



GROWING TOGETHER
ST. PAUL'S OAKLAND 150 YEARS

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June 2022

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Rector's Message

Love Not Judgement

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



Freedom is something that many, if not most people in this country take for granted. I have heard artistic singers of the national anthem embellish their rendition of the word FREE that's close to the end of the first verse of the anthem; it's almost as a way to make it clear to the rest of the world, and to the roaring crowds listening, that freedom is a hallmark of what it means to live in this country.

I have lived in this country for over 20 years. I have noticed that, sadly, freedom is an ideal not fully achieved for all the inhabitants of this nation. The freedom I am contemplating at the moment is what is referred to as body autonomy, the right and power to manage one's own body without interference from any external entity, person, or government.

By now it does not come as a surprise that the Supreme Court of the United States is on the verge of reversing a decades-old ruling that protects reproductive rights. What does surprise me is how, in some states, there are continued efforts to restrict access to processes that are necessary in the exercise of a person's body autonomy.

In the context of this publication, I figure that the question that may come to mind is "What is, or should be, the Christian perspective on this issue?" Unfortunately, trying to get to that line of thinking isn't going to get us very far, since there are many varying Christian opinions on the matter, as with every conceivable topic in Heaven and Earth.

I suggest that we ought to think of body autonomy not from a theological or even a biblical angle, but rather from a pastoral one. Those of us who have made the commitment to be pastors to God's people have vowed to journey with, not for, those who have entrusted themselves to our care. We are committed to helping God's people gain clarity as they seek to understand the pathways through which God is leading them. We do not create or walk the pathways ourselves, for we in fact have to find and discern our own, and that in and of itself is hard enough. Whenever we attempt to tell another person what decision to make, we are always influenced by our own prejudices about life and the world, and it is therefore quite easy to find ourselves in a situation where our opinion about how someone else should proceed is a reflection of our own desires.

The WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) question has always irritated me because so many life situations we go through were not part of the reality of Jesus' earthly time. The better question I believe is 'How do Jesus' life and teachings inform how we make life decisions and face their consequences?'

I am saddened by the amount of energy and time so many Christians invest in judging and condemning

[Continued on page 14](#)

Spirituality: Sabbath Time

The Rev. Anne Jensen

On the seventh day of creation, God rested from all the work God had done. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. Jesus, as a faithful Jew, practiced keeping the Sabbath, except when charity required his attention. The gospel of Luke tells us he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is a day blessed by God and set aside for rest and worship. At times, Jesus went away to a quiet place to pray. In our culture, we value accomplishment and accumulation, often at the cost of our well-being. The internet has captured us, yet scripture offers us a model of taking time away to find the quietude Jesus sought. Practicing sabbath is more than just a day off; it is a way of being in God's presence that we take with us all week long.



As summer approaches, many people will be taking time off from work for a vacation. Perhaps you will travel to a place that feeds your soul, or maybe you will have a "stay-cation" and enjoy the beauty of the Bay Area. Take some of that time to practice sabbath, finding rest for the soul. Setting aside concerns of work, whether in an office, school, or household, gives us time to acknowledge our humanity and aches. We create space to encounter the God who longs to meet us where we are. Leave the digital world behind.

Taking a sabbath day is to set aside our work, to stop worrying, and to simply rest in God's presence. Getting free from our usual concerns takes a little practice, but God is patient. Just rest, to start with. Let your gratitude, as well as your concerns, rise to the surface of your consciousness and offer them to God. The gift of the Holy Spirit is that God's Spirit is always with us and will lead us into a spiritual place of rest where we may experience God's acceptance and love.

(Some material for this article was drawn from <https://practictheway.org/practices/sabbath>)

Music Director Search Update

Sharon Pilmer, Committee Chair

The search committee has completed the first phase of the work related to the search for our next music director. We developed the vision for our music program through a process of discernment with the rector and congregation. The results of that process have enabled us to craft a job description that reflects that vision. The vestry has approved our work to date and a salary range so we can move forward.

We will share the results of the congregational survey, how we translated them into the job description, a timeline for the search, and next steps at a town hall meeting **Sunday, June 12**, immediately following the 10 am service. We will broadcast the meeting via Zoom as well so those of you who are unable to join in person will be able to participate. The zoom link will be sent by the church office closer to June 12

Hope to see you on **June 12.**

Mark Your Calendar! June 12th
Music Director Search Town Meeting!

Senior Warden's Message

Happy Summer!

Maura Lane

It is wonderful to see so many of you in church. Your vestry looks forward to the return of name tags and a cup of coffee together at some point. In the meantime, please continue to pray for your vestry and each other.

I read somewhere today it was easier to get a gun than baby formula. What has happened to make anyone think killing each other is the way to resolve our differences? I, like many, am saddened and confused about why anyone would kill children.

I read about a Good Samaritan study conducted at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1973. Princeton Theological Seminary students were asked to walk across campus to give a lecture on the parable of the "Good Samaritan." Along their route, the psychologists positioned someone in a doorway, not moving, eyes closed, coughing, and groaning as the study subjects went by -- someone, in other words, clearly in need of a Good Samaritan's help.

The results were that those who thought they were "late" hurried by. The good news is that 2/3 of the students stopped and offered to help. There was once a time when gun violence was thought to be caused by bad people. "Tough on crime" has resulted in the construction of the largest prison system in the world. The homicide rate in some communities – especially Black and Brown – has been ruinous.

The Good Samaritan lesson has less to do with who we are as people than it does about our situations. Some of the root causes are poverty, segregation, or the widespread availability of guns to those who should not have them. Social scientists now say there is more to the violence than some of the suggested root causes. Given the Good Samaritan study, and the response of 2/3 of the seminarians to the situation, maybe the solution isn't more gun control laws. Maybe it is the need for love, compassion, and more dialogue with one another.



A Big SHOUT-OUT to PAMELA KRUSE-BUCKINGHAM!

On May 19 at Evensong at Grace Cathedral, Pam and 19 other graduates of our Diocesan EfM program were recognized. According to DioCal, the diocese's electronic newsletter, "Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year program of lay theological education that combines worship, group, and individual study, and spiritual reflection in a small seminar (six to 12 people) format under the guidance of trained mentors."

Congratulations, Pam, on your hard work and dedication that has included many Zoom prayer meetings for St. Paul's folks!



Stewardship Message

Indira Balkissoon, Vestry Liaison for Stewardship

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16

One of the advantages of being a new vestry member and liaison to the Stewardship Committee is that I am learning so many things about stewardship. At a recent vestry meeting, the topic of donation methods came up. I never thought about how much making an offering today differs from the days of my youth. Then, our donations were via the plate. As children, we were excited to be chosen to put our family's donation into the plate each week. It felt so important and a grown up thing to do. I liked the act of passing the plate to my neighbor and passing it back again to the usher. There was something so interesting to me to watch my fellow parishioners as they put their offering into the plate. Passing the filled plate back to the usher seemed like a cornucopia for God. There were also the envelopes. As I got older, I noticed that our family had its own offering envelope. I had a sense of pride about that envelope and I couldn't wait to have my own set of envelopes when I got older.



Today, we make offerings in a whole variety of ways. Stewardship of time and talent have stayed somewhat constant in support of the Church, but on the financial side, so much has changed since my childhood. We can make an offering via cash and check in the plate or we have electronic options. There is direct debit or auto-pay as an automatic transfer from our checking account on a one-time or a regular basis. Via our cell phone, we can text GIVE to 510-900-7759 or scan the QR code in the weekly bulletin. Also on our phones, we can make donations via digital wallet using PayPal. Gifts can be specifically directed. Options include our annual pledge and eight other St. Paul's ministries. Payroll deduction and employer's match are additional modes of giving. St. Paul's Legacy Society for planned giving through a will or trust; beneficiary of IRA, 401(k), 403(b) and life insurance; or a charitable gift annuity is the subject of another article in this newsletter.

For old time sake's, even though my donations are made via monthly direct debit, I still like to add a little something to the plate when I can. I do it for the tradition and the memories.

Questions? Please get in touch with Sharon Pilmer, Stewardship Chair, pilms@hotmail.com, or Fr. Wilson, rector@stpaulsoakland.org, 510 834 4314.

Which seating section would you prefer for our offering?



The St. Paul's Legacy Society
June 26, 2022 Planned Giving Workshop
Douglas Jensen

On June 26 the Reverend Richard Schaper, CFP, the former Gift Planning Officer of the Diocese of California, will lead a Planned Giving workshop following the 10:00 am service. Everyone is invited to attend.

Richard will discuss the importance of having an estate plan that includes either an up-to-date will or trust that assures that your heirs receive all that you wish upon your death. He will share the steps required to set up the documents you'll need as well as the most common language used.

Now is also an especially good time to consider including St. Paul's Church in your long-range giving plans. In the workshop, Richard will review how you might do this easily. He will discuss the most common vehicles available including bequests, IRA contributions, and charitable gift annuities. With each of these methods, he will provide examples by sharing stories of how other parishioners in the Diocese of California remembered their churches in their estate plans.

We have such stories here at St Paul's. A number of years ago, two sisters who lived in Piedmont updated their will and arranged for their house to be left to the church. When the second sister died, the value of the house had grown significantly. When the church sold the property, we received over \$1,000,000. This money is now in our investment portfolio and has helped us balance our budget.

More recently, Ginny McCormick, a long-time parishioner who served on the vestry and was active in the altar guild for many years, and who created the St Paul's banner, left a portion of her assets to St. Paul's. Also, Stan Stidham, who loved the church, church music and being in our choir, left all of his estate to the church.

Come to our planned giving workshop on June 26 and learn how you, too, may continue to support St Paul's mission long after you are gone.



June 26, 2022

**PLANNED GIVING TO
SUPPORT MINISTRY
AND MISSION**



Treasurer's Update

Ann Goggins Gregory

Through the first four months of the year, we are seeing below-budget revenue and expenses. Year to date, our net income is almost exactly where we had budgeted, at -\$60,000 (see summary table below). 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 April 30, 2022	Year-to-date budget through April 30, 2022
Revenue	\$94,397	\$113,262
Expense	\$154,399	\$173,846
Net Income	(\$60,002)	(\$60,584)

REVENUE DYNAMICS:

Pledges were strong in April, about \$5K over budget. After a slow first quarter, our year-to-date pledge revenue is now tracking almost exactly to budget.

Plate remains considerably under budget, at \$2.7K below budget for April and \$11K behind year to date (\$7K actual vs. \$18K budgeted).

Revenue associated with 'space use' – i.e., different community groups renting the church space – is also below budget year to date (\$20K vs. \$25K), likely due in part to continued COVID concerns.

EXPENSE DYNAMICS:

Personnel is under budget by \$18K, driven mostly by the open Children & Youth Ministries position.



On the balance sheet / investment side of things, the financial markets have had a rough few months. We are down about ~\$400K year to date, with current balance at ~\$2.0M. We continue to monitor the market and are in frequent touch with our Merrill Lynch financial advisors.

As always, I'm available for your questions or comments at gog-gins.gregory@gmail.com.

Community Outreach and Social Justice at St. Paul's Matthew Schooler

Vestry Liaison for Outreach and Social Justice

The family of St. Paul's Oakland has an important calling to reach out and help our neighbors and to express love with generosity and social justice. Jesus said to love God above all and our neighbors as ourselves. We are busy doing that here at St. Paul's—but we could do more.



Our amazing Pantry of Hope continues to feed those who are struggling in hard times. We are so blessed to have Archdeacon Carolyn leading the efforts, and the wonderful time given by the volunteers is indispensable. Non-perishable food items and monetary donations are always encouraged. Let St. Paul's be the place where the hungry can be full and the loaves and fishes can flow endlessly.



Guns to Gardens is doing great things to reduce the level of guns on the streets. Paula Hawthorn has made a beautiful quilt that will be raffled off to all who have donated or volunteered. We can reduce the epidemic of violence in Oakland if we all take a stand. Look for Paula's announcement in this newsletter, and we'll look forward to seeing all of you on June 11.



St. Paul's Church received a plaque of recognition by UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland Center for our participation in the Vulnerable Child Family to Family Program. Paula has been organizing this for years.

In closing, I would like to thank the generous souls who have given so much already, but let us all do more. We will be starting a Community Outreach and Social Justice Committee here in the fall, and we need people who are willing to participate in this vital part of St. Paul's Oakland. If you are interested, please see me or email me at mwschooler70@gmail.com.



Juneteenth Celebration

On Sunday, June 19th, St. Paul's will have a special service in recognition of Juneteenth.



Juneteenth celebrates the freedom of enslaved people in the United States at the end of the Civil War.

Guns to Gardens

Paula Hawthorn

St. Paul's is sponsoring a wonderful event on June 11. Guns to Gardens is an innovative form of a gun buyback. It is a gun buyback because cash (actually, Target gift cards) will be given in exchange for guns that people bring to the buyback. It is innovative because the guns that are turned in will be forged into garden tools, as in Isaiah 2:4 "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares". We are working very closely with the Oakland Police Department. They have already turned over to our blacksmith 50 guns, which would normally have been destroyed. The blacksmith will forge the guns into garden tools, and these tools will be given away at the buyback, in addition to the cash.

As you know from reading current headlines, we (Oakland, the United States) are awash in guns. Gun sales have gone up tremendously – and as



you also know from the CDC report, the presence of a gun in a home leads to more suicides, homicides, and domestic violence. We need to get the guns out of the homes and so far, the only way to do that is with gun buybacks. So we need to do this buyback, both to get the guns out of the homes and to change the dialog around guns: we need people to understand that a gun does not make you safer.

What we need now for Guns to Gardens is donations, so I am offering my latest quilt as an incentive for people to donate. If you donate to Guns to Gardens, in addition to helping a good cause, your name will be entered into a drawing for this quilt. We need donations to help underwrite the costs of the event.

More information is at <https://www.stpaulsoakland.org/guns-to-gardens.html>

DONATE NOW! Click [HERE](#), click on the "annual pledge/ give to another fund" menu, and choose *Give to Guns to Gardens*.

More information is at <https://www.stpaulsoakland.org/guns-to-gardens.html>, or get in touch with Paula at paula.hawthorn@gmail.com.



June 11th -- Guns to Gardens

Any member of the Parish may attend Vestry meetings, which are at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise noted; the full minutes of the meeting are available to parish members upon request by contacting the parish administrator or a member of the Vestry

THE 2022 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio
Wilson, Rector
Maura Lane,
Senior Warden
Will Cowart Jr.,
Junior Warden
Flarnie Adams,
Clerk
Ann Goggins Gregory
Treasurer

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2022
Will Cowart
Ann Gregory
Sharon Pilmer
Class of 2023
Flarnie Adams
Brian Stanke
Maura Lane
Class of 2024
Indira Balkissoon
Matthew Schooler
Irene Plunkett

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 2022

Delegates
Melanie Blake
Jeanette Dinwidie-Moore
Tom McGarrell

Alternates
-vacancy-

Highlights from the April 2022 Vestry Meeting

Brian Stanke, filling in for Flarnie Adams, who is on maternity leave

Key decisions made at the April 26, 2022 Vestry meeting.

- Funding of up to \$5,000 was approved for the Guns to Gardens program.
- The vestry agreed to maintain the requirement for masks indoors in light of on-going variants and case trends. The vestry will review requirements monthly.
- Sharon shared the survey results from the Music Director search effort and the progress the committee is making.
- The search for a Director of Children and Youth Ministries is going well - there are multiple strong candidates being examined for the position at this time.
- The Vestry unanimously approved appointing Irene Plunkett to the Vestry to complete the remainder of Maria Paull's term.

Stewardship

- ♦ Rev. Wilson discussed pledge and plate revenue to date and the yearly pattern of contributions, lagging at beginning, declining during summer, and catching up at the end of the year.
- ♦ Sharon discussed stewardship, understanding reasons for not pledging, and year-round stewardship.
- ♦ Indira discussed Pollinator Posse as a summer and fall activity program that could pull in families with children.

Buildings and Grounds Report - Will

- ♦ Next step is forwarding information to get prices for items
- ♦ No new urgent needs
- ♦ Indira asked about grant opportunities

Rector's Report - Rev. Wilson

- ♦ Discussion of average attendance and passing of parishioners over the past year
- ♦ Rev. Wilson explained how special funds are put aside and used for specific expenses without going through the operating account.

Continuing Covid-19 Protocols - Rev. Wilson

- ♦ Masking policy - decision on continuing to require masks for another month
- ♦ Discussion of the immunocompromised and how people feel around un-masked indoor settings
- ♦ Vestry to keep current policy of masking in place and revisit each month

Guns to Gardens fundraiser request - Rev. Wilson

- ♦ Program pays for guns that are turned in, then pays for turning guns into tools for gardening
- ♦ Funding request was \$5,000
- ♦ Sharon asked about how guns are distributed; Rev. Wilson working with City Slicker Farms to distribute tools
- ♦ Questions regarding process and costs
- ♦ Gift cards, in addition to garden tools, are given for turned-in guns
- ♦ Guns are melted down and forged into tools

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Music Director Search Report - Sharon

- ◆ 60+ respondents
- ◆ Maura asked what vestry can do
- ◆ Discussion of hours needed vs. paid-for and why hours set under 20 and budgetary priorities
- ◆ Discussion of how survey feeds into posting for Music Director

Highlights from the May 2022 Vestry Meeting

Brian Stanke, filling in for Flarnie Adams, who is on maternity leave

Key decisions made by the Vestry at the May 24, 2022 Vestry meeting.

- Irene Plunkett served in her first Vestry meeting, filling in the remainder of Maria Paull's term.
- The Vestry took a step forward on the search for a new Music Director by approving the salary range for the new Director.
- Rev. M. Wilson announced that Deacon Carolyn will be taking on the Youth Ministry for St. Paul's starting this summer. St. Paul's School will move ahead with a Chaplain position separately from the church.
- The requirement to wear a mask remains in place when entering St. Paul's due to the continuing community spread of Covid 19 across the Bay Area and nation.

Financial Report with Alena Meeker and Mary Foust, guests

- ◆ Report by Merrill Lynch account managers was moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate their schedule.
- ◆ Alena Meeker (Merrill Lynch)
 - * We are in a bear market
 - * In 2021 inflation, early 2022 Fed signaled many rate increases, 2 so far, but up to 10 more to go
 - * Bonds went way down, interest on bonds went up several percent
 - * Economy is doing well with 1.8 jobs per person looking
- ◆ Mary Foust (Merrill Lynch)
 - * 60% stocks, large cap stocks a big position but most down, may switch a bit to big cap value
 - * Walked through major funds invested in and rationale
 - * Ann asked about dividend, discussion of dividend reinvestment. Ann, Matt, and Brian commented they didn't want dividend reinvestment to turn off
 - * Parish portfolio is down ~19%
- ◆ April Financial Report, Ann Gregory
 - * Overall budget is on target; big recovery on contributions in March and April.
 - * Lingering COVID is impacting plate revenue and space leasing for events
 - * Ann and Rev. Wilson discussed that some plate revenue has not yet been counted and will be rolled into May numbers.

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Stewardship Report Sharon

- ◆ Setting date for Stewardship committee retreat
- ◆ Prepared letter on stewardship

Rector's Report - Rev. Wilson

- ◆ Covid Protocols
- ◆ Rev. Wilson discussed the Episcopal Church's history with outbreak after church meetings. Sharon and Will shared their perspectives on protocols.
- ◆ Vestry agreed to stay the course with current mask mandate.
- ◆ Summer at St. Paul's
- ◆ Rev. Wilson shared his summer vacation plans.
- ◆ Pantry will be closed the month of August (Deacon Carolyn will be on vacation same month).
- ◆ Confirmation coming up the day before Pentecost with 80 confirmees, 13 from St. Paul's
- ◆ Around 8 or 9 baptisms expected this year, a big increase from last two years
- ◆ Juneteenth service celebration June 19th (also last day of choir)

Music Director Search Report - Sharon

- ◆ Sharon shared job description with Vestry
- ◆ Walked through the tasks, expected number of hours needed, and how that translated into the expected compensation range that is proposed.
- ◆ Ann and Maura agreed with the proposed range and thanked Sharon for the committee's work
- ◆ Sharon and Rev. Wilson discussed the Bay Area premium and the culture of each parish

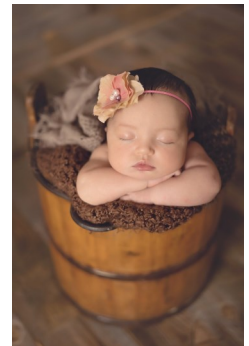
Youth Director Search Report - Rev. Wilson

- ◆ Best candidate dropped out, so the School and the Church decided to split the position into two
- ◆ Deacon Carolyn will take on Youth Ministry for the next year; she has years of experience in youth ministry and has a knack for talking youth into volunteering. Deacon Carolyn will start in June to get started before September.
- ◆ Paul will be in training as a Deacon, allowing Carolyn to focus on FaithQuest
- ◆ With hiring happening, Sharon asked that Vestry make sure to follow Episcopal rules on hiring, background checks, training, etc.
- ◆ Next month, Rev. Wilson will provide a gap analysis of trainings and procedures

Parish News Welcome...

Raia Adams!

Congrats to Flarnie & Brian!



The Windows of St. Paul's

Robert Knapp
Christ and the Children



This trefoil arch window has four children surrounding Jesus. He is seated and embracing two little girls with two little boys standing, one at each side. Two angels hold a scroll at the bottom. In the lunette, an angel holds a shield with a Tudor rose. The boy at left, kneeling, holds marigolds; the standing lad at right holds roses, both symbols of Mary the Virgin, Christ's mother. Acanthus leaves are on the pillars in the side decoration. The acanthus is a symbol of enduring life. Beneath Christ's feet lie red roses, orange marigolds and a budding lily, all symbols of the Virgin.



The window was new and in place at the building's consecration, 1912.

The text on the scroll reads:

Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Mark 10: 14

Below the scroll is: *AVERY*

A signature, Judson, is at the lower right edge. William Lees Judson founded Judson Studios in 1897 to create stained glass windows. His workshop was in Los Angeles.

The Great Commission window in the Chapel of Peace was dedicated to an Avery and was created at the same time. It is probably by Judson as well. The Avery family was very active at St. Paul's. Frank M. Avery was a long-standing leader. He is noted as a vestryman in 1912-1914, 1921, and



Frank M. Avery in
1946

1935. Since vestrymen often served for decades in those days, he may have served continuously. He was elected junior warden in 1946 and at some point was senior warden as he is declared to have been "senior warden emeritus" at his death in 1955 at the age of 76. This window pairs with its neighbor memorializing Susan Shedd Avery, Frank's mother, who died in 1894.

Concerts at St. Paul's Vicki Larson

Boats & Trains & Flying Machines
San Francisco Choral Artists
Sunday, June 12, 4pm
Magen Soloman, Artistic Director
www.sfca.org



Magen Soloman
Artistic Director



Pack your bag, we're heading out! On land, on sea, and in the air we'll transport you through time and across the globe in a musical tribute to ... transportation machinery! Including works of Delius, Martinů, Clara Schumann, Chen Yi, Chihara, Webern, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and more – with **4 world premieres**, including our *New Voices Project* winners.

BUY TICKETS ONLINE: PAY WHAT YOU CAN.

Price at the door: \$35 General; \$30 Seniors. Online ticket sales close at 11pm the night before the concert.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS

Winner of the **2019-2020 American Prize** in choral performance, San Francisco Choral Artists (SFCA) are 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 **repertoire spanning 600 years** in performances of uncompromisingly high quality. We are now in our **37th season**, and the 27th under the leadership of **Artistic Director Magen Solomon**.

JUNE WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S

All events this month will be in person. For the latest schedule and any rules about COVID precautions, please check the church website: <https://www.stpaulsoakland.org/>.

Most services will also be live-streamed on the Church's Facebook page. For details, go to the church website.

Homecoming at St Paul's

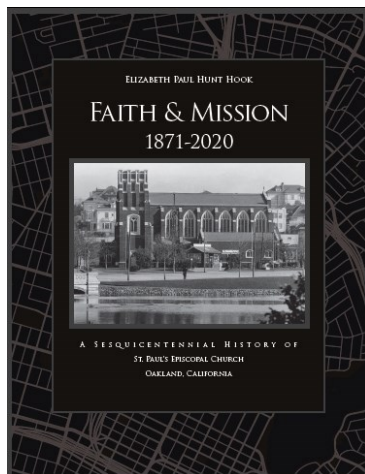
We know it isn't even SUMMER yet, but looking ahead to next FALL...

St. Paul's annual Homecoming celebration of re-gathering together after the summer will be Sunday, September 25th. This is a perfect chance to reconnect after we have scattered somewhat to our various summer activities and adventures. The French celebrate this early fall as the "la rentrée"—the "re-entry." And that is so true for many of us—getting back into the regular routine of 10 months of the year after the summer months. **Mark your calendars for this very special day.** We will have a welcome-back theme in the service, a potluck lunch afterwards **AND**

It's Coming! The History of St. Paul's!

Yes, the long-anticipated book is here. At Homecoming we will have a recognition of the work that has gone into this important account of St. Paul's many impactful years serving parishioners and the City of Oakland as a guiding light in faith and mission. The book will be available for a suggested donation of \$35 (more if you would like to help cover the entire production cost of the book).

Our own Liz Hook will be on hand to sign copies.



Father Wilson's message, continued.

their fellow human beings, and I wish more of it would be directed into being God's agents of love to uplift each other.

Each day we all have to make difficult decisions about our lives and our bodies. We need our fellow humans to love us, not judge us, through the process of seeking wholeness.



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 hardcopy and send it.

Newsletter contributors

sought

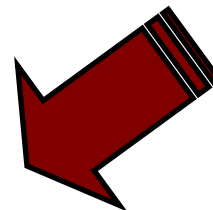
We are interested in hearing from writers and photographers; please email us if you would like to donate your talents.

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

From the Editors:

Watch for news on this front next fall!



Development of a strategic plan for St. Paul's.

Good News on hiatus in July and August

This edition of *The Good News* will be the last regular one until late August. Due to the travel plans of your editors, the next edition will arrive in your inbox on 29 August. Think of it as an early September edition. :-) You are welcome to send in any announcements or articles over the summer, but please get them to us by 24 August. See you in September!