

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

June / July 2011

From the Rector's Desk...

The Summer Sojourn Begins

We all know about getting a different perspective in summer. Many of us travel to the mountains or to favorite vacation destinations. Last summer our family took a long car trip to Wyoming and Montana, and it was good to change things up for a few weeks.

As we begin our parish summer sojourn, with the hall transformed into a wonderful space for worship, we also have the opportunity to get a little different perspective. The church is a little "rounder" meaning we will be able to see one another face to face. We are mostly on the same level, and it will feel a little more like gathering around a table.

For many of us, summer is also a time when our Sunday morning routine is simplified. With Sunday Journey on hiatus, we can sleep in a little longer. With simpler music, the service is a little shorter. As always, Sunday morning will be a time to get re-grounded, but in a more low key way.

There are so many ways that the change of pace in summer feeds our souls. I look forward to our summer sojourn as a time when the change of perspective might touch our souls in new and different ways.

Peace,

Thomas ✠

Upcoming Events

- June 5 - Sunday Journey Spirit Awards
- June 7 - Altar Guild Meeting
- June 8 - Ministry Teams Meeting
- June 12 - Pentecost Sunday/Baptism
- June 19 - Father's Day
- June 12-19 - Youth Summer Mission Trip
- June 20 - Vestry Meeting
- July 4 - Office Closed
- July 5 - Altar Guild Meeting
- July 18 - Vestry Meeting
- July 19 - Outreach Committee Meeting



Dear St. Paul's Community,

After months of planning and two and a half years of fundraising, the interior renovations to our beloved Church have begun. Thank you to all who celebrated our last Sunday in the Church and were able to help with the move. It was a herculean effort to strip the Church bare. Thank you especially to our move engineers: 1) Marty Beater and Joan Cleary who have been planning for months both the move and the arrangements for Summer Sojourn in the Parish Hall and 2) Jack Martin who engineered the removal, transport and the installation of the pews and other major pieces of furniture including building the move dollies and his support team. We are also grateful to our fellow Tongan community who spent what would have been their Sunday afternoon service in the Church helping with the move.

The interior work is well underway. As many of you noticed, the organ removal began right after Easter with the installation of the scaffolding on the left front of the Church next to the transept. The purpose of the scaffolding was to be able to access the organ pipes so that they could be removed one by one very carefully. Now, other scaffolding has gone up in the Church to begin the wall repairs and preparation needed prior to painting, electrical repairs and improvements for better and more even lighting, and sealing of the ceiling to improve the sound. After the painting is complete, work will begin on restoration of the floors and the installation of the new doors between the narthex (entry way) and the Church itself. One of the sets of doors will have automatic openers for easier access for those with physical challenges. These are just a few of the "big picture" renovations that will be completed before we return to the Church in September.

Summer Sojourn: Very careful planning has gone into what is being called "Summer Sojourn" in the Parish Hall. Yes, it will be different because we will not be in the Church but it gives us the opportunity to experience worshipping in a different space and different configuration. It reminds me of my summer camp days when I was young during which we had a multi-denominational service outside among the trees overlooking a small lake. That experience taught me, at a very young age, that God is with me everywhere and that being



with God can happen anywhere—now for us that "anywhere" on Sunday is Foote Hall. I look forward to sitting in the pew and letting my mind drift a little to think about all that Foote Hall has been to our community life at St. Paul's - from rummage to coffee hours to a

safe place for our children (young and grown) to be together and play to annual meetings to many festive celebrations to more somber occasions on which many individuals' lives have been celebrated. And now, for three months, Foote Hall is our place for Sunday worship.

2012 Budget: One of the roles of the Vestry is to think and plan ahead with the Rector. As one part of planning is ending thanks to the work of many both members of the Vestry and members of our larger community, planning for the 2012 Budget is underway. Last year's Vestry had established a goal to restore the Music Director position to fulltime as soon as the budget was stable and would be able to support this goal. The Vestry decided at our May meeting after several months of budget review and discussion that the 2012 budget would support the restoration of the Music Director position to fulltime. We are confident that with the leadership of the Stewardship Commission, our annual pledges will make this possible and we wanted to give Dr. Matthews an assurance of our intent before she left for the summer.

Associate Rector Search: The search is progressing well with several interviews held and a few visits made to find the "right fit" for St. Paul's and the important leadership and support needed for both youth and pastoral care.



On behalf of the Vestry
Tish Busselle, Senior Warden

Involvement in a Faith Community: *Take a Break from Social Networking to do Some “Soul-Making”*

How are you interested in deepening your time here?
Children and Families Ministries has lots of ways to deepen
your relationship in this community:

- Interested in learning more about the Scripture and Episcopal traditions? Love kids? Want to know what your child is learning on Sunday mornings at 9am? **Sunday Journey:** consider teaching! We need teachers. We work in teams of three for each of our five groups. So, you're never alone, and never having to do it every week, unless you want to! We use a curriculum for our lesson plans, *Seasons of the Spirit*.
- Interested in making the scripture apply to real life? Want faith to be ACTION? Concerned about encouraging compassion in your child and in the wider community? **Compassionate Kids:** consider joining this team! We have intermittent meetings to reflect and plan, we're project driven based on the liturgical seasons of the church year. We develop ways for children to make the world a better place, to spread the love and justice of God.
- Interested in bringing your faith home? Want to “soul-make” at home? Practicing what you preach? Like to gather with other families? **The Festivals for family connections!** Consider making the parish party happen! We need people to take one or all of our 3 festivals, the Advent Festival, the Festival and the Palm Festival, and make them happen next year! No planning, no creating necessary, just do them! We need people to set them up.
- Interested in bringing faith into your parenting? Want to know other moms who are seeking to live and parent with spiritual values? Just want some friends? Want to talk about something besides trying to get your child to eat vegetables? M.O.M.S: consider attending Moms On a Mission! Mark your calendars now for the 2nd Thursday of the month beginning in September!

So, in finding any or all of these ways, God is calling you to grow your soul.

Need more information? Contact The Rev. Julie A Graham!

Final Nursery Schedule for the Year.

Thank-you to all of our volunteers this year! Our nursery wouldn't work without the time and support of everyone.

5/1 Barbara Anderson
5/15 Kim Bottoms
5/22 Barbara Anderson
6/5 Barbara Anderson



Just a reminder... there are no nursery volunteers during the summer months. Many thanks.

- Katharine Wilson

A Huge THANK YOU to...

two fantastic moms in our MOMS on a Mission group



I must recognize Leslie Dicioccio and Kristi Blundell. There is so much in Children and Family ministries that happened because of their faith and commitment. Thanks to them, we had MOMS meet, Parent's coffees, the Advent Festival, the FASTIVAL and the Palm Festival.

Your leadership deepened us and grew us in God's incredible love!

Its Summer Time! Making Family Soul

So, does this mean we don't have to go to church? !!

Now is the glorious time of “breaks from the routine.” It’s also a time of transition. It’s a time to cope with and enjoy our kids out of school. Summer is traveling and different environments. Summer is embracing other communities and relationships far away.

Breaks from routine are wonderful and sometimes necessary. They can be respites for the soul. Depending on how burned out we are, the summer really can be what the church calendar refers to as “green and growing time” for our souls.

Perhaps a hidden value in the summer months is having some space to get in touch with our souls, even acknowledge that we have one! And in becoming more “soul aware” we might be able to ask and possibly even answer some deeper questions our souls have been trying to address, but there just hasn’t been the time or space to listen!

Questions such as: What makes our souls and our family’s grow? Does God make our soul grow? Do our souls ever quit needing God? What about our prayer life? Is there a time we don’t need to pray? And what about spiritual food... is there a difference between the power of nature and the prayed-over Bread and Wine to feed our souls? What place do the relationships we have with people at church play in the nurturing of our souls?

The shift in routine during the summer allows us time to “take a look.” Asking big questions such as:

- Where does church land in our list of priorities?
- Do we want/need the influence of a faith?
- Does church involvement feed that faith?

And of course summer is a time our children continue to “watch us.” So, do we go to church on vacation? Do we continue to say prayers at home? What place do the sacraments and rituals of faith community find for us in this respite from the school year routines? What does it mean if church involvement is based solely on the school calendar rather than the family calendar? And probably a more important question the summer might allow: *Who or what is in charge of our calendar?* Does our calendar (how and where we spend our time) reflect our priorities and values does it *grow soul* for our family?

Is it our FAMILY calendar or is it the sports team’s or the school’s or ... Are we living by our family’s calendar? And is our family living in God? Or... what is making the soul of our family?

MOMs: Fresh Faces, New Friends, Compelling Conversations

What’s in a name? A common identity, purpose, and job description, according to last year’s Children & Families Ministry Group. The group reinvented itself last Fall to better focus on building connections between parents at St. Paul’s, especially mothers. With the new emphasis came a new name – **Moms On a Mission or MOMs.**

“What always made our meetings most meaningful in the past,” said co-chair Kristi Blundell, “were the connections we made with each other, and how those connections helped us to be better moms, better people, and better connected to God. So, this year we really worked to deepen these connections.” Blundell and co-chair Leslie Dicioccio worked with the Rev. Julie Graham to target compelling topics for the monthly Thursday morning get-togethers, including:

- What makes it hard to get to church on Sunday mornings?
- Halloween – witch’s brew or rich tradition?
- Giving Birth: Advent from the unique perspective of motherhood
- Gifts and what children really want for Christmas
- Prayer at home
- Dads and going to church
- C. S. Lewis’s **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** and its application to Lent for children (two meetings worth!)

The format ranged from discussion and debate to thought-provoking exercises and reflection. Discussions were often recapped in the next month’s Epistle.

Outreach was also a top priority of MOMs. The team hoped to link new families to St. Paul’s regulars, young moms to those with older children, and all to opportunities for exploring their family’s faith, and participating in education, worship and service at St. Paul’s. “Six new moms were able to join the meetings on a regular basis, expanding the ministry to eleven participants,” said Dicioccio. “We had everything from diapers to driver’s permits on our minds.” This year’s MOMs have more than two dozen children, from toddlers to college-aged. For most meetings, childcare was available for those with children at home. New connections weren’t limited to the grown-ups!

“I’m really glad I decided to try the group out,” said new member Andrea Vanderlugt. “I wasn’t sure what the MOMs did exactly, but I found a warm group of insightful women to support my own spiritual growth, as well as my family, and our church family. What I liked most about the group was an opportunity to share experiences, challenges, and joys of being a Christian mother.”

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MOMs

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Multi-tasking MOMs did more than share insights and swap stories. The former Children & Families team continued to produce parish events that highlight Holy seasons for families – the Advent Festival, the Lent “Fast-ival” and the Palm Festival. Additionally, the group hosted three morning coffees for parents to share information on Sunday Journey volunteering, the St. Paul’s Christmas Pageant, and a video with discussion on the hot topic of bullying.

The group meets for a final time this academic year on June 2nd, and will discuss both the joyful and sometimes challenging transitions for parents and children that come with summer time. Special thanks go to Joan Cleary, Jessica Varelas, Michelle Beaularlier, Kim Bottoms, Megan Dyer, Sheila Krakow, Maura Pratt, and Andrea Vanderlugt for their contributions to MOMs this year.

For more information on MOMs, including leadership opportunities, contact the Rev. Julie Graham at jgraham@stpaulsburlingame.org.

Our Children Listening to God’s Force - The Real Purpose of Church

The time of truth had arrived. I had shown my almost 9 year old son the original “Star Wars” trilogy for the first time. It seemed he was finally ready for it.

After we finished **Return of the Jedi**, the last in the cycle, I asked THE QUESTION, “Who was your favorite character?” Of course, in asking this, I had an agenda. Throughout my years working with children and teens all the writing had been how boys favored Darth Vader. Hands down, Darth was more popular for dress-up and play. Experts blessed this choice with the rationale that boys needed a “safe way” to express anger, grapple with evil, feel powerful and/or deal with fear.

After recently viewing the original trilogy, I thought Darth, well, was a really terrible being. I mean, he KILLED people who failed him. He was half a machine. And what did he do to Princess Leia with that syringe in the first episode?? He had no mercy, no compassion. He was of the dark side. And the dark side was fed by anger and grew stronger as anger turned to hatred. “Kill me!” taunted the evil emperor to Luke Skywalker in Return of the Jedi and “I win!” What?????

Perhaps this is why I waited to show these films to my son. Before he witnessed things being blown up and people magically choked to death, I wanted him to have a degree of development that understood the difference between a

movie and reality. Further, I wanted him to view this with an instilled sense of right and wrong action. For him to view the film being able to name his feelings, and have his own sense of the appropriate expression of his anger and fear. I wanted him to be at the stage in his life when he could grasp what the movie was really about. I wanted him to be able to follow the narrative rather than just see the gunfights and people being killed. And given the kind of story the movie was trying to tell, I wanted him to have a more grown moral compass, to have a specific belief system in place, in our case, Christian.

Because, to really teach our children a Christian belief system, not just “expose them, or inform them” but to go beyond affiliation and to “really form an identity from it” our purpose is much more than for them to be “nice” and to know Jesus is “nice.” Our purpose is for them to know good from evil, in the world and in themselves. More specifically, we want our children to know a certain kind of good through the teachings and example of the Christ. So, in having the intent that they form an identity with this teaching, we do this risky thing that will at times be countercultural. If the teaching goes deep enough, our children just might be able to really see and see that killing the bad guy isn’t necessarily the way to end evil, but becoming co-opted by it. Because, in present life evil emperors out there and in us are usually pretty attractive, not so apparently ugly as in the **Star Wars** version. And what the world calls “good” and “bad” doesn’t always line up with what Christ taught.

So, we do a risky thing in sending our children to Sunday Journey, we do a risky thing in kneeling down at the altar rail with our babies and drinking from the “cup of salvation,” in saying prayers at home, reading bible stories together. In letting the teaching become our value system and to live by this set of values in such a way as to form us.

Christian “formation” is actually the quest of our children and of ourselves to “put on the armor of light.” We’re equipping/forming ourselves to act in the world with the “mind of Christ” so that when our children come face to face with a beautiful emperor, they can make out the pasty, ugly demeanor of the dark side and with God’s help our children will “love their enemies” and seek to “turn their enemies, without and within away from anger and hatred.” And yes, for our children to be able to answer that they want to be Luke Skywalker.

Thank-you to Our Choirs . . . For a Terrific 2010-11 Season!

At a Festive Choral Evensong on Saturday, May 21, we celebrated the ministry of our choirs - the Chancel Choir, Choristers, St. Nicolas, and St. Cecilia Choirs - and the fourth year of the St. Paul's Choir School for boys and girls. All singers who had completed a level in the Royal School for Church Music [RSCM] VOICE for LIFE Chorister Training Program were awarded ribbons to be worn with their vestments as follows:

Light blue ribbon (first level)

Anne Casscells, Susan Ketcham, Pat Ko, Dawn Mulliken, Sophia Turek

Dark blue ribbon (second level)

Anne Casscells, Susan Ketcham

Red blue ribbon (third level)

Lauren Bodenlos, Gabriel Lim, Hayden Pegley

Also, five children of the Choir School received special recognition: Gabriel Lim for earning the most Chorister standards for the second year in a row (points awarded at each rehearsal and service according to the chorister's participation that day); Head Choristers Joey Blundell and Michael Caraher for their outstanding leadership; Will Graczewski was awarded the best attendance award for the St. Nicolas Choir; and Jane Palladino was awarded the best attendance award for the St. Cecilia Choirs. Singers from the St. Cecilia Choirs moving up to the St. Nicolas Choir in the fall received symbols of their upcoming ministry work: Ethan McLellan, Sofia Goodson, Julia Millane, and Sophia Millane. Singers from the St. Nicolas Choir moving up to Choristers as probationers received symbols of their upcoming ministry work. (List not finalized by time of Epistle deadline.) Pete Caraher was recognized for his outstanding service to the Choir School.

I'd like to especially thank our wonderful leadership during the 2010-11 choir season: Chris McCrum, *Music Committee Chair*; Dawn Mulliken, *Chancel Choir Ministry Leader*; Lee Caraher, *Choir School Chair*; Lena Cheya-Lim, *Chorister Ministry Leader*; Jessica Varelas, *St. Nicolas Choir Co-Ministry Leader* and Jessica Sobolik Willey, *St. Nicolas Choir Co-Ministry Leader*. Deepest thanks to Lee and Pete Caraher for once again spearheading the closing music ministry celebration dinner and Choir School fundraiser.

On the weekend of May 21/22, we also sadly said goodbye to Yumi Thomas as our alto section leader and first Choir School assistant, as she moved back to New York City. Yumi was dearly beloved by all in the choirs, and truly gave us a remarkably wonderful beginning for the new position of Choir School assistant.

The last day of the choir season is Sunday, June 12th, the Day of Pentecost. I am very grateful to Bohnye Bice for playing piano for our 10am Holy Eucharist in Foote Hall on Sundays, June 13 through August 14, while I am away from St. Paul's this summer.

If you or your child would like to join the choir in the late summer and/or fall, please read on . . .

St. Paul's Summer Choir: Sundays, August 21 – September 11

The St. Paul's Summer Choir welcomes all teenagers, adults, and returning Choristers to join the choir for four Sundays. Singing in the summer choir is an excellent way to try out singing in the choir at St. Paul's. Come for one, for a few, or for all four Sundays. The summer choir rehearses at 9am on Sundays to prepare for the 10am Holy Eucharist on Sundays August 21st through September 11th.

I'd like to Sing in the Choir at St. Paul's This Fall...

For further information about joining the choirs of St. Paul's Episcopal Church this fall, please contact me at 650-348-4811x16 or smatthews@stpaulsburlingame.org. The St. Paul's Choir School includes choirs for boys and girls in grades K-8. (See further information below.) The Chancel Choir welcomes teenagers and adults. Membership at St. Paul's is not required to join with the choirs at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's Choir School Fall Registration 2011: New enrollments accepted through June 8 *Do you know a child who likes to sing?*

The St. Paul's Choir School, founded in fall 2007 and celebrating five years in 2011, includes choirs for boys and girls in grades K-8: St. Cecilia Choir for girls, St. Cecilia Choir for boys, St. Nicolas Choir, and Choristers. The training in the St. Cecilia Choirs allows our youngest singers to find their natural singing voices and lays the groundwork for a life-long appreciation of music. In the St. Nicolas Choir, singers are prepared for entry into the Choristers including further development of vocal skills, ear training and introduction to reading of musical notation. Our most experienced boys and girls, the St. Paul Choristers, regularly join the soprano section of our Chancel Choir to sing the great sacred choral music of the ages and follow the acclaimed Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) chorister training program, Voice for Life. Membership at St. Paul's is not required to join with the choirs at St. Paul's. Please contact me at 650.348.4811x16 or smatthews@stpaulsburlingame.org for further information and to schedule a voice introduction for your child. Chorister Retreat required for all new and

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June/July

Music Ministry, continued from page 6...

returning Choristers will be held Friday, August 26 through Sunday, August 28. Weekday rehearsals for the 2011-12 season will begin the week of September 13th.

Organ restoration continues until December 2011 After the final jubilant sounds of the organ on Easter Day faded away, the restoration of our 1929 Skinner organ began. This restoration work includes replacing the 82-year old leather that is crucial to the organ's mechanism (including a leather valve for each of the organ's 1363 pipes), upgrading the console (keyboards) with modern technology, and replacing the blower that supplies the air allowing the organ to breathe music. Most restoration work will be completed by December 2011, so that the organ will be playable once again for Christmas Eve. In the interim, piano will be used in our worship services, and the choirs will be exploring the vast treasures of a cappella repertoire.

May God's blessings abound in your life this summer -
Susan
Susan Jane Matthews, DMA
Director of Music



The Circle Thanks You!

Many, many thanks to all those who helped make our May Rummage Sale such a huge success!!! We could not do it without you and want you to know how much we appreciate your wonderful contribution of time and energy. The best part of the sale is the interaction between members of our community and with each other as we strive to provide a venue where we all appreciated and accepted. This sale provides the opportunity for St. Paul's to truly shine as a "beacon on the highway."
- The Circle of St. Paul's



Moving Day at St. Paul's

We Did It!



415 EL CAMINO REAL
BURLINGAME CA 94010

The Rt. Rev Marc Andrus, Bishop
The Rev. Thomas Skillings, Rector
The Rev. Julie Graham, Associate Rector for Children & Families
Dr. Susan Matthews, Director of Music & Choir Director

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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

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