

DISCERNING VISION & VALUES
IN BELOVED COMMUNITY
NOVEMBER 2025

THE

Epistle



St. PAUL'S
Episcopal Church

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Sharing the Good News

Submissions for inclusion

- in *The Epistle* are due the Second Friday of the month.
- **Next deadline: November 14**
- in the *Friday eNews* or *Sunday Bulletin* *Invitations* are due each Wednesday by 9am.

Submit your [content here](#) or email us at communications@stpaulsburlingame.org.



FROM OUR RECTOR



*Is there a prayer you
have learned by heart?*



Words I have learned to pray by heart nourish me in countless ways. Some such words I grasped very young, through song. Others, came in spoken word. Committing these to memory helped nurture the hope of my Christian faith, growing inside my heart and mind, shaping my character over time.

My mother instilled respect for prayer in our home, teaching me to bow my head for meal-time grace and kneeling beside the bed with me at night, as I expressed my cares to God. Personal intercessions for people who asked my mom to pray for them communicated that this important habit connects our lives to Jesus' healing work. Such prayers on their behalf came straight from her heart. Her practice taught me that people and prayer matter.

Learning something by heart is an enriching, life-long practice that was reinforced in childhood by teachers who encouraged my developing capacity to memorize poems, Scripture, and prayers through educational curriculum and shared experiences of communal prayer in weekly chapel services.

I remember sitting before the warmth of a fire in the hearth of our schoolhouse chapel, as I and my classmates crooned an echo woven into a setting of the Psalm that described God's words as "sweeter than honey (honey) from the honeycomb." I'm sure we pre-teens saw a different suggestion of *Honey* as we giggled through our part.

While I can't pinpoint the moment when The Lord's Prayer rightly became the crowning prayer of my young heart, I know the language of this prayer is committed to memory and stays with many people, even to the very last hours of earthly life, when all other words have lost their sway.

Why should we care to commit Scripture or words of prayer to memory? **What might it mean to involve our hearts in the cares of the world?** Singing holds the key for many of us. Once a tune gets stuck in my head it doesn't have far to travel in order to make a home in my heart. And the words of a tune inscribe values that teach us to welcome God's reign in our lives and God's will for our world.

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FROM OUR RECTOR

This fall, St. Paul's leans into its strength as a faith community that embodies and shares Jesus' values.

We invite you to grow through a shared life that forms us in God's love, energized by classic prayers and practices in the Body of Christ!

- Join our monthly *Jesus For Everyone* book discussions, as we explore the values of Jesus' followers conveyed in teachings and parables he transmitted (our next session: 5:30pm on Wednesday, November 19).
- Learn fresh versions of The Lord's Prayer, one of the most classic prayers in our tradition. Committed to heart by Eucharistic practitioners since the first century, as documented in the *Didache*, an ancient Christian worship source fragment, it is a prayer rich with reverent hope.
- Practice the music that Duruflé wrote so our hearts could receive the gifts of this prayer on Wednesday, November 19 at 7pm, during our *Preparing for Advent* multigenerational night. And sing it all throughout Advent with us!
- Grow familiar with additional versions, alongside our youngsters as they internalize this cherished prayer set to new and familiar tunes, including one I learned late in life with composer Mark Miller, whose Gospel music moves hearts to channel grace for our times.

Shaped by all the words we sing and pray in faith, may we live out the values Jesus gave us expressly to nurture our life together, committed to seeking the well-being of one another, whatever our age or stage of life when we first discerned there really is no distance between us and our neighbors. May we pray ever and always for God's reign to come, on earth as in heaven,



The Rev. Sarah C. Stewart



FROM OUR WARDENS

Feeling blessed, here at St. Paul's Suzanne Aubry, Junior Warden

The past month has been filled with joyful celebrations and fellowship. "What's Up with Church?" presented by Bill Phillips, began on September 28. At the first session, we learned many things including the story of the needlepoint kneelers, lovingly created and made by members of the church and community in the 1990's. Later that day, we honored Dr. Matthews' 20th anniversary at St. Paul's with a full-house Evensong followed by a festive reception and presentation from choir participants about their experiences on this summer's Lincoln Cathedral residency trip.

The Circle of St. Paul's Rummage Sale was a tremendous success with many volunteers from the church and the local community. A few days prior to the sale, a small group from The Circle, vestry, and property committee collaborated to create an emergency and evacuation plan for Foote Hall. As the need for safety and emergency preparedness for the church has been brought up in recent years, plans are now underway to address this issue for the greater St. Paul's campus.

During our annual observance of The Feast of St. Francis, on Sunday, October 5, the church was filled with beloved pets, followed by an after service "Blessing of the Animals" in Skillings Garden. In addition to parishioners, several neighbors brought their furry and scaly loved ones to be blessed, too!

A huge thank you to Donna McCartney for orchestrating the incredibly successful Progressive Dinner on October 11! Over 50 people were involved in hosting or contributing food, flowers, or hospitality. Much joy and laughter was heard and it was a special night filled with deepening relationships and fellowship.

With all the wonderful blessings we have here at St. Paul's and, as all are welcome, it is not surprising to hear reported at our recent vestry meeting that monthly church service attendance is growing. Thank you for welcoming newcomers, hosting Hospitali-Tea, and engaging with so many other activities this fall. If you are interested in learning how to get more involved with this loving and vibrant church family, please talk to a warden or vestry member with a yellow name tag on Sundays, or reach out to Reverend Sarah.



SHARING GENEROUSLY



Sunday, November 2, is not only the Feast of All Saints but also Pledge Sunday. For many of us, this is very fitting: we are all earthly saints who dare to spread God's love through our lives for the sake of those around us. Please come in person, if you can, to make your pledge to support St. Paul's for 2026. The operating budget relies on pledges from all of us, as they comprise 64% of the budget. Our goal this year is to increase pledges by 8% – this can be achieved by everyone pledging, whether for the first time or as a continuing pledger.

What to pledge is a personal decision. For the last five weeks, we've had the opportunity to hear from many of St. Paul's members, newcomers and long-timers, including the Caraher family who moved to Wisconsin six years ago. What did they talk about? Each talk was personal and, as a result, different. Key points included stories about the importance of St. Paul's in their lives--the services and music, programs and activities, and the opportunities to

interact with others in St. Paul's community. Thank you to Lee and Pete Caraher, Anne Casscells, Jake Fauver, Melissa Koomey, and Russ Miller for sharing your stories with us. If you missed one of their stories, they all can be found on St. Paul's website at [Fall Testimonials](#) and add a scan code on the side of the article). Won't you join them by telling your story of St. Paul's to your family and friends?

For those who aren't able to present their pledge envelope in person on November 2, there are other ways to help us achieve 100% participation in pledging. One can mail one's pledge to St. Paul's, 415 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010 or, if you'd like, pledge online at [Making your pledge for 2026](#). Can't find your pledge materials including this year's [stewardship brochure](#) which outlines what pledges support at St. Paul's? The brochure and pledge cards are available at the back of the church, in the chapel, and also online.

EXERCISING FAITH

St. Paul's Vestry will begin its discussion of the 2026 budget in the next several weeks. The revenue that will be budgeted for 2026 will be based primarily on pledges--which constitutes 64% of total revenue in the budget. Leading up to those important budget discussions will be reminder calls to our community made by vestry members on Sunday, November 23, to any who have not yet pledged for 2026.

Please join us in sharing generously in thanksgiving for how God is working in our lives and among the community at St. Paul's.

Your St. Paul's Stewardship Team



Hi, I'm Karen McCormick, a long time member of St. Paul's-- formerly a choir mom & vestry member; more recently a member of the Human Resource

Commission & Rummage Sale crew; trying many of St. Paul's other offerings in between--Tai Chi and sound bath to name a few. Our rector, Rev. Sarah Stewart, has supported, enhanced and introduced ways and programs that have amplified our shared life. Sarah's focus on *invitation* has spurred me to invite friends to services, 8am coffee hour, and events--we have so much to share!

We have a lot to be grateful for here at St. Paul's. We have abundance.

All of these wonderful aspects of St. Paul's requires resources. Yes, of course, money, but more than that. It requires effort. The Human Resources Committee estimated that even though we have

only one ordained minister, we (the congregation) are asking her to deliver about one-and-a-half ordained minister effort, and more at some times of the year.

Like many parents, caretakers, or persons on a deadline, we know two things:

- 1) we can deliver more than 100% when we are called to
- 2) we can't do it forever!

Well, it's been over three years that we have asked so much of our rector--that's a long time! Before we hired Rev. Sarah, we had two ordained ministers in Rev. Thomas Skillings and Rev. Julie Graham. ***Having a second ordained minister makes a difference.*** Both then and now we have had a part-time pastoral associate in Jocelyn.

To those who are volunteering--THANK YOU! To those who want to volunteer to maintain our abundance of activities--please join today! To all of us--please consider if our additional requests of Rev. Sarah's time can be held on hiatus while the vestry can determine how to fund an additional full or part-time ordained minister.

SHARING GENEROUSLY

Preacher Series: Sermon shared at St. Paul's on September 28, 2025

Anne Casscells



Let me tell you a story about children in church. Our niece was a pistol growing up. Once when she was about four, she was with her parents in church as the plate was being passed, and she asked loudly, “Why do we always have to pay?”

Awkward, but that’s what you get with children in church who sometimes just say what’s on their minds. *I guess a lot of us are guilty of occasionally blurting out what we think – I know I am!* It’s a good question. Why indeed? It is a question we grapple with our whole lives long.

Scan the QR code
to listen to Anne’s
sermon on our
[YouTube playlist](#):



It is now fall and harvest time, and that means stewardship and year end giving decisions are upon us. What do our scriptures today have to offer us on this topic?

Last week, we heard Bishop Swing brilliantly expound on “No one can have two masters,” which is not always an easy text. This week, in our gospel, there is the famous story of Lazarus and the rich man, which I feel I have known my whole life.

Then there is the letter to Timothy where Saint Paul says “the love of money is the root of all evil.” I don’t know about you, but I never really knew where that expression came from, and now I will remember. If this phrase sounds a little preachy, well that’s our patron saint, St. Paul, for you—his letters often do sound preachy. But there is also this in one of his letters to Timothy, “For we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it.”

EXERCISING FAITH



With some reflection, I think I can see the connection between this and the gospel story about poor Lazarus and the rich man. The unnamed man was surrounded by material riches during his life, only to realize too late that he should've been focused on the eternal. And now he worries about whether he set the right example for his family. I think all of us, especially those who are parents or aunts and uncles, worry about the lessons we have taught to the next generation.

I know I was profoundly influenced by my parents. They were not rich, but they thought themselves fortunate because they had come through the Great Depression and World War II. They were happy we had enough, but they made sure we knew there were other children not as fortunate. I always remember the United Thank Offering and Unicef boxes that we got at church, so we could collect coins to help other children not as well off as us. So, I am always glad to see The Giving Tree at our Advent Festival, and the table where all ages can create “Share, Save, Spend” containers together.

My father was a surgeon treating the wounded in World War II, much like the doctors you might have seen in reruns of the TV series *MASH*. And when we were children, my siblings and I would be told sometimes, “Kids, you have to be quiet this morning. Daddy is sleeping in, because last night he was out saving someone’s life.” I was in awe of him. He was

the one who taught us our prayers and who took us to church. And when I asked him about why he didn’t always charge patients if they couldn’t afford it, he told me pretty directly about the importance of giving back.

These examples led me to start thinking once I got my first real job and had to do a budget. *How much should I save for retirement, how much for clothes and vacation, and how much for charity?* I knew from Bible stories that the word tithe means 10%, but that felt like more than I could afford. I settled on 5%, hoping I could get it higher later. Looking back, I think that’s a pretty good answer. Each of us needs to assess where we are and do what we can, and it’s different for everyone, depending on our circumstances and our stage of life.

This setting aside funds for charity went quickly from being a burden to an opportunity. When good causes came along, there was already money ready to give. Full confession: in those early years, that money was not generally going to church, because we were not going to church (except at Christmas and Easter). Instead, it was going places like to Episcopal Community Services in San Francisco to help the homeless or to Save the Children or to AIDS relief or LGBTQ causes.

But the day came when it was time to come back to church. Life brings ups and downs, and for us, it was the illness and deaths of three of our parents that made us think about finding a place where we could contemplate the larger meaning of things. What a joy to find this welcoming community that embraces the stranger and is truly multigenerational, where kids are accepted as they are, including those with special needs, like the high schooler with autism who sometimes blurted out things during the service. And what further joy when Dr. Matthews arrived and built our choir school and our music program.

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SHARING GENEROUSLY

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We have been here long enough to see those children grow into caring adults and recently spent almost two weeks with them on our choir trip to Lincoln Cathedral. And we see today's little ones gathered around the organ during the postlude or helping to put out the candles after the service. We see adults caring for each other and for our community as they will do when we celebrate the life of June Castelli, and volunteers will cater a reception for family and friends. The thing we love about St. Paul's is that – in a turbulent world – it reminds us how good people can be. That is very comforting to us, and maybe to you.

So now, when fall comes around, we think about the things that make this place run: the electricity and the heat, the music and the staff and clergy who make this a place of refuge and of inspiration every week. We want to be a part of that and contribute to it. This is one of the ways we use our gifts to make a difference for others, and we are so fortunate for the people who taught us how much joy there is in doing this. So, to our parents and all those who showed us the way, including many of you, "Thank you!" Amen. ✝



EXERCISING FAITH

My Vocational Journey: I Said Yes

Jocelyn A. Sideco, MTS



The images in this article were taken in Spain when Jocelyn was on pilgrimage along both the Camino Ignaciano and the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

I try to be generous because God was first generous with me.

Ever since I can remember I knew I was called to serve as a priest. My family would teach me how to pray by shoving me into places that needed a leading voice. As faithful as my parents are, they would get nervous leading the rosary or reading Scripture in front of a group. Apparently my English sounded better and it gave them an alternative to spending their time practicing their pronunciations and getting comfortable with the words.

I suppose I grew to develop my own relationship with God in this in-between-place. I knew God hears us no matter what voice, what language we use. I knew God hears us even when we use no words at all. I kept making my case with my parents, “You’re amongst friends. And God already knows your voice. God would be so proud to hear you use it on behalf of the many you pray for, serve alongside, and share your life with.”

My parents served in a variety of capacities – sexton, Eucharistic ministers, marriage prep sponsors, hospitality ministers on Sunday and the rest of the week, for any guests the nuns and priests would host. They expressed their voice in devotion and service. So, it was only natural that my vocational journey was shaped by obvious participation in the church. I remember carrying boxes for the older nuns, arranging the sacristy and classrooms with my teachers, and preparing the sacred vessels before Mass. When only boys were allowed to serve at the altar while the Sisters and I hung back to watch, I asked why girls were not allowed to serve.

I say all of this because my journey with God and God’s people has been full of “doing the work” to bring about God’s kin-dom of love, mercy, and justice. Ministry has never been a career-path. Instead, it’s been a walk with God, a regular discernment of where I find myself, in God’s company.

SHARING GENEROUSLY

My following of God led me to meet Jesus, really for the first time, during a 30 day silent retreat experience of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. It was in those moments of quiet that I met Jesus, began to learn from his example and now have, in full freedom, chosen to follow Him. The cool thing is I have heard a variety of clauses following those words ever since.

I have heard the invitation in these ways over the course of my lifetime:

Come and follow me, *and take no one and nothing.*
Come and follow me, *give rest to the weary.*
Come and follow me, *stay and keep watch.*
Come and follow me, *don't you trust me? I would never lead you astray.*
Come and follow me, *there is life abundant.*
Come and follow me, *my yoke is light.*

I first came to St. Paul's diligently praying with letting go of the joys and the baggage from my conflicted experience of hearing a call in a church that continues to privilege patriarchal structures over my own dignity and self-worth.

Following Jesus to St. Paul's has gifted me with many examples of how I can be in a community that not only welcomes me and my family, but cherishes, pursues, and looks forward to sharing a life in common.

My yeses to Jesus have come quickly. But my yeses, in community, have been filled with stutter steps and long pauses which included many instances of "are you sure?" I was ready to "put my name on the list when I first went to Seminary in 2000 as a lay woman in the Catholic Church, but it wasn't until May of 2024 that I signed up to attend an Episcopal

Day of Discernment hosted by the Diocese of California. I was seen in this community and now seen in the wider church in the Bay Area. The next step was to formalize a process of reflection with people from St. Paul's. Rev. Sarah formed a Local Discernment Committee so that we could grow in hearing this call together. Jill Lighty, James Hurrell, Chip Blundell, and Lisa Borgeson met with me monthly and beautifully reflected their own stories of faith and curiosity. We began to see how God's invitation included all of us. They supported my readiness for the next step, and the lay leadership of St. Paul's confirmed that discernment.

In the fall of 2024, I was invited to participate in the Vocations Retreat hosted by the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. Others like me were invited to introduce ourselves and share our call stories with a committee of clergy and lay people from a wide span of communities. The eight of us quickly bonded with each activity they invited us to jump into: How would you talk about the Episcopal Church to a stranger? Why do you think you're called to the priesthood? What would you do if someone asked you about your thoughts on this theological statement? It was a deep dive into everything that mattered for just about 24 hours. A week or so later, the Bishop, with the Commission on Ministry's recommendation, approved me as a postulant for Holy Orders. I got the green light to move forward!

When I first returned to the Bay Area in 2010 as a newly received Episcopalian, I took a year to visit many of our sibling congregations throughout the Bay Area. I learned a little about our church polity when I worked part-time at St. Ambrose and met two of the then 13 Asian priests in our Diocese:



EXERCISING FAITH

Rev. David Ota and Rev. Jay Watan. To my surprise, that experience of praying with a variety of styles and peoples prepared me to say yes to serving on the newly formed Diocesan Strategic Vision Committee in June 2024.

Composed of 14 lay leaders and clergy of the diocese and a consultant whose expertise in the practice of The Social Discernment Cycle framed our process, I was introduced to a loving group of listeners and prayers who held the tenderness of who our wider church was and is striving to become. With a new Bishop, we were charged to listen and discern a way forward for him, his leadership, and our entire body of Christ in the Bay Area.

I feel pretty lucky to have been invited to contribute in this way. On one hand, all of this was new; on the other, the ministry was the kind of work I have been a part of for many years now. It's been such a gift to contribute with what I know about a God who wants and longs for us to live in freedom, together! And God's timing seems to be stunning as I am invited to take more steps towards being ordained in this church.

The past few months have been filled with coursework in the Anglican tradition, spirituality, and theology. I have learned from Dr. Kwok Pui-lan,

a preeminent scholar in Postcolonial Anglican Theology. Currently I am studying Church history, The Gospels, and Liturgical Rites. These courses are preparing me to take the General Ordination Exams this January 2026. (I would welcome your prayers from now until then!)

While working at St. Paul's and at Christ Church Portola Valley & Woodside, the diocese has invited me to participate in Supervised Ministry. This experience is meant to deepen my experience of another congregation. I'm pretty thrilled to be placed at Holy Child & St. Martin a Tagalog, Spanish and English speaking community in Daly City. I spend one Sunday a month with Rev. Jureck Fernandez and the people of HCSM, and I spend the rest of the month with you all here at St. Paul's.

My journey to priesthood will continue to be both a truth-telling that I already am a priest (one among the priesthood of all believers) and a witness to an incredible story, "can you imagine? I'm finally on a community/church track to be officially recognized as a companion of Jesus, a disciple, a priest."

A passing result on the January exam will lead to the likelihood of my ordination to the diaconate in June 2026. I simply ask for your prayers, as you can be assured you have mine. ✝



OUTREACH EVENTS & MINISTRIES



The Circle's Rummage Sale: *What an incredible Fall Rummage Sale! We extend a huge thank you to everyone who came out on Friday and Saturday to shop and support us. Your enthusiasm made the event a fantastic success.*

"I felt connected with the community during the meal service. There's something about sitting in the company of so many nice and supportive people made me feel like I was a part of their community."

- Ellie, Girl Scout

We are also deeply grateful for the amazing contributions from our St. Paul's family, friends, donors, Circle members, and volunteers. Special recognition goes to the members of St. Paul's Tongan Congregation, Boy Scouts Troop 28, Crystal Springs Girl Scouts, RSCDS San Francisco Branch, and the local American Sewing Guild, whose tireless work setting up, prepping, selling, and closing down was invaluable.

"I would do it again. I felt like I made an impact, and it was fun. I especially liked advertising the bag sale' to customers."

-Maya, Girl Scout

A big shout-out to our marketing team for their excellent work promoting the sale and to our caterers for providing delicious meals for hungry volunteers. We appreciate every single one of you!

From your Outreach Ambassadors, Judy & Serina:

There was a strong interest shown at September's Ice Cream and Sprinkles Social to volunteer across the wide range of currently supported activities. Of note, a potential new activity - Laundry Love - had a particularly strong showing relative to the others. Since it's new, and we will need to build a model for St. Paul's or collaborate with another parish (St. Matthew's/others), this will take some lead time to launch. Regardless, there is a passionate cadre of Outreach ministry activity leaders who are pushing forward with activities historically pursued at St. Paul's. We would love to hear from the parish on hopes and aspirations for Outreach ministry at St. Paul's!

On Saturday, September 20, Drew Schroeder, Monika Hakala, and Jocelyn joined others from over 20 Peninsula Episcopal churches and non-profits to learn more about what programs people are participating in, coordinating, and open to collaborating on. There will be more details to come about these partnerships and connections!



OUTREACH EVENTS & MINISTRIES

On Saturday, September 27, Drew & Monika, Vilson, and members of the Kendall, Koomey, Readey, and Vander Lugt families spent the morning volunteering with the Tiny Village Spirit project in Richmond, California. One middle-schooler, three high-schoolers, three young adults, five parents, and one priest from St. Paul's contributed to insulating tiny homes being constructed for homeless youth and lending artistic energies to seed beauty on the "village" grounds by painting planter boxes and rocks for the meditation garden. Nine participants from the team shared lunch on the way back to Burlingame, reflecting together over a hearty breakfast on future aspirations to build friendships while serving in our local community.

"I think for me the main takeaway was just to learn about this program to help youth. I had no idea what kind of immense need there was locally for safe housing for this age group. I'm so impressed by the people leading this effort - they have quite a vision and so much optimism. It lifted my spirits to see these passionate service workers thoughtfully creating such a beautiful space for young people to live and launch."

-Elizabeth Kendall

"I was really inspired by the creativity and passion of the Tiny Village team. It reminded me that we each can have an important impact on our communities and the world. Tiny Village Spirit is taking real action on the issue of youth homelessness - the Richmond village will double the number of available shelter beds in the county. It was wonderful to be a part of this project."

-Melissa Koomey



MUSIC MINISTRY



Heartfelt Thanks from St. Paul's Director of Music

Susan Jane Matthews

My heartfelt thanks for all the thoughtful notes of congratulations on my 20th anniversary as Director of Music at St. Paul's and to all who journeyed from near and far to attend Evensong on September 28. A special thank you to Mia Ayumi Malhotra for a collect of blessing, Amy Akers and the St. Paul's vestry for a lovely reception, to Choir School parent Katherine Leahey Gerster for her editing of a photo album, and to Nick Akers for his photography during the afternoon. The dearest gift was the music of the choir, the anthem at this Evensong the first chorus from the *Lobgesang* by Fanny Hensel. Thank you for lighting my way with song.

Brahms Requiem on All Souls' Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 9 | 10am

For All Souls' Sunday, four movements from *Ein deutsches Requiem* (A German Requiem) by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) will be offered, the choir accompanied by strings, woodwinds, horns and organ. Brahms composed the *Requiem* during the period 1857 to 1868. The fifth movement for choir and soprano soloist, *Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit*, was added last, most likely as a reflection on his mother's death in 1865. A text from the prophet Isaiah is repeated throughout this movement: "I want to comfort you, as one is comforted by his mother." This solo will be sung by Mia Ayumi Malhotra.

Rather than the traditional Latin text for the *Requiem*, Brahms created his libretto from scriptural texts, including the Psalms attributed to King David, the Beatitudes of Jesus, and the Revelation of John. Brahms drew passages from throughout the Bible,

evocatively juxtaposed and set them with timeless music, composing a musical icon through which we might begin to glimpse the divine in life and in death. Musicologist Jim Steichen writes that through his *Requiem*, Brahms "speaks in universalizing terms about the passage from life to death, and especially the nearness of death in the midst of life."

The first and final movements frame the work with similar texts and musical themes, opening with words of comfort to those who mourn the loss of loved ones (Matthew 5:4), and concluding with an assurance that the work of the blessed who die in the Lord lives on as they enter eternal rest. At the center of the Brahms *Requiem* is a joyous setting of Psalm 84, *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen*, "How lovely are thy dwelling places."

Donations to the Music Fund to underwrite instrumentalists may be made in memory of loved ones, with a deadline for November 2 (The Feast of All Saints) to be listed in the bulletin. A donation of \$600 will underwrite one instrumentalist, but all size donations are helpful.

May all who have sorrow find hope and comfort in this offering of the Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem*.



Singing the Lord's Prayer

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

~Matthew 5:7-13

This prayer that taught Jesus taught his disciples has inspired countless composers through the ages, among them the French organist and composer Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986). From 1929, Duruflé was organist at St. Étienne-du-Mont, Paris, a gorgeous sacred space in the shadow of the Panthéon. His wife, the legendary organist Marie-Madeleine Duruflé-Chevalier, shared this organ post with him from 1953.

At the request of his vicar at St. Étienne-du-Mont, Paris, Duruflé composed a setting of the Lord's Prayer (*Notre Père*) in 1977 for their congregation accompanied by organ. Duruflé later transcribed a version for *acapella* (unaccompanied) choir from the lush harmonies of the organ accompaniment. This second choral version is beloved, and continues in the choral repertoire, the first for congregation rarely heard.

Throughout October, the kindergarteners of the Choir School have been memorizing the words of the Lord's Prayer and rehearsing Duruflé's tune so they may teach it to St. Paul's congregation. Listen for the full choir singing the Lord's Prayer on November 2. All will then be invited to join in singing the Lord's Prayer at the 10am Eucharist on November 23, continuing through the Sundays of Advent.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Many of our families include pre-school and elementary school-aged children. We are thrilled to welcome Angela Crosatto and Zuleyka Figueroa to our growing Children's Ministries team.

In their first few weeks with our families, see their responses to initial questions below:



Angela Crosatto

My favorite saint is St. Hildegard of Bingen. Her artistry and love of nature inspire me to see faith as something creative, inclusive, and deeply connected to the earth.

My passions include music, the environment, and cats!



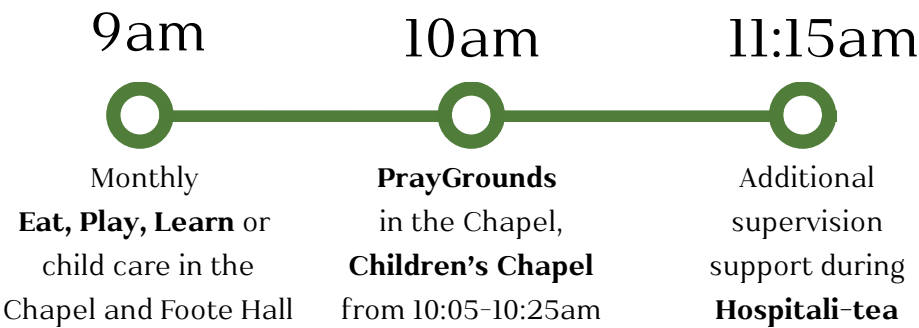
Zuleyka Figueroa

My favorite saint: San Judas Tadeos “St Jude”
I truly believe in him. I pray to him in my good/bad times. He’s my saint of all my prayers. I truly believe in him and all the blessings he has given me.

My favorite activities: I love to dance, read, cook, spend time with family/friends and my kiddos (my cousins’ kids, niece, my god kids and kiddos from Mi Casita, a preschool in Palo Alto).

What have you noticed as you get to know our children and families? Everyone has been super nice to me, and I love spending time with the families and the kids at the church. The kids are great and keep me on my toes.

Our Sunday Rhythms and Three Sacred Keys



- We **act with reverence**, treating our time and space together with great care
- We **listen with our bodies**, noticing where God is present
- We **show respect** for ourselves and others when we share and compromise
Contact [Jocelyn](#) to RSVP.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES



Celebrating Baptism

Sunday, Nov. 2 | 10am service

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with the Malhotra Family on November 2. The children will be invited to participate in the procession to the baptismal font immediately following the sermon.

The children will be invited to explore the concepts of a public promise, a new beginning, being part of a family, and the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit.



Día de los Muertos

Sundays, Nov. 2 & 9 | Chapel

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a multi-day celebration on November 1 and 2. This festival marks the lives of the deceased with rituals of remembrance. We honor this Mexican tradition by decorating St. Paul's chapel with colorful *papeles picados*, building an *ofrenda* (altar) together, and bringing pictures and objects to honor our favorite saints and people in our lives who have died.



Sacred Time, Sacred Community

Sunday, Nov. 9 | 10am -10:45am

Children are welcome for a special extended Children's Chapel together! We will learn and pray in our classroom and the Nursery School Playground.

Eat, Learn, Play

Sunday, Nov. 16 | 9am

Come for yogurt and cereal and learn a version of the Our Father together!



Advent Festival

Sunday, Nov. 23 | 11:15am

Make your Advent wreaths. Select the gift or food item(s) you will purchase for a neighbor from the Giving Tree. Spend time in community preparing for Advent and Christmastide with prayer resources, gratitude jars, *parols* (star lanterns) and conversation! Learn more on pages 22-23.

Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, Dec. 24 | 4pm

Are you and your child[ren] interested in participating? Sign up with Jocelyn.

INVITATIONS | ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS

Feast of All Saints & Pledge Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 2 | 8am & 10am services

St. Paul's celebrates the loving care of all the saints who have witnessed to Christ and sustained our church, from prior times to the vibrant present! Help us celebrate generous sharing through monetary support provided by our congregation for the 2026 budget. All are invited to bring pledge cards and to dedicate personal intentions to participate financially in the community throughout the coming year.

Remembering in the Garden

Sunday, Nov. 9 | 9am | Columbarium

We gather in the garden to share memories, rituals, and prayers that keep love alive. Then, our 10am service for the Feast of All Souls offers a moving Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* with choir and chamber orchestra.

Even at the Grave We Make Our Song: Music for a Memorial Service

Sunday, Nov. 16 | 4pm | Church

To help with planning music for a celebration of life, twelve singers from the Choir of St. Paul's, including five youth from the Choir School, will join with St. Paul's Director of Music in presenting diverse offerings of music for soloists, choir, and organ in the format of a memorial service.

Do This in Remembrance:

A Memorial Planning Workshop

Monday, Nov. 17 | 12-1:30pm | Brewer

Creating a service that honors the ones you love or leaves a roadmap so your celebration of life can align with your spirit & sensibilities will be the focus of this equipping lunch workshop. Join Rev. Sarah and Susan Matthews as they review pastoral, musical, and spiritual resources for those seasons of transition that lead us more deeply into God's lasting life.

Celebrating the Life of June Castelli

Friday, Nov. 14 | 10:30am

Sandy Galindo and her extended family invite you to help honor the life of one who was "Honey" to many. A Celebration of Life reception in the Parish Hall will follow June's memorial service. May her love continue to bless all who remember June!

Remembering Christopher R.W. Leach

Please pray for Dee Leach and her family as they mourn for Chris, who died on September 22, 2025. Chris' presence will be missed in our St. Paul's community. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!



INVITATIONS | LIFE TOGETHER

What's Up with Church?

Sunday, Nov. 16 | 11:15am

Ever wonder: "Why do we do that?"

This interactive conversation after our 10am Sunday service invites us to unpack our wonderings together. *Why do we kneel? Why sing parts of the Eucharist? Should I make the sign of the cross? When? How? Why is the Gospel read out amid the congregation?* Bring your questions, family, and friends to explore and grow with us!

Jesus for Everyone (not just Christians)

Wednesday, Nov. 19 | 5:30pm Meal

6pm Conversation | Brewer Hall

The spiritual journey invites us to emulate God's values as Jesus' life takes root in us. Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Jesus for Everyone (Not Just Christians)*, is the springboard for our monthly conversations. You are encouraged but not required to read her text as the backdrop to our small group experience, which includes a simple supper. Come for any session or all. Everyone is welcome!

Evensong at Grace Cathedral

Thursday, Nov. 20 | 5:30pm

The Choir of St. Paul's is delighted to join with the Grace Cathedral Choir (including both boy and girl choristers) in singing Evensong at the cathedral. Repertoire includes evening canticles by Sarah



MacDonald and the anthem *Peace I leave with you* by Amy Beach.

We hope to see you in San Francisco!

Mark your calendars for...

The Circle's Christmas Tea

Saturday, Dec. 6 | 1:30-4pm | Foote Hall

Please join this festive celebration! The Circle's Boutique will open at 1:30pm and tea will be served at 2pm.

We will begin taking reservations on Sunday, Nov. 16 after both the 8am and 10am services as space is limited. Suggested donation is \$10. This is a great way to kick off the holidays!



Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 7 | 4pm

All are invited to a procession from darkness into light with the Choir of St. Paul's. Beginning with a reading by a young chorister, lessons alternate with Advent carols for choir and congregation.

Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 7pm

This quiet evening offers space to acknowledge the complexity of our emotions amid this sometimes difficult season with communal prayer, ritual, and music.



Christmas Caroling with the Healing Team

Wednesday, Dec. 17 | 7pm

A festive and joyful time of gathering around the fire to sing with friends and family, warmed afterwards by hot chocolate and cookies.

INVITATIONS | SEASON OF ADVENT



Getting ready for Christmas includes a lot more than decorating the house and buying presents for people on your list. The Season of Advent invites us to deeply consider how Jesus' incarnation draws us closer to living with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Preparing for Advent

Wednesday, Nov. 19 | 7pm | Church

Come pray with themes of Advent. Try a new practice. Open your heart to the Gospel mysteries as we travel together through the retelling of the Nativity story.

Advent Festival

Sunday, Nov. 23 | 11:15am

Come celebrate the loving reign of Christ the King! All are welcome to participate in activities and grow in friendship with one another. An extended Hospitality-tea is offered to those preparing themselves for the upcoming four weeks of Advent.

Advent Wreaths. Design your own fresh Advent Wreath!

Candle-Lighting. Pray with our luminous Acolyte Team!

Seasonal Sharing. Personalize containers to gather family prayers and sacred intentions to share, save, and spend your energies in life-giving ways in the coming year.

INVITATIONS | SEASON OF ADVENT

What is the Giving Tree?

The Giving Tree is a long-time Advent tradition at St. Paul's that connects us with 4-6 large families who are clients of Samaritan House. We are blessed to share Christmas food and gifts for these families. Giving Tree elves find out the children's (and parents') special desires for Christmas. Those requests are hung on the tree in Foote Hall for individuals and families to select for purchase. There are also tags with food items—not only holiday fare but also staples, etc. to sustain a family for two weeks.

You're invited to participate by:

Selecting a gift and/or food tag(s) from the Giving Tree after all services on Nov. 23 and 30 and Dec. 7. All items are to be returned no later than Sunday, Dec. 14.

Signing up to help on Sunday, Dec. 21 in one or more of the following ways:

- Wrapping gifts starting at 8:45am (with enough people to wrap, we will be finished in time for the 10am service).
- Sorting and packing food for the families.
- Delivering gifts and food to one of the families we're helping, beginning at 11:15am.

Important Dates:

Nov. 23, 30 & Dec. 7: Gift & food tag(s) selection goes "live" during the Advent Festival

Dec. 14: Deadline for returning all food & gift items (unwrapped)

Dec. 21: Gift wrapping, food sorting, and deliveries

Prefer not to shop or can't?

Financial assistance is welcome so that the Giving Tree elves can purchase needed gifts and food.

Consider sending a check to St. Paul's with Giving Tree noted on the check or use our online donation system (www.stpaulsburlingame.org/support) making a note that the donation is for St. Paul's Giving Tree.



**St. Paul's
Giving Tree
An Advent Tradition**



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date:
Advent Festival Nov. 23, 11:15am

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00am - In Person, Chapel

10:00am - In Person, Choir, Sanctuary

Tongan Worship 1:00pm on Sundays: November: 2, 9 December: 7, 14 (Tongan Pageant)

Live Stream Services: 10:00am, <https://www.youtube.com/StPaulsBurlingame>

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