

October 27, 2024

*The newsletter of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church*



**Show me your
ways, Lord. Teach
me your paths.**

Psalms 25:4

Dear Friends,

There were a dozen people around the table, we were talking about sightings of God and those people who needed our help and prayers, which is what we always do; it provides the real context for our adventure. And then we realized that sitting together we had two or three of the best social workers I have ever met, a doctor of psychology, people whose whole lives have been about teaching, and managing support for the needy — the collection of gifts and wisdom was extensive.

I know that every one of us comes to Church hoping to encounter God. And of course that is why we center ourselves together in worship. But this is not a solitary enterprise. We are given to each other in order to help our friends and neighbors grow on the way. Instead of the word neighbor, try the word companion, and God is our companion too.

One of the most reliable ways to encounter God is to serve. Especially when we do it together. And although we might be inclined to think this is for the benefit of others, it is actually indispensable to us. For without it, we are not a church. Church is service in and by community (to the glory of God) which is why so many people are not sure which is more important — Sunday worship, or coffee hour.

So find people who need us, in our midst and outside, and carry to them what you enjoy most about Sunday, or invite them to come and share too.

(Incidentally “companion” means someone with whom you break bread.)

*Your friend in Christ,
Michael*

This is not a solitary enterprise.

We are not meant to do this alone.

Vestry Vignettes

If a picture is worth a thousand words, you will be thanking your lucky stars that we decided to go primarily with pictures and reduce the narrative. They do tell their stories, and when I scroll through the photos on my phone, I'm reminded that we are a mighty and busy little church community.

As a vestry, our conversations have emphasized community. Looking at the pictures from the last two months, I realize that everything we do is about community...or almost everything. In the past, I think I've said that everything we do is pastoral care. I can't seem to make up my mind. But in a Venn diagram, almost everything about pastoral care and everything about community seem to fall in the center, overlapping parts of the two circles.

It requires my full and focused impulse control to refrain from describing some of the events and examples of community around the photos on these pages, but I'm going all Phillipians 4:13 here. I will share one recent vestry discussion. It was about the upcoming cookie walk (first Saturday in December?). As you well know, many of our traditions have changed over the years based on many factors, and what was a Christmas bazaar, bake sale, and brunch with a cookie walk on the same day or different day, has primarily become a cookie walk. Focusing the conversation on community versus a fundraiser, more ideas were tossed around. What about a return to a brunch or lunch? We know we'll fail miserably trying to replicate Betty's quiche, but maybe soups or cinnamon rolls... something that invites people to sit around tables together. And what if we have a couple cookie baking parties in the church kitchen and/or invite kids and their friends to make cookies or crafts on a Wednesday night? And what if...?

If that conversation sparked some of your own ideas, please share them. And go for it. At the very least, we'll end up with funny stories and time well spent in community.

Many blessings, Jody

Worship in the Park

Gainey Park on September 15



POTLUCK:

A communal gathering where each guest contributes a different, often homemade, dish of food to be shared.

San Jose Obrero

September 29



Mark Your Calendars . . .

November 3: All Saints Worship
November 10: St. Croix Sacred Ensemble
November 24: Thanksgiving
December 1: Start of Advent
December 7: **Cookie Walk**
December 8: Lessons and Carols
December 15: OHS Carolers
December 24: Christmas Eve Service
at 4:00pm

Cookie Walk

December 7

Get your ovens ready!
It's time for St. Paul's
holiday cookie walk. Watch
for sign up sheets in early
November.

Our Finances and the Importance of your Contributions

We are approaching 18 months of being rich. Since part two of the gift arrived in late summer, St. Paul's has an endowment now of almost \$2 million. The donor stipulated that the principal be preserved, and the interest earned be used for the general support of the Parish. These annual earnings of about \$100,000 cover a bit more than half of our operating expenses. The remaining \$85,000 is provided by your contributions and fundraising. This year we are about \$12,000 short of that hope; on the other hand, unusually high Stock Market gains, and some low costs have compensated. (Painting the Church cost about 50% of what we anticipated.) Thank you for your faithfulness — as we work together to serve (to the glory of God) we hope you can see that your gifts and commitment are indispensable.

Your Vestry

Blessing the creatures, great and small.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Family Programs



Family and children's programming have always been important at St. Paul's. Here some of us are learning to light candles, learning how we pray, and gathering with friends on Wednesdays.



"Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Every color, every race, they are covered by His grace.
Jesus loves the little children of the world."

And Everyday



The church was painted in August by Benjamin's Brushes.

This crew cleaned out the nursery.



Guess who misses us?



Wednesday Night Live programming . . .



AND

. . . a Sunday visit from Aly.

"How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
Psalm 133

Leaven is published monthly to keep the people of St.

Paul's informed and united in thought.

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