



THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

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February 2023

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The Rev. Dr. Mauricio J. Wilson

As we enter the month of February and anticipate the arrival of March, we are going to be bombarded by media references to Black History and Women's History. Sadly, this apparent awareness of the plight of people of African descent and women dissipates quite quickly as each of those months comes to an end each year.

Over the years, I have become a fan of history, though probably a scholar I will never be. I have become very intrigued with the concept of perspective. I believe that it is hard to deny that the perspective from which we each perceive an event, issue or item will inform our conversations and convictions around it. This leads me to believe that any conversation between two or more perspectives is going to be conflicting if we are unable to accept the fact that there are as many perspectives on any thing as there are observers.

During my time in seminary, I took a course in Church History for which the professor assigned a text entitled *A Religious History of the American People* by Sydney E. Ahlstrom. I believe the course had a title similar to that of the book. Ahlstrom tries to integrate the faith experiences of what would become the United States of America into the narrative of its secular history. In other words, his goal (as well as my professor's) was to add another perspective to the promulgated history of this country. The effort isn't one of changing history, but rather of adding needed dimensions to the stories told.

Contrary to what many who oppose Black, Women, Indigenous, Jewish and other 'histories' would want to proclaim, all the additional perspectives do not taint or change history, but rather add dimensions, layers and untold truths to the story.

For a few years now, my family has been captivated by books and movies focused on telling the back stories of characters traditionally considered villains in folklore, characters such as Cruella de Vil from the Dalmatians movies, or Harley Quinn from Batman. Whether or not the attempts at humanizing these characters is successful or not is secondary to the open invitation to consider that a character and a moment have more dimensions than two or three.

Fear of discovering our ancestral actions and responsibilities for every event that has brought us to this particular moment in time should not be a determining factor in gaining the deepest and most accurate knowledge of human history. Such history requires and demands the inclusion of all perspectives, even those



Rector's Message continues on the bottom of page 2

Carolyn Bolton to be installed as an Honorary Canon of Grace Cathedral

You are invited to the installation
of the
Ven. Carolyn Bolton as an
Honorary Canon of Grace Cathedral
Thursday, February 2nd
at 5:30 pm at
Grace Cathedral
1100 California St.
San Francisco

The title of Canon is bestowed in many dioceses to outstanding priests and deacons largely as an honorary title and is usually awarded in recognition of long and dedicated service to the diocese. Honorary canons are members of the diocesan chapter in name but are neither residential nor paid.

A bus has been arranged costing \$20.00 per person. Please check with Deacon Bolton or Father Mauricio to see if room remains. The bus will return by 8:00 p.m.

The following information from the cathedral may be helpful.

POTLUCK: Bring your favorite church potluck dish. Please bring your dish/dishes to the Chapter Dining Room before the Evensong. Beverages will be provided.

NOTE: The potluck is a combination reception and meal. Bring a contribution if you wish; it is not required. The service itself will probably last about 45 minutes. The bus will leave about 7:15 so as to arrive back at St. Paul's by

8:00.

PARKING: At Grace Cathedral (Taylor between California and Sacramento) & Crocker Garage (California between Taylor and Mason). *We strongly encourage rideshare when possible.* [See bus announcement above!]

COVID SAFETY: Masks are encouraged! If you feel unwell before the event, are exhibiting any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive, please stay home.



Rector's Message continued from page 1:

that make us very angry, very sad or both at the same time.

As Christians, I believe it is our responsibility to open up ourselves to know and learn more about everything, but, most importantly, we are to learn more about the historical perspectives of all God's people so that we can better understand if, how, and why our proclamation of the risen Lord impacts their lives.

A Special Invitation from the Choir

Alice Brilmayer, Choir Member

St. Paul's choir requests your attendance at coffee hour on February 26. The usual time and place—after the 10:00 am service in the narthex.

Find out what we do and how much joy it gives us. Get answers to the questions you've been dying to ask. Find out if singing with us is right for you. Get to know one of us you've never met before. We're a nice bunch. Ask Ben questions about music. You'll be astonished at his encyclopedic knowledge. Eat the snacks and marvel at our baking talents.

As one of the more recent members of this wonderful vocal ensemble, I can tell you being with the choir has been an utter joy. So many small groups who've been together for a long time are hard to penetrate. Not so with our choir. I immediately felt like part of the team. Other members have told me that was their experience, too.



If you enjoy singing from the pews, you'll delight in sitting up front where most of the action is. Where else do you get to sing Mozart, Tallis, and Fauré as well as great gospel hymns?

You can't read music? Neither can I. You can't hit the highest notes nor the lowest? Neither can I. You get support. We lift each other up.

If you join, you're committing to a rehearsal on Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:00. You'll find them enjoyable, too. You'll also need to be at church before 9:00 on Sundays to get ready to practice the service music. You'll be encouraged to sing for Evensong, Compline, and other services. However, you do get a break for a few months over the summer.

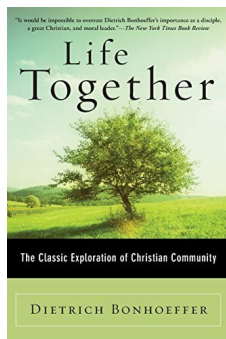
Beyond the Word: A Reading & Discussion Group

Select Wednesdays @ 7pm on ZOOM

Pamela Kruse-Buckingham, Co-Leader

The next book in the series is: ["Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#)

The next session is Feb 8



A group of six gathered to discuss the first half of *Life Together* on January 11. We were challenged by the stark difference in Lutheran theology from our own thinking and traditions, but we also found wisdom and joy in what Bonhoeffer had to say. We discussed the idea of "enemy" within the context of Bonhoeffer having enemies and also Jesus having enemies and confronting the problem of evil. We wrapped up with a discussion of how we live our Christian mission in the midst of enemies.

If you missed the last book, that's OK! Each book stands alone, and you have time to catch up. All books in the series are less than 100 pages. You are most

welcome!

To join us, email pamela.kruse.buckingham@gmail.com. I will send you the orientation document and the Zoom link.



Spirituality: Lent

Anne Jensen

On Ash Wednesday, February 22nd this year, we begin the forty days of Lent. From the very early days of the church this time was used to prepare candidates for baptism and to restore those who because of “notorious sin” had been excluded from the community. (BCP p. 265) Repentance, fasting and new beginnings have been a central part of Lenten observance ever since. Around the end of ninth century the church decided that all Christians should observe a period of fasting, repentance, study, prayer, almsgiving, and good works during Lent. This tradition has been carried on in the Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. In the Episcopal and Catholic churches Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are officially days of fasting. Fasting in this instance means having one full meal with one or two small snacks. However, some people choose to abstain from Facebook or other social media, as well as from consuming food or drink that has a larger place in one’s life than it should. Some abstain from a behavior that has become a barrier to good relationships, such as using sarcasm. The practice of fasting is to call us to prayer. A friend of mine summed up her thoughts about Lent saying, “It’s a time to be thoughtful. It’s kind of like ‘Dry January’ for the soul.” Lent is not without humor. The focus, however, is to repent, renew our faith, and prepare to celebrate the mysteries of our salvation.



Many Christians still seek to use the forty days of Lent as a time for deepening their faith. Fasting isn’t the only way to observe Lent. Consider adding something instead of fasting: for instance, reading devotional books, taking on a service project, or keeping a journal of how God is present in your daily life. Underlying the call to repentance is the assurance of forgiveness promised by Jesus to those who put their trust in him. Who among us would dare to look deep within our hearts without this promise?

The words of the Ash Wednesday service are invitational and encouraging as we enter this liturgical season. Attending services during Lent, especially Ash Wednesday, the six Sundays of Lent and services of Holy Week, will provide structure for whatever practice you decide to focus on during Lent by leading you through the life of Jesus and particularly through his last days. Your Easter celebration will be richer because of the journey you take in Lent.

Resources for Lent: *Forward Day by Day*, printed version, is available in the narthex. You can also have it sent to you through your email daily. orders@forwardmovement.org

Shrove Tuesday — Fat Tuesday — Pancake Supper!!

Join the crowd for St. Paul’s famous Pancake Supper and Races! February 21st!

Celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday (also called “Pancake Tuesday” or “Pancake Day”) is the final day before the 40-day period of Lent begins.

Its name comes from the Germanic-Old English word “shrive,” meaning absolve, and it is the last day of the liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide. Because it comes directly before Lent, a season of fasting and penitence, this was the day that Christians would go to be “shriven” by their confessor.



Shrove Tuesday also became a day for pre-fasting indulgence. In particular, the need to use up rich ingredients such as butter, milk, sugar and eggs before Lent gave rise to the tradition of eating pancakes on this day.

There are even historical references to a “pancake bell” in English towns being rung around 11 a.m. on this day to signal that it was time to get frying. —*Joelle Kidd* for The Episcopal Church

Ash Wednesday is the next day, the beginning of Lent. Services will be at 12:00 m and 7 pm.

A Christian Steward's Perspective on Lent: What if?

Sharon Pilmer, Stewardship Chair

Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday in the Episcopal Church. For Christians, it is a time of solemn observance and preparation for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Typically, it is a time of austerity, and many people give up something for Lent to refocus their faith: chocolate, alcohol, sweets, social media, you name it.

What if, instead of, or in addition to, the practice of giving up something for Lent, we took something on? Mother Anne pointed me to a British website, "40 Acts", a product of the British stewardship movement. This is a 40-day generosity challenge, which you can read more about here: <https://40acts.org.uk>.

What is an act of generosity? How does this ground us in our faith? As Christians we believe that all we have comes from God. When we reflect on this, we are filled with gratitude, and the natural response to gratitude is generosity.

An act of generosity might involve money, or it might not. My own reflections are that in any given day, we may make thousands of decisions. When to get up, what to have for breakfast, what to wear, what to do. I don't know about you, but I may progress through my day making decisions in a less than intentional way. What if we became more focused, more mindful, as we went about our daily lives? What could that look like?

Who might need a prayer today? Perhaps I could let this harried person go in front of me in line. Does someone need a ride somewhere? A meal? Could I spare this homeless person a dollar? Could I help restore someone's dignity by a kind word?

What would happen, if, as a parish, we all decided to commit to a generous act per day for the 40 days of Lent? What if we invited everyone on our parish's Facebook page to participate? What if we invited our friends to participate? We could initiate an epidemic of generosity!

Will you join us?



**Northern California/Vivian Traylor Chapter
and**

Afro-Anglican Commission, Diocese of California

Feast Day of Absalom Jones

February 11, 2023 11:00 a.m. PST

Theme:

**Repairing Dignity: Seeking
Wholeness**

**St. Paul Episcopal Church
114 Montecito Oakland, CA**



**The Right Rev. Deon Kevin Johnson,
11th Bishop of the Diocese of Mis-
souri, Preacher**



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5, starting during the 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist service and then adjourning to the Parish Hall for a light lunch and further discussion. Besides receiving committee and ministry reports, we will also be electing four persons to the Vestry, one to complete an unexpired term and three for regular three-year terms. For information on the candidates, please see the article on Vestry nominations below. We will also be electing deanery delegates and alternates. Nominated are (delegates): Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore, George Strait, Dylan Versteeg and (alternates) Paula Hawthorn with two more to be nominated and elected at the meeting or, if not, to be named by the Vestry.

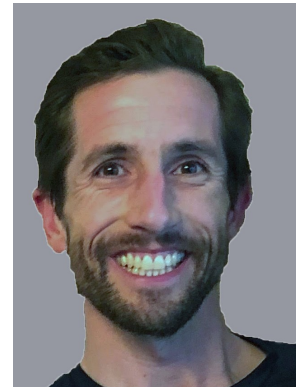
2023 Vestry Nominations

Daniel “Digger” Lauter – three-year term

Digger attends St. Paul’s with his wife Katie and two sons, Wesley (3) and Donovan (11mo.). He and family have been attending St. Paul’s since 2017, shortly after he and Katie moved together to Oakland.

Professionally, Digger has been with Clorox for nearly 17 years and is currently a Director of Sales. Recreationally, he is a competitive runner and enjoys any & all forms of family time.

Digger thoroughly enjoys the St. Paul’s community and the warmth & support it offers to those in our community.



Pamela Kruse-Buckingham – three-year term

Scott and I have been Parishioners here at St. Paul's since 2012. We were confirmed by Bishop Marc in 2014. Over the years, I've enjoyed serving in a variety of ways including Altar Guild, Stewardship, Ushers & Greeters, Coffee Hour, Welcoming, a previous term on Vestry and Adult Spiritual Formation. I'm a long time Episcopal Church employee and a graduate of Education for Ministry. I'm honored to be asked to serve again.



Richard Larson – three-year term

I’ve lived nearly all my life in San Francisco, Marin, and the East Bay, with a couple years spent in Houston, TX, to work on interesting design projects. I first grew to love the Book of Common Prayer in middle school, attending St. Paul’s, San Rafael. During 38 years of attendance here at St. Paul’s, Oakland, I have joined Vestry multiple times, served as Junior Warden and as Senior Warden, been on various church committees, was the church’s Owner’s Representative throughout the planning and construction of the earthquake retrofit (for office building and church building), designed the southwest courtyard & fence project, served on St. Paul’s School’s buildings & grounds committee, and, for a couple years, Vicki and I were fortunate to serve as the parish’s Youth Group leaders.

These experiences, along with my love for our community, our music, our building, and the liturgies of the Eucharist, Evensong, and Compline, all combine to make St. Paul’s my parish home and the touchstone of my spiritual life through all the seasons of the church year.



2023 Vestry Nominations-continued

Fran Dibble – one-year term

It was 1984. David and I planned to be married that spring and wanted a church wedding. We found St. Paul's, Fr. Don Seaton, and welcoming parishioners; the rest is history.

I've lived in Oakland since moving to California in 1975. This year I plan to throw a birthday party for the 100-year-old cottage we purchased, and I've lived in for the past 35 years in this friendly and supportive Fruitvale neighborhood.

Though retired from a full-time career in public schools, a post-retirement part-time gig at SFSU keeps my hand and heart in teaching and learning. I look forward to returning to and serving on the vestry at St. Paul's in 2023.



Vestry Note January 2023 Meeting

The 2022 Vestry met for the last time. There was no business on the agenda. The Vestry warmly thanked Sharon Pilmer and Ann Gregory for their outstanding three years' service. The Vestry then adjourned to share a fellowship meal at Drake's Dealership.

Treasurer's Report Ann Goggins Gregory

I will be sharing the full year-end financial picture of the church at the annual meeting on February 5th.

Senior Warden's Message Maura Lane

*What we don't see, we assume cannot be,
What a destructive assumption.*
-Octavia Butler

I seldom ride BART these days, but when I do, I come up with little mind games to help pass the time while observing what is going on around me. The car I was in recently was almost full but very quiet. So, I decided to look around and see how many people were reading actual books, were doing something on their phones, sitting quietly. I counted 3 actual books. Two people were talking to each other. Everyone else was doing something on their phones. It made me feel sad.

I know the phone is both a useful tool and a vehicle for social media. It's like we want to have it all. It also feels very lonely to me. "Loneliness" has just been added to an annual published list of frequently used words. It may be easier to engage with a device that is a communication tool and also sells outrage or performances that require a reaction (like, dislike, etc.). It does not require engaging with others. This also makes me feel a bit sad. Some of the most interesting exchanges I've had with others have come about because one of us started a conversation. I have a friend who keeps a list of things she wants to share with me because she doesn't want to forget anything. We've been friends for years.

I know times have changed. I find myself amazed at the number of people who attend services regularly but don't really "know" other attendees. They come and they go. Maybe they don't feel lonely or a need to connect with others. This year, one of my goals is to get to know the people sitting around me a bit better. A little bit of depth feels very good to me. See you at church!



Children & Youth Ministries Carolyn Bolton

COMING UP!



Bishop's Ranch Retreat "Just as I Am: A Faith & Sexuality Retreat for High School Students" March 3-5, 2023

A diocesan youth retreat for high schoolers based on the book *These Are Our Bodies*. The cost will be \$100/person for two nights, seven meals, and all the supplies and snacks. Registration will open in February, 2023.

Youth Pilgrimage to Grace Cathedral May 21, 2023

A pilgrimage of youth from congregations in the Diocese via foot and public transportation to the Cathedral. Everyone will gather at the Cathedral by 6:00 pm for Eucharist and dinner. Details and registration to follow.

Youth Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Youth circumnavigated Lake Merritt and picked up trash along the way as part of the MLK service activities.



St. Paul's Social Justice Committee: A Ministry of Presence

Paula Hawthorn, Co-Leader

Oakland had 118 homicides last year, which again puts Oakland's homicide rate higher than San Jose's, San Francisco's, and most other cities in California. St. Paul's cannot close our eyes to this dreadful violence. The church must do something,

be an emissary for the Prince of Peace, be a beacon in this darkness. St. Paul's does this with a ministry of presence. Pastor Mike McBride, an Oakland faith leader, has often stood in a gathering and said, in his booming voice: "Presence Matters!". And it does, we all know it does. When a loved one needs support, we rush to their side, hold their hand to simply be with them. St. Paul's stands with, walks with those who are trying to bring peace to the Oakland streets.



Night Walks

Friday, Feb 10, 6:30PM, First Mt Sinai Church, 1970 86th Ave

Friday, Feb 17, 6:30PM, Williams Chapel Baptist Church, 1410 10th Ave

Friday, Feb 24, St. Benedict's Catholic Church, 2245 82nd Ave, Oakland



Stand-In

Saturday, Feb 11, 11Am – Noon, 30th and Telegraph



This takes three forms. First, there are the Night Walks, sponsored by Faith in Action East Bay. Please see the sidebar for the times and locations of the Night Walks, and plan to attend one. In a Night Walk we meet at the named church, pray, then walk as a group through the streets of an impacted Oakland neighborhood. Our message is: we see you, you are not alone, we are with you. Also, every second Saturday we join the members of True Vine Church for a Stand In, where we stand from 11Am until noon at a corner in West Oakland near where someone has been killed and loudly, with bull horns & chants, call on people to put the guns down, and let the community know that this cannot be just another blip on the nightly news, that this person was important and their death is not acceptable. The next Stand In is Feb 11, see the sidebar for the location, and do join us. It is a great

experience, takes little time, and shows our support for our community. Finally there are various "Peace in the Streets" rallies that we attend. The next is a large candlelight gathering where the organizers hope to encircle Lake Merritt with people holding candles, in silent prayer for peace. A flyer for that event is above; if you are interested in it, or if you have questions, want to car pool to any of these events, or otherwise would like to talk, please email Paula Hawthorn at paula.hawthorn@gmail.com.

CIRCLE OF PEACE

We need 1,500 Peacekeepers to attend a Candlelight Vigil Around Lake Merritt on February 18, 2023

Please bring your children. We must Teach Peace

Calendar of Events:

Peace Caravan Meets at Liberation Park - 2:30 pm - 7101 Foothill
Peace Caravan Departs for Lake Merritt Amphitheater 3:00pm, arrives at 5:00pm
Press Conference and African Drumming 5:30 - 6:00pm
Candle distribution and go to assigned location 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Stand in silence and peace 7:00 - 7:30 pm
chant "Peace in the Streets 7:30-7:31pm

We need 150 Team Captains.

CALL OR TEXT

Tanya Dennis at 510-929-7699 or uractivist@gmail.com

MEETING LOCATION

Lake Merritt Amphitheater between 12th and 1st Street

It takes a village to heal a village

"I pledge to create peace in my heart, practice peace in my home, and extend peace to my community"



Environmental Stewardship

Indira Balkissoon, Vestry Liaison

Then God said, "Let humans rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Genesis 1:26

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:15

I hope that as we enter this last month of winter you are nice and dry. When there was a break in the rain I had a chance to peek at our little pollinator gardens and they are still dormant and waiting for spring. The Creation Care

workshop that both Carolyn Knapp and I have been attending was canceled. That said I don't see why that should stop us at St. Paul's from continuing onward with our Life-Giving Conservation pursuits. Please contact me, if you have questions or ideas on environmental topics: tagindy@aol.com or (510) 290-2044.

This is also the month that the Honorable Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began his visit of India. He predated the environmental movement but certainly understood the interconnectedness of things with his concept of "network of mutuality." "Whatever affects one di-

rectly, affects all indirectly."

Plastics affect us all directly and indirectly. Did you know that not all tea bags are compostable? Some contain plastic fibers making them difficult to compost and according *Green Child Magazine*, a cup of tea contains 16 micrograms plastic per cup.

The leaf portion of tea bags is fully compostable. The bag portion is a little more complicated. Paper is best but staples and adhesives on the bags may not be compostable. For a complete list of tea bags that are fully compostable (and ones that are not) here are two links: <https://www.becausehealth.org/plastic-in-my-tea-bag-2618934044.html> and <https://www.greenchildmagazine.com/plastic-in-tea-bags/>

Using loose-leaf tea is even better!

Plastics pollution is en route to overtake fossil fuel as the leading environmental pollution by 2030. This pollution has a real impact on both wildlife and people. Think the Great Pacific Gyre and the North Atlantic Garbage Patch, where seabirds, fish, and marine mammals are killed. Also, people are affected all along the plastic supply chain. The global recycling system is highly dependent on waste pickers who are exposed to toxic chemicals and unsafe working conditions as they collect, sort and process plastics.

One way to eliminate plastic bottles associated with laundry detergent is to switch to eco laundry strips. These pre-measured, paper-thin resin strips boast natural ingredients, zero waste and no plastic.

For more information, here is a link to helpful resources:

5 Laundry Products that Help You Save Money and the Planet

<https://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/cleaning/laundry/environmentally-friendly-laundry-products>



Windows of St. Paul's

Robert Knapp

Cornelius the Centurion

The window, a single lancet with trefoil arch, shows an angel bringing news to Cornelius. He kneels, sword in scabbard, wearing Roman armor and helmet. The angel has golden wings and holds one hand to heaven and one to earth. A golden Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8) sits above.

Cornelius was a centurion in a cohort of soldiers stationed at Caesarea Philippi, the administrative capital of the client Judean kingdom of northern Judea. The Roman military unit of a few hundred men was there to ensure the peace. Cornelius was a "god-fearer," a well-known category of polytheist, a person sympathetic to the morality and theology of Judaism but unwilling to undergo initiation into the cult because that involved circumcision and adherence to burdensome rules. Officers posted to distant provinces often remained there for years. This seems to have been the case with Cornelius, as he has a family and large household.

Cornelius was a kind man who regularly prayed to the Jewish God and gave generously to those in need. An angel appeared and told him to send emissaries to Apostle Peter in Joppa. Their message to Peter was straightforward: "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." Coming to Caesarea as requested, Peter laid out for Cornelius what is one of the most succinct summaries of the Gospel narrative. (Acts 10:34-43) When the Holy Spirit "came on all who heard the message," Peter baptized Cornelius and his household. This is a crucial moment, for Peter breaks with traditional Judaism of his day by associating with a gentile, asserting that dietary laws and circumcision are irrelevant in welcoming someone into the Way of Jesus.



An (unlikely) tradition has Cornelius becoming the Bishop of Caesarea. The Episcopal Calendar commemorates his life on February 4th.

Text above on the window: Cornelius. *At bottom:* A just man and one that feareth God. (Acts 10:2)

Text on plaque below the window: A gift in thanksgiving Colonel and Mrs. Lawrence Coffin Ames 1947.

Lawrence Coffin Ames (1897-1981), a Bostonian, graduated from Amherst College. He served in the French Foreign Legion during World War I and then transferred to the Army Air Corps as a pilot. Married in St. Paul's to Helen Rodolph (1897-1998) of Piedmont in 1924, he worked as a stockbroker and then returned to the Army Air Corps at the outbreak of World War II. He served in the South Pacific on the general staff as an observer with the 5th Marine Division Task Force Iwo Jima. Commissioned in the California Air National Guard, he retired as a Major General. He was active in various Oakland and national business pursuits. Their daughter was married at St. Paul's in 1952.

The Cummings Studio, San Francisco, created the window in 1947 (not etched but confirmed in *The Pacific Churchman*, May 1947, page 25; dedicated at St. Paul's 24 May). This and its companion window, St. Martin of Tours, were given by Mrs. George W. Rodolph, Mrs. Ames' mother. (*Oakland Tribune* 30 March 1947)



Helen Rodolph
Ames, 1924



St. Paul's

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Dear Readers:

Currently, the newsletter is not being distributed by regular post. If you know of someone who does not have access to the electronic version, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org. She will make a hard-copy and send it.

Newsletter contributors sought

We are interested in hearing from writers and photographers; please email us if you would like to donate your talents. The deadline for each edition is the 25th of the month previous to publication. Please send your submissions of no more than 400 words to csknapp@earthlink.net

The Good News is a publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakland, California. Carolyn Knapp, editor, and Robert Knapp, composition and graphics.

Music



Ben Bachmann, Music Director

Celebrating Black History Month



This month at St. Paul's we will celebrate the music of black composers of the past and present. Many people are unaware of how much organ music has been written by composers of color dating back to the early 19th century. Many familiar spirituals serve as the basis for some of this music, and much of it is based on original themes by the composers.

I first learned of the composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) when we

shared an alma mater, the Royal College of Music in London. Coleridge-Taylor was a formidable conductor known all over the world, though he is best remembered today as a composer. His father was African and his mother was British. She named the boy after her favorite poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Although his training was European in nature (he was a student of Charles Villiers Stanford and championed by Edward Elgar), he became very interested in the music of his African heritage. He became the youngest delegate at the first Pan-African Conference in London in 1900, where he met and was influenced by Paul Lawrence Dunbar and W. E. B. Dubois. You will hear several of his organ works in the coming weeks.

Another important figure in music is Florence Price (1887-1953). Price became the first black woman to have her symphonies performed by an American orchestra. She was for a short time the head of composition at Clark Atlanta University where she met her husband. The two moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, where she had been raised, but after witnessing a lynching in 1927, they decided to move to Chicago, where she flourished. Her accomplishments, compositions, premieres, and teaching posts are too many to number, and only in the last twenty years has she gotten any of the recognition she deserves.

In addition to the choir's offerings of spirituals, works by David Hurd and Moses Hogan, we will sing a wonderful arrangement of Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday," one of the most beautiful pieces written by one of history's most prolific composers. Duke Ellington is known for his huge contribution to jazz, but he also wrote a number of works for choirs and church performance.

There are many great composers to speak of and listen to, but space is short. If you want to learn more about these musicians and Scott Joplin, William Grant Still, James Price Johnson, and many others, I suggest YouTube or Spotify.

Images top to bottom: Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Florence Price, David Hurd, Moses Hogan, Duke Ellington

