

# THE EPISTLE

*OUR MISSION... is to understand and celebrate God's dream for the world,  
to be transformed in Jesus' love and to use our gifts to make a difference for others.*

*OUR VISION... is a world in which God's embracing love is joyfully shared by all people.*

A Monthly Newsletter

February 2011

From the Rector's Desk...

## On Pilgrimage

The Christian life has been compared to a pilgrimage.

On a pilgrimage the pilgrims journey to a holy destination, to pray, to receive healing and to be spiritually renewed. Unlike some journeys, the point of the pilgrimage isn't just to get there, but to be open to the surprises along the road. Sometimes the encounter with God happens on the way rather than at the destination.

I like the image of pilgrimage. It works for me in terms of my personal life journey. Sometimes I get frustrated that I am not reaching all my goals. The things I had planned aren't working out the way I wanted them to. And then I am reminded of the saying: Life is what happens when you are making other plans. I am keeping the image of pilgrimage in mind as I look ahead at the next year.

At the end of March the Rev. Sally Boelter will retire. I felt so blessed when we found Sally to come serve as Associate Rector for making connections almost 4 years ago. She has such a great sense of reaching out to people and sharing her love when they are hurting. She is so well-prepared and passionate when she teaches. She is also a great colleague. But now she will continue on her pilgrimage, and we will ask God what trail our parish is being called to take as we seek her successor. As on a pilgrimage, there is sadness when things seem off track, but we anticipate a blessing.

At the end of May we will vacate our worship space for the summer. At the end of the summer we will return to a beautifully refreshed space (with the organ renovation taking a little longer). While we are working to plan for every contingency, there will, no doubt, be holy surprises along the way.

And so I invite you to have the attitude of a pilgrim in these months ahead. Let us find ways to remind one another to have holy expectations even as we say good-bye to Sally and prepare to move. Let us remember that, though it is good to get to the end of the journey, it is what happens on the way that is often the real blessing.

A fellow pilgrim,

Thomas ☩

## Upcoming Events

- Feb 1-13 Home & Hope
- Feb 1 Altar Guild Meeting
- Feb 6 CLOW Parent Coffee
- Feb 6 St. Paul's Knitting Group Meets
- Feb 7 Circle Meeting
- Feb 7 Stewardship Meeting
- Feb 10 MOMS on a Mission Meets
- Feb 14 Tea 'n Talk
- Feb 14 Vestry Meeting
- Feb 25-26 Diocesan Anti-Racism Training

## Connecting to the Wider Church

The Executive Council of the Diocese of California is forming the Assessment Formula Committee. This group is charged with looking at the current formula that is used to assess parishes for money to run the Diocese. St. Paul's currently contributes \$121,000 to the work of the Diocese. That money is used to run the programs for the wider church. Our own Debbie Cleveland is now serving on this important committee. Most of the work of this committee will be done in the spring. They will make a recommendation to be voted on at the annual Diocesan Convention next October. Our Diocesan delegates will be part of the vote then.

- Dawn Mulliken

## Can You Give Someone a Lift... *and lift their spirits at the same time?*

Many people have a yen to come to church, but lack wheels, and hesitate to ask for a ride. St. Paul's is making an effort to ease that problem. We are beginning the process of collecting the names of some potential "chauffeurs" who would be willing to provide transportation occasionally, or on a regular basis, for those unable to drive to church, or church functions. The list would be made available to those who would be interested in taking advantage of such a service, with the understanding that it would be for parish activities only, and within the limitations of each driver.

Anyone who would like to participate in this "mobile ministry" as a driver, please call the church office, or send an e-mail to Carol – [cmartin@stpaulsburlingame.org](mailto:cmartin@stpaulsburlingame.org) and leave your name and telephone number, and someone will get back to you with more details.

If you are the one who needs a ride, we would like to know who you are as well!

## Knitting Group Meets Feb. 6th

St. Paul's knitting group is relaxed and informal, with no agendas... just social knitting and conversation. We share our ideas and skills, and make new friends. Come every time, or whenever you can. Beginning knitters welcome.

**When:** First Sunday of every month, 11:45am - 1:30 pm

**Where:** Il Piccolo Caffe -- currently, no credit cards allowed  
1219 Broadway (between Paloma & Laguna) in Burlingame  
(650) 348-4147

There is ample free parking on Sundays in the Broadway shopping district. Questions? Contact Susan O'Doherty at 650-871-5877 or [editor@wordwizard.us](mailto:editor@wordwizard.us)



## Tea, Talk and Romance

February has long been a month of romance. It is the month associated with Valentine's Day celebrations. We have, time and again, heard the name St. Valentine being uttered before us in this season of love. But just who is this St. Valentine? Why is this month associated with love and romance? The origin of this lovers day goes back as early as 270 A.D and started with the clash between a kindly priest and a mighty ruler.



Tea 'N Talk folks will have the opportunity to learn a little more about the saint and the "day" at our next Tea 'N Talk celebration in February. Bring your romantic hearts and stories with you! And if you're not involved with Tea 'N Talk? We wish you a Happy Valentine's Day anyway.



## Bishop Marc Visits St. Paul's

**Sunday, February 13, 2011**  
**One Service only-10:00am**  
**Bishop to lead 9am Adult Forum**

The Right Reverend Marc Andrus, Bishop of California, will be visiting Saint Paul's on February 13th. Bishop Marc oversees the 89 congregations of the Diocese, and numerous agencies that serve the poor as well.

Every other year the bishop visits to share the work of the diocese with us, and to hear about our little part of the God's mission here at Saint Paul's.

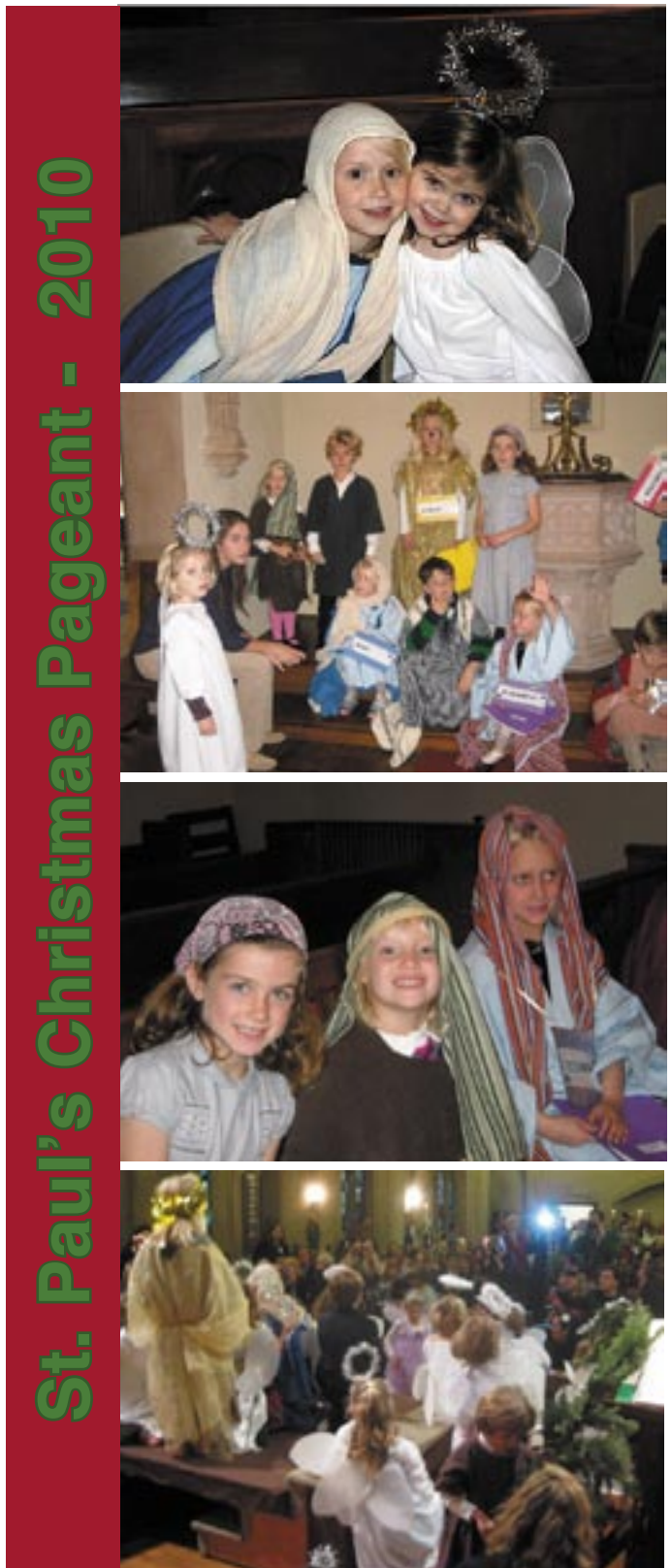
Bishop Marc is a great teacher, and all are invited to join him at our 9am adult forum. The Bishop will preach and serve as Celebrant for the Eucharist that day, and then join us for fellowship and conversation following the service.

## Sunday Forums: Jan.– Feb. 2011

After beginning our new year with an overview of the praying and singing the psalms in the beginning of January (and even a "field trip"), the adult forums will be focusing on Art in the Church. That art we'll look at will be in a variety of forms – painting, icons, and poetry. How has an individual and community's faith been expressed throughout the centuries? What does the content of the particular art form say about our faith from one generation to another? How is our faith being expressed in art today? How is art able to influence our spiritual life in ways that rhetoric is unable to do so?

Then, toward the end of February, the forums will focus on the mystics, with an overview of mysticism and a brief look at a few of the mystics in the church – St. John the Divine, Julian of Norwich, Evelyn Underhill. Not sure exactly what mysticism is? You're not alone. Numerous definitions and explanations have been given. And sometimes the definitions have raised suspicions about mysticism and the mystics. Evelyn Underhill defined mysticism in this way: "Mysticism is the art of union with Reality.... The mystic is a person who has attained that union in a greater or lesser degree; or who aims at and believes in such attainment." The "Reality" to which Evelyn Underhill refers is what some philosophers call the Absolute and many theologians call God.

We invite you to come and learn with us. Adult Forums are held regularly on Sunday mornings in the Higbie Library of the Parish Hall from 9-9:45 a.m.



St. Paul's Christmas Pageant - 2010

## Advent and Christmas for Children and Families at St. Paul's Church

*A true community journey! So many people to thank!*

Our children prepared themselves for the birth of Jesus by exploring Jesus' family tree, known as "the Jesse Tree." While learning the ancient story of our ancestors of faith in God, the children got to be Jesus' hands in this world now, through participating once again in the collection of 150 food items for Samaritan House families' Christmas celebration.

Thank you to **Tish Busselle**, for making it possible for our children to give in this way.

Our Sunday Journey Advent time also saw two special visitors in Sunday Journey: Joseph and Mary came to Sunday Journey classes and told their story.

Thank you to **Phil Dur, Kristi Blundell and Joan Cleary** for their help in portraying Joseph and Mary!

Our families were able to keep this holy time "holy" through the use of Advent wreaths in their homes. Our Advent Festival allowed families of all sorts to make a wreath of greens and purple and pink candles to serve as an object to light and gather around to prayerfully prepare family's souls for the new spiritual birth Christmas can bring.

Many thanks to **Kristi Blundell, Leslie Dicioccio, Sandy Moore, Cara Dakin, Kim Bottoms, Joan Cleary, Jessica Varelas** and the many more who helped with our Advent Festival! Especially, the early morning set up! And all those who brought soup, bread and sandwiches!

Advent also saw many families taking the time (two Sunday rehearsals and a dress rehearsal) to make our Christmas Pageant the beautiful worship offering it was on Christmas Eve.

The two big new additions to our generations-old Christmas Pageant production were: **Caroline Dicioccio** as director and **Sherrick Murdoff** building our much needed stage!!!

Along with Caroline's talented directing, was **Katie Adams** as assistant director, **Paul Cleary** as sound director, **Jo Ann Hartley** as our very organized costumer, **Carrie Rice** (even when she was going out of town!) as costumer and coordinator of the little shepherds, angels and animals and of course, the visionary: **Jessica Sobolik Willey** as our pageant coordinator.

Of course, our beautiful, wonderful young people who told the story! This year it was: **Livvy Platerink, Peter Dicioccio, Maggie Murdoff, Halden Dyer, Joseph Moore, Matthew Murdoff, Charlotte Murdoff, Grace Borgeson, Amelia Alton, Samantha Woollen and Lara Woollen, Lodo Platerink**

Behind all these names are the families who supported these young people in memorizing lines, helping with their costumes and props as well as feeding them during rehearsals! Oh, and making it work for them to even be at the rehearsals.

Let's not forget the parents who helped move that stage back and forth for rehearsals and the moms and dads who carried that incredibly solid stage all the way to the parish hall after the service on Christmas Eve!

## For Families This February...

**February 6th** -- Sunday Journey Parents stay for coffee during the Sunday school hour. Discover tools and resources "tested" by St. Paul's parents for faith-formation at home. And preview a Paraclete Press DVD Production, of *"Bullying: What Every Adult Should Know."*

**February 10th** -- **Going to church: On the list for your Valentine?**

M.O.M.s take a morning to exchange experiences, 9:30-11:30 in Coxhead Conference Room. Childcare will be available. For more information, contact Kristi Blundell at [kristi3sons@myastound.net](mailto:kristi3sons@myastound.net) or Leslie Dicioccio at [LeslieD4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LeslieD4@sbcglobal.net).

## St. Paul's Nursery Thanks You!

Thank you to our February volunteers:

Feb. 6 - Carrie Rice  
Feb 13 - Andrea Vanderlugt  
Feb. 20 - no volunteers  
Feb. 27 - Katie Schmidt



### We still need your help in

**the nursery!** Sign-ups for the Spring Rota will be coming out in late February. Contact Katharine Wilson at [kbkwilson@hotmail.com](mailto:kbkwilson@hotmail.com) with your available dates. Thanks in advance!

- Katharine Wilson and Julie Graham

## St. Paul's Moms on a Mission! MOMs Tackles the issue of Prayer With Our Kids...

Our primary focus for the morning gathering was a discussion of the role of prayer in our families. How do we use prayer at home? Wide-ranging discussion recapped below.

- Moms find prayer helpful for kids facing challenges – from appealing to Saints to guard their beds at night, to coping with meanness, to just trying to understand “why” they are struggling.
- Of course, each child and need is different. A ritual that sustains one, doesn't work for another – one needed the “light of Christ” bestowed before negotiating a tough school day while another giggles to sleep with the blessing of “the father, son and holy pepper!” Finding what best reaches your child is most important.
- Also key is helping children understand different kinds of prayer. Kristi offered a great book, Am I Praying? Kids learn that prayer can come at all times and with all kinds of intentions (not just when we want things to go our way!). This includes silent prayer, “listening” prayer or meditation.
- The key is that the connection to God be made, and that connection be a part of everyday life. As one Mom puts it for her kids.

*“God is standing right next to you all the time –  
How would you like to be ignored? Include him.”*

### Ideas and Tools for praying at home with kids:

We had lots of ideas of tools to help kids make that connection:

- Collecting prayers in a prayer book for young children,
- Making use of our book of Common Prayer,
- Creating sacred space at home,
- Rolling a prayer die,
- Keeping a prayer list,
- Leaving concerns in a prayer or “God” box.

Many find that using existing prayers makes the process easier to start and maintain, as does praying at routine times (before meal or bed, or at the sound of a siren). Prayer lists and boxes also provide the opportunity to go back later and see how prayers were answered. A list of books discussed follows.\*

Like everything else, *kids benefit from seeing parents pray.* One mom shared the impact it made on her when her uncle eulogized her grandmother by saying the most important thing she had ever taught him was how to pray.

Another shared her understanding of family as a child's “first church.”

And then, what if Mom is the only one? Mom and Dad may not practice faith the same way. The consensus was that if there is not quite a “united front,” then differences between parents need to be discussed openly and understood by children – if we don't want kids “opting out” as they get older.

### What about these men and church? - A topic for our next meeting!

\*Resource List:

Am I Praying  
by Jeannie St. John Taylor

Praying – A Book for Children  
by Nancy L. Roth

The Anglican Family Prayer Book  
by Anne E. Kitch



## Rite 13

### St. Paul's in Burlingame

### St. Matthew's in San Mateo

Rite 13 Sunday classes are for all 6th and 7th grade students from St. Paul's and St. Matthew's and are held every Sunday morning from 9-9:50 in the Upper Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame. The Rite 13 class offers students an age-appropriate curriculum that helps students find their own place in the church and get a sense of belonging, both emotionally and theologically. It is also a class that celebrates the students as they mature from children into young adults of the church and so culminates in a Rite 13 ceremony when they turn 13.

## Rite 13 Ceremonies

### Spring: Sunday, March 5

As many of you know, part of the Rite 13 curriculum is to honor those students turning 13 with a celebration and ritual. The next Rite 13 Ceremony will be on Sunday, March 6, 2011 during the Sunday services at both St. Paul's and St. Matthew's. There will be a rehearsal dinner the night before at St. Matthew's for those involved. We would like to honor all those in the parish turning 13, whether they have been participating in Rite 13 on Sunday mornings or not, and welcome students, families and friends to witness this wonderful rite of passage. There will also be another Rite Ceremony towards the end of the semester and one at the start of the Fall 2011 semester.



## Rite 13 Class Teachers

### St. Paul's:

Rev. Thomas Skillings, [tskillings@stpaulsburlingame.org](mailto:tskillings@stpaulsburlingame.org)  
Laura Gardner, [lauragardner@comcast.net](mailto:lauragardner@comcast.net)  
Rob Rice, [rcmradventure@gmail.com](mailto:rcmradventure@gmail.com)

### St. Matthew's:

Stannie Holt, [stannieholt@astound.net](mailto:stannieholt@astound.net)  
Janine Gerzanic, [j9gerz@gmail.com](mailto:j9gerz@gmail.com)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact any one of the Rite 13 teachers. Central communication is handled through Denora Dyer and she can be reached at [denoradyer@gmail.com](mailto:denoradyer@gmail.com). As far as possible there is always one representative teacher from each parish every Sunday.

St. Matthew's students can get rides back to St. Matthew's at 9:50 with parental permission.

## CHOIR SCHOOL AWARDS ON DECEMBER 16

On Thursday evening, December 16th, The Reverend Thomas Skillings, rector of St. Paul's, presented six Choristers with special awards as symbols of their individual achievements in the Royal School for Church Music (RSCM) Chorister Training Program. Through the RSCM, our Choristers prepare to be leaders of the ministry of music at St. Paul's. Séraphée de Labaca and Sophia Turek were invested as full choristers, symbolized by their receiving white cottas. Davey Breice and Gabriel Lim were presented respectively with the light blue (first level) and dark blue (two level) ribbons. In recognition of their outstanding leadership in the Choir School, Joey Blundell and Michael Caraher were appointed head choristers and now wear the head chorister badge on a yellow ribbon, in addition to the bronze (green ribbon) and silver awards (purple ribbon) they have earned. Congratulations Choristers!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to our choirs for a truly beautiful Advent and Christmas season of music making offered to the glory of God. From Advent Lessons and Carols, to the St. Paul's Circle Christmas Tea, an Advent 4 sung by the boys and girls of the St. Nicolas Choir and Choristers, to the services of Christmas Eve and Christmastide . . . heartfelt thanks for your sweet singing in the choir.

## ANNUAL HYMN SING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 10AM

*I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise  
with the mind also. ~ I Corinthians 14:15*

St. Paul's annual **Hymn Sing** will be held this year on **February 27** at the 10am Holy Eucharist, the Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany. Come with open heart, mind, and ears to joyfully sing treasured hymns, and discover a few new treasures of our Anglican tradition. With the help of our choirs, learn a few vocal tips for lifting your voice with skill in praise of God.

## CHOIR SCHOOL CONCERT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 5 AT 4PM

You are invited to come and delight in the voices of the 31 boys and girls of our Choir School as they join to perform our first Choir School Concert at 4pm on Saturday, March 5th in the church. Between performances by the choirs of the Choir School - St. Cecilia Choir, St. Nicolas Choir and Choristers – boys and girls from the Choir School will perform vocal and instrumental solos.

## CHORAL PIECES ON CHOIR SCHOOL CONCERT PROGRAM

Canon, *Dona nobis pacem* (*Grant us peace*)

Simon Lindley, *O God, my heart is ready*

Swedish folk song, *Thy holy wings*

Johann Sebastian Bach, *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* / *Jesu bleibet meine Freude*

Jean Langlais, *Agnus Dei* (from **Missa in simplicitate**)

Andrew Carter, *Badgers & hedgehogs* (from **Bless the Lord**)

John Rutter, *Look at the World*

Spiritual, arr. Caldwell/Ivory, *Go where I send thee!*



*Susan Matthews*  
Director of Music



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The Rev. Thomas Skillings, Rector  
The Rev. Sally Boelter, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Julie Graham, Associate Rector  
Dr. Susan Jane Matthews, Director of Music

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday: 8am** - Eucharist in Chapel

**Sunday: 10am** - Sung Eucharist

**Wednesday: 11am** - Eucharist and Healing

### **Tongan Service:**

2nd & 3rd Sundays - 2pm - Prayer Service

1st & 4th Sundays - 2pm - Anglican Eucharist

### **ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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