



Volume 15, Issue 1
February-March 2021

THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Rector's Reflection

THE YEAR OF COVID, A YEAR OF LENT

Rev. Dr. Mauricio
Wilson



March 8 will mark one year since the last time we had the opportunity to physically gather as a congregation at St. Paul's. We were in the season of Lent. It has been a full year of hopeful expectation and wondering: Are we going to celebrate Holy Week and Easter together? Then we asked the same question over and over for Pentecost, September, Christmas, our 150th anniversary and others. We sometimes hoped that the answer would be yes, though the evidence before us showed that no was more feasible. There is no question that this has been a difficult 12 months for St. Paul's, just as it has been for every single group of people around the world.

In many ways, this year has felt like an extended season of Lent. As if 2020 Easter never occurred, and that we have been invited by the Church to spend a little more time in discernment and retreat, thinking about the fragility of life and our interdependence on each other and the world. The temptation to not follow the rules and recommendations of health officials has been daunting and, in many cas-

[Continued on last page](#)

Broadcasting Our Services

AV Committee Update

Erica Terry Derryck

Spurred by the restrictions of COVID-19, St. Paul's has been offering access to services online, initially only via Facebook, but now also via Zoom video conferencing. The quick response by the Parish leadership and volunteers has been appreciated, but it has also laid bare the limitations of our AV capabilities. This led the Vestry to authorize the formation of an AV committee whose work is two-fold:

- 1) Identify ways to enhance the online worship experience as the social distancing rules remain in place to combat the spread of COVID-19. This includes trying to improve access to the online service through adding more platforms where services can be viewed, as well as the audio, video, and streaming quality.
- 2) Work with the Vestry to implement an easy to operate and flexible system that will enable the streaming of services to continue once in-person worship resumes, with a focus on improving the quality of the spoken word projection in the church building.

The AV committee members are: Bill Davis, Robert Knapp, Victoria Larson, Kent Lewandowski, John Prescott, George Strait, and Chair and Vestry Representative Erica Terry Derryck. The committee has met three times since kicking off at the end of January and has engaged an outside

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From the Front Page

WORSHIP AND STUDY EVENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER

Worship the Lord with gladness

—Psalm 100

For links to Zoomed and streamed services, please visit the Church website: <http://www.stpaulsoakland.org/>

Holy Week services will be streamed on Zoom and Facebook but may be in-person as well. Please consult the Church website, <http://www.stpaulsoakland.org/>, for the latest information.

Sundays, February 21 - March 28:

Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. – streamed on Facebook and Zoom

Morning Prayer 9:15 a.m. – in person by reservation and streamed on Facebook

Choral Eucharist 10 a.m. – streamed on Facebook and Zoom

Bible Study of the readings -- 11:30 a.m. on Zoom



Morning Prayer—our first in-person service in almost a year!

PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

During this time of sheltering in place and physical distancing, we are working on trying to find creative ways to continue the process of serving the needy members of our community.

Thanks for your continued support and prayers.

Tuesdays

Morning Prayer 10 a.m. by Zoom

Wednesdays, February 24 - March 31:

Holy Eucharist 12:10 p.m. streamed through Zoom and Facebook

Evening Prayer and Lent Series 7 p.m. by Zoom only

Thursdays

Morning Prayer 10 a.m. in the park across from the Church

Fridays, February 19—March 26

Stations of the Cross 6:30 p.m. – streamed on Facebook

Palm Sunday – March 28

Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.

Choral Eucharist 10 a.m.

Holy Wednesday – March 31:

The Service of Tenebrae 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 1:

Maundy Thursday Service 7: p.m.

Good Friday – April 2:

The Service of Good Friday 12 -3 p.m.

Stations of the Cross 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday – April 3:

The Great Vigil of Easter 8 p.m.

Race + Faith

St. Paul's Lenten Series

Wednesdays of Lent

**Let us not
tire of
preaching
love; it is
the force
that will
overcome
the world.
—San
Romero**

THE 2021 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio
Wilson, Rector
Senior Warden
Sharon Pilmer
Junior Warden
Scott Buckingham
Clerk
Erica Terry-Derryck
Treasurer
Ann Gregory

VESTRY BY CLASS Class of 2021

Erica Terry-Derryck
Sergio Prieto
Lisa Strait
Class of 2022
Will Cowart
Ann Gregory
Sharon Pilmer
Class of 2023
Flarnie Adams
Scott Buckingham
Lane Ceric

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

2020
Delegates
Melanie Blake
Tom McGarrell
Alternates
Saundra Anderson
Jeanette Dinwiddie-
Moore

What does it mean to seek God and continue to walk forward in the Way of Love, especially as it relates to issues of justice and race? Join **Cara Meredith**, author of *The Color of Life* and member of St. Paul's, for a six-week interactive discussion series every Wednesday night in Lent. Each week will feature conversations with various faith leaders and authors from around the Bay Area, as well as dialogue around key themes of race and faith from her book.

Zoom link to Evening Prayer and the conversation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6025460860>

Week #1: Invitation (February 24th)

Read beforehand: *The Color of Life* (Intro, 1-2)

Watch beforehand: [MLK's Holt Street Baptist Church sermon](#) ('55)

Conversation: The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland

Week #2: Awareness (March 3rd)

Read beforehand: *The Color of Life* (3-5)

Watch beforehand: ["The Danger of a Single Story"](#) (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)

Conversation: Roy Guaranton, Ph.D. candidate

Week #3: Empathy (March 10th)

Read beforehand: *The Color of Life* (6-8)

Watch beforehand: MLK's ["A Promise Unfulfilled"](#) ('62)

Conversation: Dorcas Cheng-Tozun, author of *Start, Love, Repeat*

Week #4: Humility (March 17th)

Read beforehand: *The Color of Life* (9-11)

Watch beforehand: ["Humility and Anti-Racism"](#) (The Jesuit Post)

Conversation: Mitali Perkins, author of *Home is In Between* + a dozen others

Week #5: Change, Inside & Out (March 24th)

Read beforehand: *The Color of Life* (12-14)

Listen beforehand: ["Russell Jeung on Justice and Political Engagement"](#) (The Reclaim Podcast)

Conversation: Professor Russell Jeung, author of *At Home in Exile* and professor/chair of Asian American Studies Department (SFSU)

Week #6: The Beloved Community (March 31st)

Read beforehand: *The Color of Life* (15-17)

Listen beforehand: MLK's ["Drum Major Instinct"](#) ('68) – click on "listen to audio"

Conversation: The Rev. Eric Metoyer, Rector of St. Francis' Episcopal Church in San Francisco

From the Senior Warden

Sharon Pilmer

I want to introduce myself to you as your new Senior Warden. I joined the St. Paul's community in 1994 when our family moved to the Bay Area. I visited a number of local Episcopal churches when we were newly arrived, and was drawn to St. Paul's by the people, the mission, and the feeling of the sacred in our space. I have served a number of terms on Vestry, and this will be my third time as senior warden.



At this time last year, few could have predicted the devastating impact of COVID-19. For me, the pandemic presented both challenges and blessings. In August, after 27 years of service at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, first as an anesthesiologist and then as an improvement coach, my position was eliminated due to budgetary challenges. This was personally and professionally devastating for me. At the same time, the birth of our first grandson, Charlie, gave me something to look forward to, and my unemployment, now retirement, has turned into a blessing as I have been able to help my daughter and son-in-law with his care.

Each of you has your own COVID stories. Just as we have individually experienced the challenges of social distancing, the resulting isolation, and the threat of our own mortality, the shelter-in-place order of last March created a tectonic shift for our faith community. No longer were we able to gather in person in our beautiful church. No longer could we pass the peace, create music together, enjoy coffee hour together, or receive the sacraments. The rhythms of our congregation's life together shifted.

The inability to gather in person revealed gaps in our infrastructure that need to be closed, including our need to be more intentional in our communication with each other. I want to express my gratitude to the team that is working on improving our communications: Robert and Carolyn Knapp, who will be spearheading the publication of the newsletter, Victoria Larson who manages our website, Maura Lane, Pam Buckingham, Jeanette Dinwiddie Moore and the Rector.

We are also aware of the need to improve the audiovisual quality of our on-line services. A team led by Erica Derryck is working with a consultant to make sure that we purchase and install a system that is easy to operate and meets our needs. (See her report elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The challenges before us are plentiful, but so are the opportunities. Your Vestry and I are looking forward to serving you AND engaging you in doing God's work in our community. Many hands make light work! I believe with prayer, faith in God, and good teamwork, our faith community will emerge stronger and more connected.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have a question, concern, or a desire to help out. I can be reached at pilms@hotmail.com or seniorwarden@stpaulsoakland.org.

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From the Junior Warden

Scott Buckingham

I was raised in the Catholic faith as a child by two wonderfully honest and loving parents, but never felt God personally in my youth. I was an avowed atheist into my late twenties, until a relationship with a Christian employer opened my eyes to the love and truth of Christ.

This experience led me on a journey of deep self-exploration which in turn led my wife Pam and I together as life partners in love and faith. Pam and I raised our three girls in Washington State in the Congregational Church and became stronger in our faith over the years. When Pam and I relocated to California after our daughters were raised, employment kept us from having a new spiritual home, but not from a strong desire for one.

With a change in employment, we started attending St. Paul's and have been part of the Episcopal family since. Pam and I have been happy to serve and blessed by the many opportunities to do so over the years. My faith drives me to do what I can for my church, community and the whole of humanity in the spirit and name of Christ. My service in the church has included Altar Guild, usher, acolyte, LEM, Deanery, among other duties and projects.

Fortunately, no major building emergencies are facing us as we head into 2021. The three main issues I anticipate addressing are:

Upgrading ventilation of the church so that we may safely reopen for indoor worship. COVID safety standards require that the air be replaced 6 to 8 times per hour. Our system presently has half that capacity, but we may be able to supplement it with portable air purifiers as a way of meeting the standards. We will be bringing in a consultant to help us with this project.

Upgrading the AV system. Erica Derryck is heading up a task force on the system. Please see her article on page 1 for an update.

Repairing and monitoring water and settlement problems in the floor of the church. So far, the sump pump is working well and is keeping any flooding at bay. A dip in the floor near the entrance to the chapel seems to be a settlement problem.

I believe with my whole heart and mind in the love of Christ for all of us and am honored and happy to serve the St. Paul's community again on Vestry.



My faith drives me to do what I can for my church, community and the whole of humanity in the spirit and name of Christ.

Revolution, Restoration, Resplendence, and Ribaldry: Music, Religion, and Politics in 17th century England

Led by John Prescott

Five Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m.

February 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20

Week 1, Feb 20: Music for the Monarchs

Week 2, Feb 27: The Beauty of Holiness - Music for the English church

Week 3, March 6: Instrumental music

Week 4, March 13: Music for the Theater

Week 5, March 20: From the Sublime to the Sleazy - English song in the 17th century

Watch via Zoom. The suggested donation is \$25 per session or \$100 for all five. To participate, please email John at johnrichardprescott@gmail.com, and he will send you payment info and the Zoom link in time for the sessions.

More details are available on the church website <http://www.stpaulsoakland.org/concerts.html>

Treasurer's Report

Ann Gregory

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on Vestry as Treasurer. The role allows me to share my "talent" (from the stewardship framing of "time / talent / treasure") with our faith community. I have worked in strategy and operational roles at large nonprofits for most of my career, and

my particular talent -- which I believe fits with the treasurer role -- is looking at financial and operational data, seeing patterns, asking good questions, and sharing findings in clear and digestible ways.

Given the timing of this newsletter, we don't yet have finalized

financials for January. In future updates, I'll be sure to share how we're doing, what trends we're seeing, and what we are doing about them. If you have particular questions, please don't hesitate to

goggins.gregory@gmail.com.



Stewardship Corner

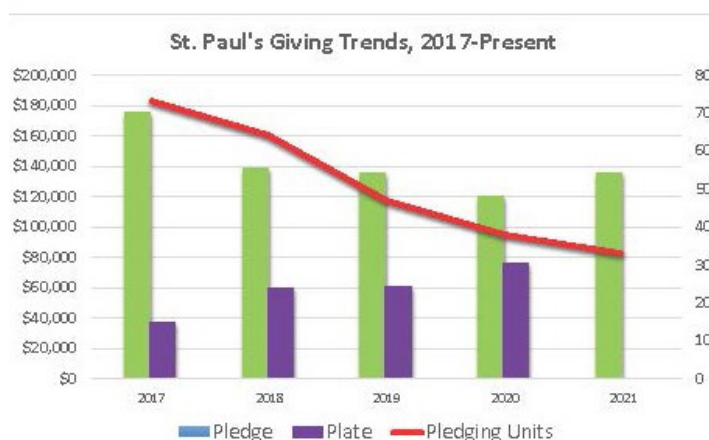
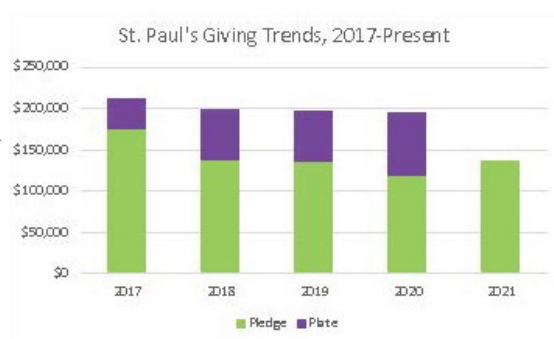
Sharon Pilmer

I have been trying to get outside for a walk nearly every day during the pandemic. Walks have given me opportunity for thought and introspection.

Surprising to me during my daily excursions were feelings of gratitude. I am particularly grateful for my St. Paul's family. A community has come together to make sure that we can worship together, albeit remotely, preserving the best of our liturgical traditions. Groups are working to improve and expand access to our on-line experience, to enhance our communications with you, to put plans in place for safe regathering once we are allowed to do so, to consider how we may re-engage with children and youth, to feed our hungry neighbors via the Pantry of Hope; I could go on. These are outward and visible signs of *stewardship*, offerings of *time and talent* to care for the St. Paul's and larger community.

Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. As we celebrate our 150th year, I am grateful to those who, out of their abundance, supported and sustained St. Paul's.

No discussion of stewardship would be complete without mention of the third "T", *treasure*. Over the last few years, we



have seen a gradual decrease in both the number of pledging units (individuals or families) and the amount pledged. We have received 33 pledges for \$135,734 for CY 2021 as of last week. This is about one third of where we should be. On the other hand, we have seen an increase in the amount of plate income (contributions not associated with the pledge card) that we receive. Even during a pandemic, with our lives turned upside down, our plate contributions were \$25,000 over budget. Giving was strong; we just didn't know where to expect it.

Making a pledge of financial support does two things. First, it allows you to give with intention. Second, it allows your church leadership to plan and make a budget so we have a sense of how much we will receive for the year. If you did not complete a pledge card for 2021, I want to encourage you to do so. Your gift is confidential. You can find the pledge card on the home page of our website, www.stpaulsoakland.org. I am happy to answer ANY questions about stewardship and pledging, please ask me (seniorwarden@stpaulsoakland.com)!

Local Music Events

Victoria Larson

During these times of Covid-19, we encourage everyone to take advantage of the live streams, recordings, lectures, and other offerings by our outstanding local musicians.

Check the website Concert page [HERE](#) for the latest info!

San Francisco Choral Artists

Megan Soloman, Artistic Director

sfca.org

Listen to highlights from *The Rose In Winter: Songs of Mary*, blog posts and more, on their website. SFCA plans another online event that will launch in early/mid April, so get the news by signing up for their mailing list [HERE](#).

Winner of the **2019-2020 American Prize** in choral performance, San Francisco Choral Artists (SFCA) is a Bay Area chamber choir with a mission to foster new **American choral music** and to present eclectic, imaginative programs consisting of both new works and a **repertoire spanning 600 years** in performances of uncompromisingly high quality.

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra

Eric Hansen, Music Director

prometheussymphony.org

Music Director Eric Hansen is offering a lively series of lectures about music, music theory and history. And you're all invited to join us! Be amazed and entertained, learn new things, ask questions. There will be bad jokes. Online, from the comfort of your armchair, Sunday afternoons, bring your own wine. Lectures will be recorded so you can listen whenever you're free. Sign up for their mailing list [HERE](#).

Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble

Kitka.org

Check out upcoming events on their website [HERE](#) and on their Facebook page [HERE](#). Sign up for their mailing list on their homepage [HERE](#).

Youth and Family Ministry

Sergio Prieto

Greetings St. Paul's family. For those of you who do not know me, I am Sergio Prieto, proud husband to David Anderson and father to Phoebe and Josephine Prieto Anderson. St. Paul's is such a special place for me and my family and I am honored to serve on Vestry leading the youth and family ministry. While we are all working hard to stay healthy and safe during this pandemic, the need to connect with one another and care for our spirituality and faith, in my opinion, has never been stronger. We cannot wait for the safe return to our home of worship. For many of us, our children are adapting

to a new way of learning and connecting, all while remaining distant. The youth and family ministry is currently planning ways to reach out to families and help our children reconnect. We are in discussion on sending a summer reading list to give our young parishioners an opportunity to connect with their faith in fun ways. When it is safe to return to St. Paul's, Faith Quest will resume with its new curriculum and interactive storytelling. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding St. Paul's Youth and Family ministry, please email me at sergio_j_prieto@yahoo.com



Social Justice Ministry

Lane Ceric

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4: 18-19

Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities. Social justice has always been a deep-seated value at St. Paul's, and I consider myself fortunate to be a Vestry member aligned to this important ministry. From gun violence, to English as a Second Language tutoring, and from the food pantry to marching in Pride parades, St. Paul's parishioners are actively engaged in helping those who are oppressed and underserved.

There are many in our community, country, and across the globe who lack consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle. The Pantry of Hope is a social justice ministry that offers a generous variety of groceries twice a month to seniors and neighbors in need. The groceries include fresh produce and non-perishable items and provide much needed nourishment to recipients. Ensuring that the Pantry of Hope is sustainable will be an initial social justice ministry focus for 2021. Adequate and reliable funding is critical to operating the Pantry and much of that comes through your generous donations. Another important component is the volunteer community that assembles grocery bags on Saturdays and distributes them on Sundays. Many thanks to donors and volunteers who have helped the

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31: 8-9

Pantry thrive.

Unfortunately, there is no shortage of social injustice in our community and around the world. Let's dedicate our time, treasure, and talent to make a difference in people's lives through social justice ministries at St. Paul's. If you have ideas about new ministries, or if you would like to get involved in existing ministries, please contact me at ceric@sbcglobal.net. Together we can make a difference by sharing God's love and showing mercy to those who are oppressed and less fortunate than we are.

Diocesan Offerings

Carolyn Knapp

The Diocese of California is not just about ordinations at Grace Cathedral. Your contributions (through the Diocesan assessment in the St. Paul's budget) help support valuable programs for individuals. One coming up early this month is about hospice programs:

Debunking Myths About Hospice Saturday, March 6, 2021, 10 – 11 a.m.

Hospice isn't what you think. Too often, when someone mentions hospice care, people feel afraid. But hospice isn't about the end, it's about the journey. It's about navigating new terrain together and about everyone (the patient and the family and friends) being more comfortable during the ride. You don't need to be alone—you can have a partner in care. At the end of this hour, you'll know what you need for the moment when you or a loved one finds themselves needing care. Bring your questions and invite a friend. We will discuss:

- When is hospice appropriate? When should you start thinking about hospice?
- What happens when someone goes on hospice?
- What services can you expect? What are the benefits?
- What is the difference between palliative care and hospice?
- What are the spiritual aspects of hospice?
- Did you know you can graduate from hospice?



This workshop is led by Lena Asidov, Administrator, Angel Palliative Care and Hospice, and the Rev. Hailey McKeefry Delmas, Chaplain, Angel Palliative Care and Hospice. [Click here](#) for more information and registration.

Or perhaps you or your family would like to retreat somewhere besides your own home:

The Bishop's Ranch: March weekend retreats

During select weekends this spring, The Bishop's Ranch will offer lodging and meals in a weekend getaway retreat format for individuals, couples, and families seeking a safe and familiar place of respite.

Choose from the dates below.

[March 5-7, 2021](#)

[March 12-14, 2021](#)

[March 19-21, 2021](#)

[Learn more here](#) .



If you would like to know more about what's happening in your diocese, subscribe to the weekly newsletter, *DioCal* by sending a message to: newsletter@diocal.org

Episcopal Relief & Development Responds to the COVID-19

Episcopal Relief & Development continues to support new emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and around the world. The organization is partnering with local churches and other institutions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the United States to raise health and safety awareness and to meet tangible needs by supplying food, personal protective equipment, utility and direct assistance to marginalized individuals and families. To date, Episcopal Relief & Development has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in 45 countries around the world.

Episcopal Relief & Development swiftly [adapted programs](#) in light of COVID-19 at the start of the pandemic in early 2020. International Program and US Disaster staff began meeting regularly with both long-term partners and other agencies in the Anglican Communion to provide technical and financial support. The organization continues to meet regularly with partners as needs to continue to evolve in the ongoing pandemic.

[Internationally](#), the organization is now responding to emergency needs in Burundi, Madagascar, Mozambique, the Philippines, Colombia and Peru.

The economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the government-mandated stay-at-home orders, have led to increases in gender-based violence (GBV) in many parts of the world. In response, the Province of the Anglican Church in Burundi (PEAB) has expanded its community-based efforts to combat GBV. PEAB has provided emergency assistance such as temporary shelter, food and counseling for survivors. The Church has also integrated awareness of GBV and COVID-19 into its other programs. Through these efforts, PEAB reached 855 women and 591 men.

Isolated communities in many areas have also struggled as a result of the pandemic. The Anglican Church of Peru is building on its existing food banks in Lima to expand its support of rural indigenous communities in the southern Andean region of Arequipa and Juliaca. The Church is providing daily meals for 90 families by mobilizing church members who will prepare and serve the food, while following COVID-19 prevention protocols such as masks and physical distancing.

“For marginalized communities, the long-term nature of the pandemic has been crippling,” said Nagulan Nesiah, Senior Program Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction, Episcopal Relief & Development. “Our partners are continuing to identify new opportunities to provide targeted assistance to those who need it most.”

In the [United States](#), Episcopal Relief & Development remains in close contact with local Episcopal dioceses. In 2020, the organization provided support to 16 dioceses to respond to COVID-19. The US Disaster team is now supporting emergency assistance through the Episcopal dioceses of Los Angeles, Massachusetts, Olympia and Tennessee and the Episcopal Church in Navajoland (ECN).

ECN serves communities in the four corners of the Navajo reservation located in three states – New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. These communities are often rural and 32% of the residents live below the poverty line. The COVID-19 pandemic spread quickly through the Navajo Nation. In May, the Navajo Nation had the highest rate of COVID-19 per capita in the United States. From mid-November until mid-January, the seven-day average of new cases was greater than the peak of the first wave in May. Families lost income due to illness, quarantines, government restrictions and lack of available jobs, complicating pre-existing financial burdens. ECN is distributing food boxes and gas cards and providing assistance with utilities to help meet these vulnerable communities’ needs.

“Faith leaders have played a critical role in providing spiritual and physical relief throughout this pandemic,” said Tamara Plummer, Program Officer, Episcopal Relief & Development. “Their continued response to the economic hardships experienced as a result of COVID-19 will be vital as communities move into the next phase of the pandemic.”

Learn more about Episcopal Relief & Development’s response to COVID-19 [here](#). To support Episcopal Relief & Development’s response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, please consider making a [donation](#).



***“For
marginalized
communities,
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been crippling.”***

From the Editors:

Robert and Carolyn Knapp have taken over editing and producing *The Good News* for a few months. Together with their stalwart copy editor, Kate Eby, they hope to provide you with news of what's happening at St. Paul's. Most of us have been away from the church building for almost a year, and even those who have been connecting via Facebook and Zoom services and meetings may have felt a bit disconnected from the Parish community. The best way to remedy that is, of course, to return to in-person worship (and there are opportunities for that now), but print can connect all of us. Please let your editors know what you would like to hear about or who you would like to hear from! Write to rcknapp2@gmail.com or csknapp@earthlink.net

Robert: I was born and raised in central Michigan. After graduate study and brief employment back east, I came west to teach in Utah and then at Berkeley for 33 years. In retirement, I have continued to write history books and articles on topics ancient history and have branched out to write about gangsters in Michigan. We have two lovely daughters and three grandchildren--all exceptional, of course! I have served on vestries at St. Alban's Albany and here at St. Paul's; once, I was the senior warden here. We joined St. Paul's in 1989. I love the St. Paul's community.



in

Carolyn: I am a cradle Episcopalian who grew up in the Bay Area, worked as a college librarian in Maine, and then ended up back where I spent my childhood after Robert and I were married. After more graduate work, I became a history professor specializing in early modern British and North American history; my most popular courses were about pirates. In retirement I have studied piano and enjoyed being a grandparent. We came to St. Paul's when our older daughter started seventh grade at St. Paul's School. Like Robert, I have served on the vestries of St. Alban's and St. Paul's and been senior warden at St. Paul's. I also served two terms on the St. Paul's School Board, sang in the Church choir, and edited *The Good News* for a couple years. I love seeing new faces next to the old ones.



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 300 words to csknapp@earthlink.net



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Dear Readers:

In an effort to reduce paper waste and printing/ mailing expenses, we are asking anyone who gets the online version of The Good News and no longer needs a paper version mailed to his or her home to let us know. If you do not get the newsletter online and would like to, or if you want to take yourself off the snail-mail list, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org



From the Front Page

Rector's message

es, deadly. We have wanted to follow the devices and desires of our own hearts. I have complained over and over about the lack of clear and absolute solutions to the many crises we face. We wonder if God is anywhere to be found and question God's faithfulness. We are inclined to give laud and praise to those claiming to have discovered remedies to our ailments.

I am sometimes dismayed at how much our current situations recall the times Israelites spent in the wilderness as they moved from enslavement to freedom in a land 'flowing with milk and honey.' The complaints against Moses and God were constant. Their turning away from the God who liberated them was irritating to God and to Moses. They fashioned their possessions of gold into the image of a calf and called it God. I find myself having a deep sense of compassion for the Israelites as they travailed through a land that barren and unknown for 40 years. But I wonder, what is our excuse? It hasn't been one year so far and for the most part we live a life of luxury compared to the desert bound people of Israel.

Our collective behavior may make other generations look at us as spoiled brats who have no reason to complain because we have it so good, but this current experience is ours and ours alone. We do get to complain, moan, groan, and wallow in our sense of affliction because this is our reality. This is our moment. There is one, and possibly many, lessons we need to learn from prior generations: the future is not only possible but real. The future will be here, and we will be called upon to be its creators. Can we create a future that is better for all of God's creatures? 100 years ago, the Spanish plague killed millions, as has AIDS and malaria in more recent times. Can we create a future where our care for others allows us to come together to reduce the number of people who die from future epidemics?

We can only pray that this period of time, during which all humanity has had to pause or slow down, has allowed us to better understand our dependence on each other. I pray that this extended Lent has made us better as individuals and as a species.

A/V Committee Update

technical consultant to help with the assessment of our current infrastructure and systems and with determining the scope of a new system and the process for engaging a vendor.

As this process continues the committee will keep the congregation informed about the progress. In the interim, everyone's patience and support is appreciated as the clergy and volunteers continue offering online services using the technology we currently have available.