



Volume 17 Issue 1

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*Faith and Mission, the great St. Paul's history by Liz Hook, is still available. Contact Robert Knapp for details (rcknapp2@gmail.com)*

# THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

## Youth Day of Service Carolyn Bolton, Children & Youth Ministries



### *Sunday, January 15 - Monday, January 16th*

Youth and their youth group leaders from Alameda Deanery congregations will honor the witness and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at an overnight of fun, learning and service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We'll gather at the church at 3 p.m. on Sunday and will be ready for pick up the next day, Monday, January 16, 2023 at 3 p.m.

During the day on Sunday, the group will go on a tour of downtown murals or visit the Oakland Museum. After dinner the group will engage in some hymns MLK loved and games. The evening will conclude with a movie.

In the morning the group will have breakfast, make lunches and do a day of service at an organization /agency as a group.

If you would like to participate or wish to have further details, please get in touch with Carolyn Bolton: [cbolton730@aol.com](mailto:cbolton730@aol.com).



## Rector's Message

### WE CAN FACE TOMORROW

**Happy and Blessed 2023, beloved St. Paul's Family!**

The popular hymn by Gloria and William Gaither contains these beautiful and reassuring words as its refrain:

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow; because He lives all fear is gone; because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.*

We are at the beginning of a new calendar year and with it come both anxiety and hope. The possibilities of the future can easily have that dual effect. Like birthdays and anniversaries, the start of the year is a time when we evaluate and plan. We try to discern and imagine the future, the What next? We try to envision the things we are going to put our efforts into and their outcomes. We think of the ifs and if nots of the year and life. All of these bring with them hopes of the possible ways in which we will grow and succeed, but they also bring the anxiety of possible failed attempts of the past repeating themselves in the future.

I wonder, can we stare into the future and life without fear? Without fear of failure or success. Can we just simply live. The Gaither lyrics hint at that notion. A notion that is real through the eyes and mind of faith. If our lives are guided by the faith in the incarnate and resurrected Christ, what is there to fear? With both life and death conquered, what adversary is there to face and battle?

Ready or not 2023 is here. Today is here, and if things don't come to an end, so will tomorrow. How will you face it? Jesus' invitation is to do so without fear, with faith, hope and determination. Ready to accept the heavenly call to live and be a walking example of what a life lived in Christ is.

Christ lives, and because he lives you can face any and everything that may come your way. If at any moment you are knocked down and weakened, trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to pick you up and restore your strength to try again, for walking with Christ does not mean that we will always succeed, but rather that we'll never give up. For in the same way in which Christianity has transformed the cross and crown of thorns from symbols of hate, torture and punishment into symbols of eternal grace and salvation, we must take the lemons that life throws our way and make not only lemonade, but lemon bars, lemon pies, and garnishes.

Beloved, you can face the future, for you do not need to face it on your own. Christ lives and is by your side. Have no fear, for the Holy Spirit will light your way. Live into your blessedness, for life is worth the living.




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## IMPORTANT WORSHIP DATES FOR EPIPHANY SEASON 2023:

January 1: Evensong (4 pm) for the Feast of the Holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ

January 8: Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ

January 22: Observance of the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul's

February 5: Annual Parish Meeting, 10 am

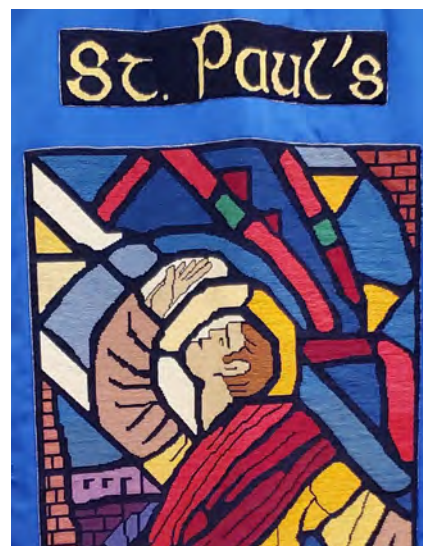
February 11: Observance of the Feast of Absalom Jones

## Coming up in January and February

### FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

We will celebrate the Conversion of our patron Saint, Paul, **Sunday, January 22**. The actual feast day is Thursday the 25th.

*I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. [...] But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. Galatians 1:11-16*



### ABSALOM JONES CELEBRATION

JOIN US IN WORSHIP AS WE  
CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND  
MINISTRY OF

*Saint  
Absalom Jones*

THE FIRST BLACK PRIEST IN THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



On **Saturday, February 11** at 11 am, St. Paul's will be hosting the Diocese of California to celebrate the Feast of Absalom Jones. The Rt. Rev. Marc H. Andrus will be the Celebrant and the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri will be the preacher. This event is cosponsored by the Afro Anglican Commission of the Diocese and the Northern California/Vivian Traylor Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

### CANON BOLTON

On **Thursday February 9**, the Venerable Carolyn Bolton will be installed as an Honorary Canon of Grace Cathedral. This will take place in the context of the Cathedral's Evensong service at 5:30 p.m. All are welcomed to and attend and support Deacon Carolyn on this auspicious occasion.

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.





## Spirituality Corner

### Coming Soon: Epiphany

The Rev. Anne Jensen

I like the definitions of Epiphany I found in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary:

- (1) *a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.*
- (2) *an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking.*
- (3) *an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure.*

An epiphany occurs when you suddenly feel that you understand or suddenly become conscious of something that is very important to you. For example, a powerful religious experience.



Epiphany is both a feast day and a season in the Episcopal Church. On January 6 we celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men, and thus the revelation of Jesus as the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. During the six weeks of the Epiphany season, we will read portions of the Gospels that reveal who Jesus is and what he's about.

If we think about the season through the lens of what we know about the Messiah before and after the Epiphany, we could call the season of Epiphany "The Great Reveal," or maybe the season of "BEHOLD!"

I'm proposing that we suspend our habitual way of hearing the gospels of this season, and instead hear the stories of this season with an openness to meeting Jesus again for the first time. What is the charisma of this man that draws so many to him? Watch and listen to him as if you were there.

What surprises you? What questions come up? What draws you into the scenes?

May your journey through Epiphany be one of growth and blessing.

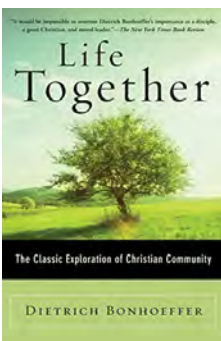
## Beyond the Word: A Reading & Discussion Group

Select Wednesdays @ 7pm on ZOOM

Pam Buckingham, Co-Leader

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

The next sessions are Jan 11 and Feb 8



More than 70 years ago, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was killed in a Nazi concentration camp just as the Nazi regime was collapsing in 1945. Born on 4 February 1906, he was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi dissident who was a key founding member of the Confessing Church. Bonhoeffer is famous for many things, but *Life Together*, his classic work on Christian community, is one of the most life-changing books I've read and, in some ways, is perhaps more relevant today than when Bonhoeffer wrote it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's wonderful book is a brief but rich treatise on Christian community which gives practical suggestions for how to live & worship with others by defining community, how you can practically minister to your brethren, and concludes with the importance of confession and communion. Despite its warts and imperfections, Christian community is a beautiful gift of God's grace.

If you missed the last book, that's OK! Each book stands alone. You are most welcome! To join us, email [pamela.kruse.buckingham@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.kruse.buckingham@gmail.com). I will send you the orientation document and the Zoom link.



## Senior Warden's Message

### Maura Lane

I love it when a child asks me to read. A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of reading about the White Rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland*. The child's curiosity was about the meaning of the fork in the road. This was not what I expected. I explained to her that since Alice didn't know which path she wanted to take, any path would do. Little did my little friend know this was one of my favorite parts of the book. It shows possibility and not necessarily needing to know or believe that there is only one true way to move about in the world.

The homily given by Deacon Gary England two weeks ago struck a similar chord in me. Many of us live our lives based on lists, the desire to show we are contributors

as we find yet another thing to add to our lives. To show we are productive. I saw some of myself in the homily. Keeping busy may not be a bad thing but it can take away the time needed for reflection and to give God time to guide us.



As the year comes to an end, I find myself - as always - reflecting on how generous God has been to me. Sometimes I, too, have simply deviated from my lists and timelines out of boredom or a need for change and curiosity. At this time of year, and given the state of the world, I find myself focusing on three areas: 1) transition, 2) infrastructure, and 3) the desire not to be the person who kicks the can down the road for others to do the work. I am forward-thinking and like to look at where I am, how I got there and what needs to be done if I want something different. Although I understand it is not possible to know the whole picture, I do like to think about things from the perspective of what is and what can be. It is not unusual for us to have curiosity about our place in the world and its meaning.

It is wonderful to see so many of you in the pews on Sunday. Thank you for your many contributions - many not known to anyone but yourselves. Thank you for sharing your stories with me throughout the year. Thank you for simply being present in thought, mind and body. See you next year. Happy New Year.

## Christmas brunch delivered to over 300 seniors and families

### Carolyn Bolton, Children & Youth Ministries



This year's Christmas brunch delivery hit a high. Through the efforts of church members, youth, school families and volunteers we were able to deliver an outstanding 316 dinners to seniors and families. Each family enjoyed, ham, turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and a delicious piece of lemon icing cake. They also received a See's sucker.

I would like to thank the volunteers for their hard work and delivery service.



## Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Christmas message 2022

### ‘Love always’

Hello. I'm inside St. James Church by-the-Sea, La Jolla, California. We thank the rector, the clergy, the staff, and the good people of this church for allowing us to bring this Christmas message to The Episcopal Church from this wonderful and beautiful congregation.

There is a Christmas carol not that well known here in the States, maybe better known in Great Britain, that says quite simply, "Love came down at Christmas. Love all lovely. Love divine. Love was born at Christmas. Star and angel gave the sign. Love came down at Christmas."

The older I get, the more I am convinced that God came into this world in the person of Jesus for one reason, and one reason alone: to show us the way to be reconciled and in right relationship with the God who is the creator of us all, and with each other as children of that one God who is the creator of us all, and of all things.

Jesus came to show us how to live, reconciled with God, and with each other, and He taught us that the way to do it is God's way of love. For God's way of love is God's way of life. It's our hope for our families, our communities, our societies. Indeed, it is our hope for the whole world. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, and love came down at Christmas.

Now, look, I'm 69 years old. I've been around the block a little bit. I know that sounds nice, sounds like the kind of thing we say in church. It sounds nice, but naive, idealistic but unrealistic, and yet, consider the alternative. Need I just simply say the names? Uvalde, Vestavia Hills, Tree of Life Synagogue, Club Q in Colorado Springs, Ukraine.

Now, God's way of love is not naive, it is not unrealistic, it's the way. It's the way to life for us all. Dr. King once said, "Darkness cannot cast out darkness; only light can do that. And hatred cannot cast out hatred; only love can do that." Love came down at Christmas. And as some of us are beginning to say in this Episcopal church of ours, "Love always."

Earlier this year, I went to Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston to be part of the seventh commemoration of the murders of the martyrs of Charleston. You may remember that a number of years ago, while members of that church had gathered for Bible study, a man came in and they welcomed him in, and invited him to join them, and he turned on them, and he killed many.

It was the seventh commemoration to both honor and remember those who had died, to give God thanks for those who helped—first responders, medical persons—but it was also something else. It was a time to commit ourselves, not simply to throw up our hands in despair, but to reach out our hands to each other, to roll up our sleeves, to take God's hand and take each other's hand and do the hard and holy work of love, which brings healing, which brings hope, which binds us together, and lifts us up to be all that God dreams and intends for us all to be.

Love came down at Christmas. Love always, because love is the way. It is the way that Jesus taught us based on the ancient teachings of Moses, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself," for on these two hang, depend, all the law, all the prophets, everything that God intends because God is love.

Love came down at Christmas and so let this Christmas be a moment of rededication to the work of love in the world. As Howard Thurman wrote long ago, "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star and the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are at home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins. To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart."

For love came down at Christmas, and our work is to love always. God love you. God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love. Merry Christmas.





## Creation Care

### Indira Balkissoon, Vestry Liaison for Environmental Stewardship

Happy New Year! The Pollinator Garden has gone to sleep for the winter. It is looking a bit dreary right now, but I am sure it is gearing up for a glorious spring.



How are you doing on your New Year's resolutions? I have decided to add a new one to my usual: I will exercise more resolution. This year I want to try and minimize the waste I generate, growing my commitment as an Earth Steward and to further promote justice. So let's talk about waste and our stuff. The most recent Creation Care workshop focused on waste and our consumer goods



system. I have attached a link to a YouTube entitled "The Story of Stuff" (just click on the graphic above). Though a bit dated, this video explains the linear consumer goods system and how it is a one-way trip to the landfill. This system does not reflect the true cost of extraction of natural resources, hazards of production, unequal distribution, health effects of toxics in products, or limits of disposal and recycling. Consumer goods production was developed to boost the American economy post-World War II. But now consumerism has become a habit. In many ways the primary way that our value is measured and demonstrated is by how much we consume. But it wasn't always this way. Ask your grandma; in her day stewardship, resourcefulness and thrift were valued. And these are ways of caring for yourself and your neighbors, both nearby and far away.



*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself!'"*

Matthew 22: 37-40 (NIV)



Fortunately, this linear consumer product system is being reimagined and re-designed by new systems that focus on sustainability, equity, green chemistry, zero waste, closed loop production, renewable energy, and living economies, etc.

With these new systems available, I feel confident that my new year's resolution is achievable. To minimize waste, I commit to thinking very carefully about what I buy. Do I need it? If I do need it, can I borrow it? Who is selling it? What is it made of and by whom? Who is impacted by my purchase? Finally, what will I do with it when I am finished? Can I pass it along to someone else? Can I repurpose it? There are probably a bunch more questions that I should ask. Please let me know: [tagindy@aol.com](mailto:tagindy@aol.com)

## St. Paul's 2023 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on February 5, 2023, during the 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist service. Besides receiving committee and ministry reports, we will also be electing five persons to the Vestry, two to complete unexpired terms and three for a regular 3-year term. We will also be electing Deanery Delegates and alternates. The vestry nominations committee has received names of potential vestry nominees, but others are welcome. Please let Sharon Pilmer, Ann Gregory, or Will Cowart know if you are willing and able to serve as a Vestry member or Deanery Delegate.

## Giving Tree a Resounding Success!

### Paula Hawthorn, Social Justice Co-Leader

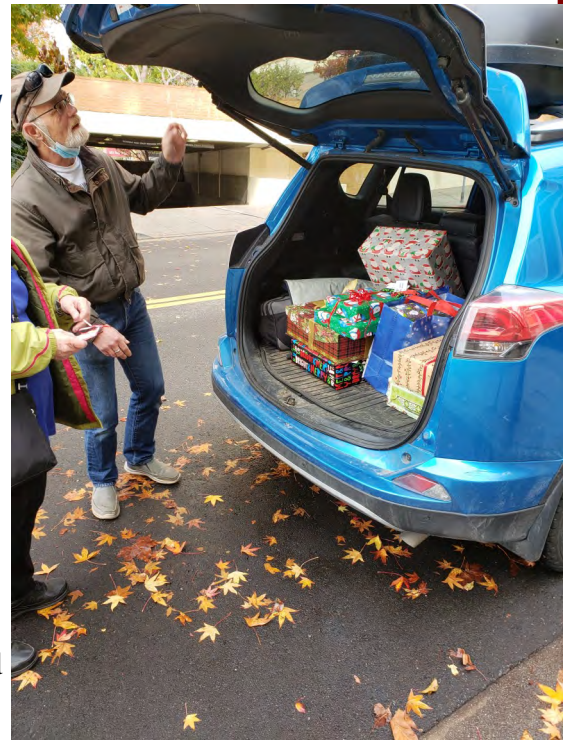


This year the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Center for the Vulnerable Child asked us to provide Christmas gifts for five families as a part of their Family-to-Family program, which pairs families in need with those able to help. Due to privacy concerns, we don't know much about these families. We know the names & ages of the children: family 1 has two children, 15 & 16; family 2 has 4 children, ages 5, 9, 14 & 17; family 4 includes 3 children, ages 13, 11, 10; and family 5 includes 3 children, ages 6, 10 & 11. We do not know the specific circumstances of the families. All we know is that they are a part of the Center for the Vulnerable Child program, and their website <https://www.ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/clinics/center-for-the-vulnerable-child> states that

*"Center for the Vulnerable Child (CVC) provides a comprehensive range of services for the most vulnerable children in our community. Many problems can put a child at risk for needing this kind of help, including poverty, family disruption, homelessness, foster care placement, drug exposure, abuse, neglect, community violence and more."*

The CVC, on their request forms, include what the child "needs" and what they "want". When St. Paul's first participated in this program, about 10 years ago, the pattern was always that the CVC social worker would record that the child needed clothing, and wanted toys, video games etc. But that has heartbreakingly changed over the years, so that the children seldom ask for play-things, and more often for warm winter coats. So St. Paul's parishioners kindly gave them coats and gift cards, with which they could hopefully buy toys if possible. And our prayers; we had their names, and we could and did pray for them.

We were asked to provide for more families than we have ever provided for before, and the parish stepped up wonderfully, generously, with extra cash donations and by signing up for more gifts. When Paula took the gifts home for the grandchildren-enabled Grand Sort (we put them into the correct huge plastic bags, one or more for each family, carefully labelled so that the correct gift gets to the correct family) her car was full (see picture) and the CVC social worker who came to pick them up had to borrow his brother's car, which was larger than his, so he could deliver the presents. His smile was huge as he thanked us. What a wonderful mission for St. Paul's.





## Christmas at St. Paul's!



## Vestry Note

### December 2022 Meeting

Most of the meeting was consumed by budget discussion and the large gap between revenue and expense. Please see the treasurer's report below.

### Treasurer's Update

#### Ann Gregory

As we move into the end of the year, we continue to be slightly below budget on both revenue and expenses. As such, we are just about where we expected to be on net operating income (NOI). As you'll see below, our NOI year-to-date is -\$167K vs. budget of -\$171K. As a reminder, St. Paul's budgets a deficit most years, pulling from operating reserves in our investment accounts to cover the difference.



	Year-to-date actuals as of November 30, 2022	Year-to-date budget through November 30, 2022
Revenue	\$ 273,701	\$ 303,721
Expense	\$ 440,910	\$ 475,596
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (167,209)</b>	<b>\$ (171,875)</b>

#### REVENUE DYNAMICS:

Pledge revenue remains ahead of budget for the year by \$8K. We hope to see an increase in donated revenue – whether plate or pledge during the holiday season.

Plate remains considerably under budget, with a shortfall of \$24K (50% less than budgeted). We have taken this trend into account as we've budgeted for 2023 and will use a more conservative estimate for plate next year.

Rental revenue associated with space usage (for things like music concerts) is down by \$8K year to date (or 12%). We are eager to explore additional concerts and music programming (where partners pay to rent our space) in 2023.

#### EXPENSE DYNAMICS:

Personnel remains under budget year-to-date, largely because the Children & Youth Ministry Director role was open for much of the year.

On the balance sheet / investment side of things, the financial markets continue their volatility. We continue to monitor the market and are in frequent touch with our Merrill Lynch financial advisors.

I look forward to doing a full update on St. Paul's financial performance and 2023 budget at the annual meeting in early February. In the meantime, I'm available for your questions or comments at [gog-gins.gregory@gmail.com](mailto:gog-gins.gregory@gmail.com).



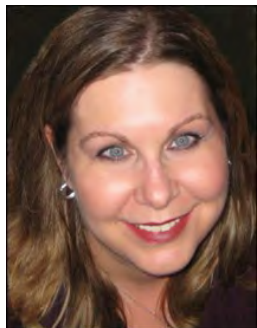
## Concerts at St. Paul's

### San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Composition Recital

4pm, Friday, January 27, 2023

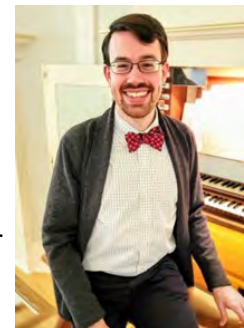
Wyatt Smith, Tracelyn Gesteland

Organist Dr. Wyatt Smith will be joined by Dr. Tracelyn Gesteland in this program featuring works for mezzo soprano and organ.



Tracelyn Gesteland

The center piece of the program will be the premiere of a six-movement song cycle by Craig Phillips, commissioned by Smith and Gesteland, and funded in part by the SFAGO Special Projects Committee. This song cycle is based on the six primary seasons of the liturgical year, and form the last part of a decade-long commissioning project that includes six organ works, six paintings, and six poems. Additional repertoire will feature works by Carson Cooman and Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra.



Wyatt Smith

**The concert is free and open to the public. A reception will follow, sponsored by the San Francisco American Guild of Organists**

*Dr. Smith is an active organ and harpsichord teacher and performer in the Seattle/Tacoma metro area. Dr. Gesteland is Professor of Voice and Opera at the University of South Dakota. Begun in 2015, the Gesteland-Smith Duo has performed, commissioned, and recorded works for mezzo soprano and organ.*

### Prometheus Symphony Orchestra 2022-2023 Concert Series Celebrating 58 Years of Music Making

Eric Hansen, Music Director

Third Concert  
Sunday, January 29, 2023  
3:00 PM (Preconcert talk at 2:40PM)

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra  
Eric Hansen, Music Director



Aleksandr Borodin, *Symphony No. 2 in B Minor*

Gustav Mahler, *Blumine*

Alexander Glazunov, *Violin Concerto in A Minor, Op. 82*

Hiro Yoshimura, Violin soloist

*Khuner Young Artist Concerto Competition Winner*

#### ADMISSION FREE

Tickets are required to attend this concert. Please go to [www.prometheussymphony.org](http://www.prometheussymphony.org) for ticket information.

Audience members must show proof of full vaccination including boosters for admittance. Masks are required when in the church. Families with children (all fully vaccinated) are always welcome and the facility is wheelchair accessible.

[See our website](#) for Covid protocols, updates, and parking details.

## Stewardship Report

### Sharon Pilmer, Stewardship Chair

As of December 20, we have received 58 pledges for a total of \$180,000. Our target at the outset was \$200,000, so this represents 90% of our goal! Thank you to those who have gotten us this far.

In 2023 we are projected to have a larger than normal gap between income and expense. COVID and inflation have been hard on many nonprofits, and churches are no exception.

More details will follow at the annual meeting in February. Suffice it to say that if you have not made a pledge for 2023 there is no time like the present to do so! We are grateful for and need support from our members to sustain the life and ministry of this place.

For those who have completed and returned pledge cards, you may fulfill your pledge in one of many ways.

- Write a check and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office
- Place cash in an envelope with your name on it and place it in the offering plate (please don't mail cash)
- Instruct your bank to make payment(s) directly to St. Paul's (Automatic Clearing House or ACH transfer)

Arrange to pay your pledge online via our website, [www.stpaulsoakland.org](http://www.stpaulsoakland.org). We use a third-party platform, Breeze, to manage member information and track and manage donations. You may make your gift using a credit card or via ACH transfer from your bank. Note that there are processing fees associated with both methods; the processing fee is less with an ACH. When you set up your payments you may elect to increase your payment to cover the processing fee, for which we are grateful.

Other creative ways to pay: via your IRA as a Qualified Charitable Distribution if you are over 72 years of age, via a gift of appreciated securities, or via a Donor Advised Fund, just to name a few. Please contact our bookkeeper, Joan Clerk, if you would like to exercise any of these options, at [finance@stpaulsoakland.org](mailto:finance@stpaulsoakland.org).

If you took advantage of online giving last year and need to adjust the amount of your pledge please contact Joan at the above email address.

Finally, many employers will make matching gifts to charities of the employee's choice. Not all will match a gift to a religious organization, but it is worth asking your HR department if they will do so. This is a great way to double your gift!

For any questions, please reach out to me at [pilms@hotmail.com](mailto:pilms@hotmail.com)





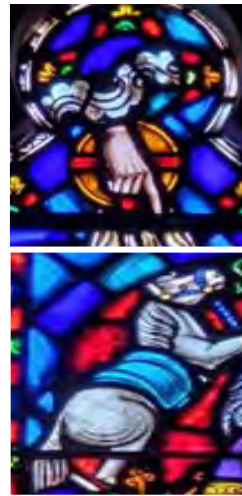
## Windows of St. Paul's

### St. Paul Sees the Light

#### Robert Knapp

This window, a single lancet with trefoil arch, shows St. Paul fallen to his knees. The blinding ray of light comes from Christ's hand that emerges from a cloud in the lunette; a cruciform halo lies behind the hand. A small vignette of St. Paul's horse bolting away appears over the saint's shoulder. (Acts 9:3-5)

H. C. (Henry Clay) Taft (1846-1919) was a "pioneer merchant" in Oakland. Originally from New York State, he had moved to Oakland in 1875. He was founder and president of Taft & Pennoyer (a dry goods firm— "one of Oakland's largest commercial houses"—what later became H. C. Capwell's), a leader in the Chamber of Commerce, and a philanthropist. His stores were at Broadway and 14th and in the Clay District of San Francisco. A member of St. Paul's for many years, he was first elected to St. Paul's vestry in 1878. Elected again to the vestry in 1891, he served as senior warden until 1907, when he resigned, but remained on the planning committee for the current St. Paul's church (1912). It was he who suggested to Mrs. Requa that she dedicate a window (our Resurrection Window) in the new church. "He was for many years a firm supporter of St. Paul's Church and was identified with many of its activities." H. C. died March 1, 1919.



*Florence Hayden and Maxwell Taft, 1902*

He had three children, Joshua Maxwell Taft (known as "Maxwell") (1878-1930), Clara (1879-1947), & Dorothy (1890-1953). Maxwell served on the St. Paul's vestry from 1909. He later served in World War I. He was a graduate of the University of California and followed in his father's footsteps as a successful Oakland businessman.

This window is dedicated to the memory of Maxwell and his wife, Florence Hayden Taft (1881-1963), and one of their five children, Maxine Taft Gerdes (Mrs. Stanley Gerdes) (1881-1963). Florence was the daughter of St. Paul's stalwart, Brace Hayden (1836-1935), who long served on the

vestry with Maxwell's father, H. C. Taft.

Florence died after a long illness at the age of 81 in February 1963. Maxwell had died in 1930. Their daughter, Maxine, died in 1968. She was survived by four siblings who perhaps dedicated this window.

*Text on Glass:* To left and right of the light, *St. Paul.*

*Below:* *Tell me Lord who you are.* (Acts 9:5)



The plaque below the window reads: *In memory of Joshua Maxwell Taft, Florence Hayden Taft and their daughter Maxine Taft Gerdes*

Willet Windows 1968 is etched in the lower right corner of the window. Willet Stained Glass Studios of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was a prestigious company begun in 1898.



## 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](mailto:admin@stpaulsoakland.org). She will make a hardcopy 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](mailto: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.

## From the Editors:

Watch the next *Good News* for

News about the Annual Meeting in February



The Reverend Charles H. Taylor, first rector of St. Paul's Oakland, 1871-1874