of Youth Homes.

Stewards (volunteers) to participate and lead the programs under development are needed in order to make them happen. Please contact Donna Colombo if you would like to get involved.

Here are just a few ideas:

Like to cook? The 2nd Monday of every month a very small crew gathers in the kitchen of the Parish Hall and prepares a meal that will feed 100 people at the Concord Shelter.

Are you an organizer? Organize donations for Youth Homes Aftercare program, organize Lend a Hand day of prayer and other events

Like to sew? - Join the Baby Quilt's Bee and enjoy some fellowship while creating a gift for a young child. All skill levels needed. Contact Mary Waddington

Have a morning a month free? - the CCIC Starter Kitchen Kit project would welcome your help. Contact Mary Waddington for details

Enjoy shopping with someone else's money? Join the Food Pantry shoppers. contact:Elizabeth McQuillan

Visit our new webpage for Faith in Action by visiting [www.stpaulswc.org](http://www.stpaulswc.org) and clicking on the Faith in Action Icon.

## Stewardship — Why to Sell Now

Many financial planners are encouraging their clients to see appreciated assets before the end of the year because capital gains taxes will increase in 2011. But did you know that you can sell appreciated real estate or securities without paying taxes on the increase in their value?

You may accomplish this with a “Wealth Preservation Trust”—also known as a Charitable Remainder Trust—which can also provide you with lifetime income. The Diocese serves as trustee for more than 50 such trusts that individuals set up to benefit both their family and their church. Using a charitable remainder trust as a way to make a gift and secure a lifetime income has never been more timely.

For more information, please call your gift planning officer or visit [www.EpiscopalGift.org](http://www.EpiscopalGift.org).

To receive a weekly email message of thanks and opportunities, subscribe to the Gift Legacy at [www.EpiscopalGift.org](http://www.EpiscopalGift.org).

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## “Do Not Know” Prayer

*In our weekly St. Paul's Staff Meetings, we begin with a period of prayer. We rotate prayer leaders and my prayer practice has been enriched by the unique choices from each of our thoughtful staff members and clergy.*

*Recently, I was the prayer leader. Not finding a prayer that spoke to me, I wrote one of my own, hoping it would be appropriate and useful. As some of you know, I write a poem every morning and have done so for (as of this article) the last 520 days in a row. It is a practice of faith to trust that the poem will appear every day. I am grateful that this prayer appeared to me and happy that Rev. Sylvia suggested I share it with you:*

O God, let us pray for something we do not know.

Divine Understanding One, so many of our prayers are veiled pleas to go back. We pray that our loved ones be healed so that we can go back to our old lives, before they were injured or sick. We pray that we find a job, so that we can go back to living paycheck to paycheck, making the mortgage, shopping without worry.

We pray that your light shine upon the minds and open the hearts of those around us so that we can go back to achieving our goals. We pray that our own hearts be healed, thinking we will then be able to fall back asleep, physically, emotionally, spiritually.

O God, let us pray for something we do not know.

Have our prayers of thanksgiving been offered as bulwarks against crisis, so that we can continue on the path that seemed clear, the one suggested by logic and habit? Do we offer praise so that you will know how we wish for more of the same?

O God, let us pray for something we do not know.

You are knowable. We have been born to know your presence and live by your guidance. Let us pray that we will see a new path, will set aside mind pictures and plans and allow you to show us all that our existence can be when we work in concert with your will for our lives. Let us have the courage to walk on new ground, not knowing what will be revealed.

Let us allow your love to grow bright within us, a sure and inspiring light to those with whom we walk, those who walk away, those who are too frightened to move, those who fly into imagined futures rather than do your work in the present.

O God, let us pray.

Let us pray for something we do not know.

## New Seminarian Begins This Month

Hi, my name is Jane Cropper and I am delighted to be your seminarian until next May. I am in my third and (hopefully) final year of my Masters in Divinity degree at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. I live in Brentwood with my partner Cindy Sodowsky, and my three children, Melanie who's 23, graduated last December from CSU East Bay in Hayward with a degree in Kinesiology, and who now works at American Eagle, Charlotte who's 20 and will be a sophomore at UC Santa Cruz studying psychology, next year, and Jacob who's 13, in 8th grade, and loves playing sports, particularly soccer. I'm also owned by three cats and a dog! I love the beach, hiking, gardening, reading, knitting, singing, and soccer – watching not playing!

I am a lifelong Anglican, having been raised in the Church of England before moving to CA in 1989 with my then husband. I have been a member of St. Alban's in Brentwood since 1994 and have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in many different ministries over the years, the longest one being a member of the contemporary music group, and the most recent as part of the East Contra Costa County Area Ministry team.

Before moving to CA I worked as a crisis intervention social worker for 5 years. In 2001 my ex-husband and I opened and operated a retail wine store and wine bar with some friends of ours before I chose to focus on my vocation. This business closed in 2007, about the time I separated from my husband, but instilled in me a love of, and interest in, good wine, which I discovered doesn't necessarily always have to equate to expensive! Since then I have worked part time as an instructor for Mad Science, an extra-curricular science program for elementary age children, doing after school classes, workshops, assemblies and summer camps.

I am an aspirant for holy orders and in the process of applying for postulancy. I believe that the Church needs to grow and change if it is to remain relevant and vibrant in current society, and have an interest in non-traditional ministry and different ways of doing and being church. I hope to be joined at St. Paul's by my partner and my son, and I am excited about learning more about each and every one of you, and the many and wonderful ministries you have at St. Paul's. Please come and say hello to me, but don't be offended if it takes me a while to learn your name – I am not good at names, and if there is anything else you would like to know, just ask.



The International Day of Prayer for Peace was first proposed in 2004 during a meeting between World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia and then-United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan.

It is celebrated annually on September 21 (or the closest Sunday), the UN International Day of Peace. We invite your prayers for peace.

O Almighty God,  
the Father of all humanity,  
turn, we pray, the hearts of all peoples and their rulers,  
that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
peace may be established among the nations  
on the foundation of justice, righteousness and truth;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross  
to draw all people to himself,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## St. Pauls Webmaster To Retire

After ten years as St. Paul's webmaster, Kathleen Watson has announced that she is ready to pass this task along. Six years ago, Kathy came to our rescue to compile the structure and content of [www.stpaulswc.org](http://www.stpaulswc.org), and she has been maintaining it, enhancing it, redesigning it, and adding new and improved features and functions to it ever since. Kathy has diligently updated our website with weekly changes, sermon additions, Epistle Newsletter uploads, and all other new and updated information, donating her time with no cost to St. Pauls. Her many hours of dedication and creativity have truly been gifts to our parish. Kathy also supports fifty or so other websites, and her talents and dedication to others doesn't stop there. As we all know, Kathy has been a Lay Reader and has contributed in many ways to St. Pauls. As she hands over the webmaster baton, we would like to acknowledge all that Kathy has done for us with a huge THANK YOU! Now, we're onto the difficult task of filling her webmaster shoes. If you have knowledge of webpage design, please consider picking up this baton and working with us. Send inquiries to Phil Webster at [communications@stpaulswc.org](mailto:communications@stpaulswc.org).



## Lend a Hand

### 10.10.10

Children – Youth – Young Adults – Adults!

Participate in the Lend a Hand 10.10.10 campaign - a day of global prayer and support the Millenium Development Goals for ending extreme poverty by 2015.

How can you help?

- Worship with us on Sunday 10.10.10
- Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who live in poverty
- Pray for each Millennium Development Goal
- Make handprints that we will send to join with others from around the country and will be delivered to our leaders
- Join the One Episcopalian Campaign

Millenium Development Goals

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat hiv/aids, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Ways we support the Millenium Development Goals at St. Pauls:

Honduras Mission • Youth Mission • Faith in Action Advocacy and Outreach Ministries • Crop Walk • Fundraising & Charitable Donations • Solar Panels

Join us on 10.10.10 and lend your hand.

More on the MDG's:

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/ONE\\_Episcopalian\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_-\\_MDGs\\_-\\_September\\_2008.pdf](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/ONE_Episcopalian_Fact_Sheet_-_MDGs_-_September_2008.pdf)

## Vestry Pays off House Mortgage, Begins Work on Rectory Residual Payoff

On August 3, 2010, at the direction of the Vestry, the balance of the loan owing on the house at 1944 Trinity Avenue was paid off in full. Previously, there had been a mortgage on the house, which was a 10 year loan at 8 per cent per year. (Current low mortgage rates don't apply to the Church, only to individuals.) The Finance Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved, paying off the loan in order to save the significant interest expense we were incurring.

The mortgage payoff was made possible primarily by two events: the surplus from last year's operating budget, and a bequest from Sleet Henderson's estate. Those monies were both applied to paying back the Rectory Residual self-loan, consistent with the policies that the Vestry had approved earlier. Rectory Residual then had enough to pay off the mortgage and still leave enough money to act as our contingency fund.

The Vestry also decided to use the \$1208 per month that had been budgeted for paying off the mortgage to instead be applied to paying off the Rectory Residual loan (with interest). In this way, the Vestry has committed to a specific method for paying back all of the self-loans that have been made out of the Rectory Residual fund.

Congratulations, Vestry, on a huge step forward!

## 1944 Trinity Rented!

After a three month vacancy, we have finally found great tenants for our rental house at 1944 Trinity. They are Eric Johnson, Sargeant, U. S. Army and Sarah Watson, a special ed teacher in the Livermore District. They have two small dogs. They moved in on Saturday, August 14. Thanks to Todd Lopes, our facilities manager for all his good work in finding our new tenants, and doing all the paperwork and administrative tasks.

If you should see them, please extend a warm welcome to our new neighbors, Eric and Sarah.

## Second Parish Forum "Focus on Growth" proved to be an evening well spent!

— By Anne-Leith Matlock

The Growth Parish forum took place on Sunday, August 22 beginning with a Potluck at 5:30 p.m. in which the Youth Group joined in. The lively debate "to grow or not to grow" was hashed out between two well known characters of our St. Paul's Family, Deacon Don and Senior Warden Marianne (with a few lifelines provided by those in attendance.

The outstanding short video "Everyday Creativity" by Dewitt Jones set the tone for a positive evening. An update on progress by the Growth Committee, Staff and Vestry of St. Paul's on initial Growth planning was presented. (see related summary named growth brainstorming overview).

We next broke into 4 small groups (of 8-12) to put meat on the bones for next steps in Growth for St. Paul's. The groups were asked to tackle the following questions:

- 1) Why will They Keep Coming Back? - Brain Storming
- 2) One specific next 6 month objective to keep newcomers coming back (choose 1 from #1 above) the following ideas were presented: all age groups visible at services/American Idol – St. Paul's Style; One on One follow up with visitors utilizing active listening; ¼ly Newcomers Brunch on Sunday Mornings-incorporate into Foyer Groups; Create a Color Welcome Brochure with all our ministries – mentors.
- 3) One specific next 6 month objective on How will We Find Them (newcomers) [Idea starters from top two categories:] the following ideas were presented:

Pins for conversation starter/one-on-one invitations/web page/ Coming attractions reel dvd during fellowship hour; Facebook moderator with fresh ideas and new pictures; Add web address to phone message; fresh updated banners on consistent basis.

Then we pulled back together and affirmed our progress on Growth as a community.

The open dialog, regarding growth at St. Paul's yielded only one pre-submitted question that was presented with answer and then many attendees joined in the open dialogue. In addition, one questions was fielded from the floor regarding the parish survey in the spring a discussion pursued along the lines of the letter sent out to the parish by the Wardens and rector. We all look forward to a follow up survey in the next year or so.

The Next Growth Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 7, 2010 from 6:30-8:00. All are Welcome!

# Mi Casa Dinner Raisers Funds for Honduras Mission Project

On Wednesday evening, August 25, 73 of us gathered at Mi Casa Restaurant on North Broadway in Walnut Creek for a delicious 3 course dinner. Guests paid for their dinners, and for each guest, \$14 went to the Honduras Mission Project Fund. The dinner was highlighted by several raffles, some very attractive costumes and hats and by the food itself, which was classic Central American.



This year, 19 (so far) of us from St. Paul's and three other congregations will travel to Honduras to work with the people of San Juan Evangelista Episcopal Church in Villanueva, a suburb of Tegucigalpa, the capital. Our central project will be to build a co-op store, where items made by the sewing co-op, the bakery co-op, as well as surplus groceries can be sold in the village. This will provide employment and income for the people of San Juan Evangelista.

Another fundraising dinner is scheduled for Wednesday evening, September 29, at Massimo's on Locust Street. The theme of this dinner is "Back to our Deep Roots", because Massimo's is located on the original site of our chapel, which was moved to its current location in 1950. Some tickets (\$39 per person), are still available for this dinner.

All funds raised by all of the Honduras fundraising projects go 100% directly to the project goals-- all the missionaries pay their own travel and lodging expenses.





## Vestry

*To join a team, contact the Vestry Liaison listed.*

Senior Warden  
 People's Warden  
 CFO  
 Clerk

Marianne Johnson (12)  
 Tom Tcheng (11)  
 Jerry Williams  
 Jory Sandusky

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## Ministry Teams

Administration  
 Adult Formation  
 Children, Youth, Young Families  
 Communication\*  
 Evangelism/Church Growth  
 Faith in Action (Outreach)  
 Liturgy & Music  
 Membership  
 Parish Life  
 Pastoral Care  
 Property  
 Stewardship

Mike Siebert (12)  
 Laurie Suda (13)  
 Marianne Johnson (12)  
 Phil Webster (11)  
 Anne-Leith Matlock (13)  
 Donna Colombo (13)  
 Tom Tcheng (11)  
 Michael Kus (11)  
 Julie Layne (12)  
 Mike Yale (13)  
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