



St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

March 2010

Volume 4, Issue 3

Coming up

Community Service Ministry

Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m.
in the Chapter Room. Contact
Ayanna Bennett at 628.0231 /
ayannabennett@gmail.com.
No meeting in March.

Stewardship Committee

Saturday, March 6 at 9 a.m.
in the Chapter Room.
Contact Sarah Smith at
sarahsmith12@gmail.com /
522.3462. First Saturdays at
9 a.m. in the Chapter Room.

Intercessory Prayer

Pray for those in need during
Lent. Join us at 9:10 a.m. in
the chapel.

Acolyte Training

Stay after the 10 a.m. service
on March 14 to brush up on
your mad acolyte skills.

Soup Supper & Lenten Series

Learn about the MDGs and
how you can live the Gospel
in Oakland. Wednesdays at
7 p.m. during Lent. In the
parish hall.

St. Mary's Dinner

The next dinner is Friday,
Mar. 26. If you'd like to cook a
portion of the meal or serve the
meal contact Laura Summa at
just_summa@comcast.net /
336.1705.

Worship at St. Paul's: see pg. 3

Repentance — True and Earnest

by The Rev. Mauricio Wilson

The invitation to general confession in the Holy Eucharist Rite I opens with the words: *Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins.*

These words offer a wonderful way of understanding the first ingredient necessary to begin a process of transformation in the life of an individual or an organization. During the season of Lent we are called by the Church to seek a closer relationship with God. The closeness begins to happen when we work at taking away the things that come between us and God. In the church we use one word as a summary of those things — Sin. Sin encompasses all the things we do and some we don't do in accordance with the mind and heart of God, in whose likeness we are made. Removing the divide between us and God therefore means the removal of sin, and sin can only be removed if the sinner repents in a truthful and earnest way.

C.S. Lewis writes: *Now repentance is no fun at all. It is something much harder than merely eating humble pie. It means unlearning all the self conceit and self-will that we have been training ourselves into for thousands of years. It means killing part of yourself, undergoing a kind of death.*

Though these words may sound harsh — “killing part of yourself” —

they go to the heart of what it means to be a Christian: journeying through the wilderness and barrenness of life, seeking a place of refreshment in the Creator. Repentance requires that the sinner recognizes that the roads taken at different times of one's life are wrong and have led to a place we do not want to be. Further, we realize that finding the right way is what we want, but we do not know how to get there. At that point, we have truly and earnestly realized that what we thought was right, is in fact wrong; that what we perceived as God's will was actually our own; that what we thought was fulfilling was actually destroying.

Now here is the wonderful thing about Lent — it is followed by Easter. Just as in Lent we take seriously the reality of the passion and death of Jesus, in the same way, we are very serious about his resurrection. The same way in which we take the time to recognize that we have strayed from God's ways through sin, we also marvel in the forgiveness and new life that comes through God's grace in the resurrected life of Jesus.

Faithfully yours in love
and service to Christ,
Mauricio+

Family Ministry Corner

edited by Carolyn Knapp

Celebrating Your Baptism, Every Day — an article by Marilyn Sharpe

Before he began his ministry, John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Jesus was claimed as God's son, with whom God was well pleased. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, like a dove, giving him the power to do God's will.

God has some very special gifts to give to us, too. In baptism, we are named and claimed as children of God, promised forgiveness of sin and eternal life, and given the gift of the Holy Spirit. Why would we not want to receive those gifts for ourselves, for our children? Baptism is truly a faith milestone.

But didn't that happen once? Isn't that faith milestone over and done with? Jesus certainly didn't see baptism as the end, but as an entrance to a way of life. We daily ask for and receive forgiveness of sins. We put down our guilt and shame at the foot of the cross and use our precious life energy to serve God's family, to continue to learn about the God, to help God's kingdom come here and now.

How can we help our children say "I'm sorry" to God, to know they are forgiven and called to forgive others? Model saying "I'm sorry" to your child, your spouse, your friend, and to God in prayer. It will be contagious. In shared prayer, invite children to ask for God's forgiveness and for a heart willing to forgive others. Remind them daily that the Holy Spirit lives in them as the way Jesus is with them always.

To make baptism a way of life, use

every opportunity to unpack God's gifts, to talk about them with your children. Put a bowl of water on the supper table and invite all present to play in the water, remembering their baptism, making the sign of the cross on their own forehead or on one another's.

Family Activities for Celebrating Baptism:

1. Research and record the baptismal dates of all of the members of your household. Plan to celebrate them at a family meal, lighting the baptismal candle, purchasing new ones for those who didn't receive them (or have no idea where they might be).
2. Connect or reconnect with godparents or baptismal sponsors. Ask them to tell the story or write a brief account of their godchild's baptism. Ask them to be part of the life of their godchild now and in the years to come.
3. As you shower or bathe, remember your baptism. In the waters of your baptism, you were washed from more than the day's grime, splashed with God's promise, and given the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. Nightly, make the sign of the cross on one another's forehead, saying "Jonathan Adam, child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Jesus loves you and so do I."

Note from Carolyn Knapp: The Faith Quest kids will be learning more about baptism this month.



Faith Quest Topics

*What was it like when Jesus was a child?
The Faith Quest kids (ages 3 to 11) are exploring that subject through March.
Newcomers are welcome to join them Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in Room 101 of the St. Paul's School building (next door to the Church on Montecito).*

Called to Ministry: Our LEMs

By Maggie Britton

Kendrade “Ken” White — Countless Years of Service

These days, when someone refers to “Ken White,” I am left wondering how many members of St. Paul’s congregation are not able to put the name to a familiar face.

It all depends on how long you have attended St. Paul’s, either at the 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. service. That really is a very simplistic way of describing Ken’s deep involvement with the Episcopal Church as a whole.

Asked to write about Ken’s service and that of others at St. Paul’s — especially LEMs (Lay Eucharistic Ministers) and Sub-Deacons — I thought that as the doyen of our mixed group, his story should naturally take the lead.

So, one recent Saturday morning Babs Obourn and I made our way out to Pleasanton, where Ken now resides in a Residence Nursing Home which is in close proximity to his son and daughter and their respective families.

As a cradle Episcopalian, Ken attended St. Paul’s with his parents. He laughed when he told me his father sometimes played hooky and attended services at other churches (not necessarily Episcopal) just to be aware of different ideas and attitudes.

Ken has done it all — Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage to his beloved Peggy and the subsequent Baptism of his son, Terry and daughter, Kathy at St. Paul’s. He’s also participated as a Choir Member,



Ken White, LEM extraordinaire

Reader, LEM, member of the Vestry, and Deanery Delegate. He recalled that very often 15 or more members of St. Paul’s would attend a buffet dinner at his home to “warm up” for the meeting!

Ken was first encouraged to serve at the altar (as an LEM) by the late Darby Wood Betts, followed by the late Donald Wylie Seaton, and he continued in that service until recent years. I asked Ken if he had any special memories of his Service as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and he responded that he felt a deeper spirituality, connecting him closer to his faith in Christ and his Church.

As an LEM Ken took his Ministry outside the church, taking Holy Communion to a nursing home which cared for patients with Alzheimer’s disease located nearby St. Paul’s. On these trips, Ken was often accompanied by Kate Crawford, who also serves as an LEM. Ken took his ever-present music box to accompany his singing of special

Regular Services

Sunday
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. Choral Eucharist
4 p.m. Evensong
(1st Sunday only)
8 p.m. Compline
(4th Sunday only)

Wednesday
12 p.m. Holy Eucharist
with Healing prayer
on the 1st of the
month

Lenten Activities

Fridays in Lent @ 6:30 p.m.
Stations of the Cross
(every Friday in Lent)

Wednesdays in Lent
Evening Prayer in the
chapel @ 6:30 p.m.
Soup Supper & Series in the
parish hall @ 7 p.m.

Sundays in Lent @ 9:10 a.m.
Intercessory Prayer
in the chapel

3/22 Lenten Quiet Day
from 9 a.m. Location TBD

Holy Week

3/31 Tenebrae @ 7 p.m.

4/1 Maundy Thursday
Lamb Stew Supper at 6 p.m.
Stripping of the Altar &
Foot Washing @ 7 p.m.

4/1-4/2 Vigil in
the Garden of Repose

4/2 Good Friday Service
from noon to 3 p.m.
immediately followed by
Stations of the Cross

4/3 Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.

Don't miss the Lenten Series and Soup Suppers

Caring for “the least of these who are members of my family,” says Jesus in Matthew 25, is an important part of living the Gospel. The United Nations, in partnership with Episcopal Relief and Development and many other aid organizations, is seeking to end poverty by 2015 via the **Millennium Development Goals**.

Simple, inexpensive measures can make a world of difference, literally. Come find out about the Goals and living the Gospel at St. Paul's traditional soup suppers on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Each evening will include a short presentation and a discussion about what we can do to care for the least of these.

If you missed the first session, check out the back of this newsletter for information on an encore screening of *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. And don't miss the remaining sessions, each of which promises to be an enlightening and thought-provoking program.

Join us for Evening Prayer in the chapel at 6:30 p.m. Then, each of the programs listed below begins at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

The Community Services Ministry has been primarily responsible for the organization of this series. For more information, please get in touch with Carolyn Knapp: csknapp@earthlink.net / 658.6547.

Prayer in Lent

If you cannot join us for the Intercessory Prayer Group on Sundays, then visit www.er-d.org for their Lenten Cycle of Prayer. Pray for a different country/region on each of the 40 days of Lent.

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

– The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The MDGs and Living the Gospel

March 3

Mobilizing for the least of these by eradicating HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria and by reducing child mortality

Carolyn Knapp will discuss *Nets for Life*. Susan Hartmann will speak about programs for children orphaned by AIDS.

March 10

Mobilizing for the least of these by ensuring environmental sustainability

The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham, Canon for the Environment, and Jennifer Toth of California Interfaith Power & Light, will speak and lead discussion.

March 17

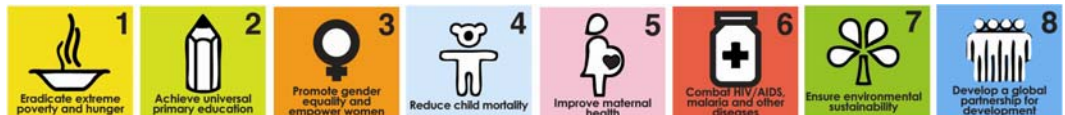
Mobilizing for the least of these by achieving universal primary education

Join us for a discussion lead by Adam Taylor, Principal of Brookfield Elementary School in East Oakland.

March 24

Mobilizing for the least of these through global partnership and eradicating extreme poverty

Join us for a discussion and activities lead by Lane Ceric.



Paula Hawthorn Spruces Up Mustard Seeds

The Mustard Seeds room (aka the Bride's Room) is a much brighter and more welcoming place for infants and toddlers these days due to the efforts of Paula Hawthorn, who provided new, more sanitary mats for the counters, cleaned the carpet, and made a beautiful, colorful quilt for the children who are not yet

walking. She also brought in a banner of the Tree of Life designed by the Faith Quest kids and executed by her. **Thank you, Paula!**

And all you under-3s, be sure to bring in your grown-ups to check out these terrific additions.

LEMs

(Continued from page 3)

hymns, which really captured the attention of the patients, a number of whom started to sing along with him!

Unfortunately, health problems intervened and his family agreed he should live closer to them.

Ken never misses a chance to lead or join in singing at the nursing home. In fact, the nursing home has karaoke sessions where residents watch a screen on which the words of all the songs are displayed in time to the background music. Babs and I laughed and queried of each other, "Guess where we'll find Ken?" Sure enough, there he was, singing along in good form.

Ken's thoughts are still very close to St. Paul's and he was eager to catch up on all that was happening. Yes, he misses us and asks if we would keep him in our thoughts and prayers — a small return gift for a lifetime of love for his abiding faith and for St. Paul's, Oakland.

Kate Crawford — Transformative Work

As Kate's name was mentioned in the description of their visits to the nursing home close to St. Paul's, I felt you would appreciate the beautiful words Kate has written as her contribution to this issue of *The Good News*:

"For me, serving as a LEM has been a remarkable gift. I feel both honored and humbled to offer the 'blood of Christ, the cup of Salvation' to those at the altar rail. When I signed up for the training, I thought I was signing up for just another opportunity to serve, not realizing how much I would be receiving in return. It is a transformative experience, for which I am so thankful."



Long-time LEM, Kate Crawford

Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for the April edition is Mar. 19. Please send your comments, submissions and ideas to admin@stpaulsoakland.org.

We are interested in hearing from writers and photographers; please email us if you would like to donate your talent.

Become a LEM

Attend one of the diocesan Equipping the Beloved Community training days to acquire or renew skills for this vital parish ministry. The next training is scheduled for March 13.

Want to learn more right now? Check out the downloads section on our website to pick up the LEM training advance preparation workbooks.

www.stpaulsoakland.org



St. Paul's

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Encore Screening March 21 at 11:30 a.m.

If you missed the first session of our Lenten Program *The MDGs and Living the Gospel*, you still have an opportunity to view and discuss this powerful film.

It is an uplifting and gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for Liberia, a nation torn to shreds by a decades-old civil war.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell is a story of sacrifice, unity and transcendence honoring the strength and perseverance of these women. It is a compelling testimony of how grassroots activism can alter the history of nations.

Join us in the parish hall on Sunday, March 21 after the 10 a.m. service.