

# *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*



**November Issue**

Oct 30, 2021

## *Father Nick's Farewell Message*

(delivered to the congregation on Sunday, October 17, 2021)

My Dearest Friends,

This is one of the hardest goodbyes I have ever had to make!

I find it providential that today's second reading from Hebrews (5:1-10) is the exact same reading as was given at my ordination to the priesthood on May 18, 1974. I take this as a sign that my message for today should come from there. I offer two teachings which I hope help to summarize the journey on which we have been together these past several years.

In the first, the author says that priests are taken from among the people to be about the things pertaining to God on their behalf. He continues by saying that he is to deal gently with others, since he himself is subject to weakness. I sincerely hope that this, in part, describes our journey together. It certainly has been a journey of laughter and tears, of joy and sadness, of successes and failures. Yet because we have traveled together, not at odds with one another, but loving and forgiving each other, I have a suspicion that God is pleased with us. By God's grace we have not only survived, but have grown to embrace "the way of love" as our method of being. We have

striven to welcome all, but even more so, to be present to the marginalized in our community by going out and being with and among them. I don't think it is necessary here to go through a laundry list of the many ministries that have developed to serve others over the past 8 years. What matters is that we have begun a good work by God's grace and design, and that you stand ready to continue that good work in the Lord's Name. I hope that in the weakness of our humanity we have mostly dealt with each other gently, and that I have dealt with you gently as your servant. In any instance where that is not the case, I humbly ask for your forgiveness.

The second teaching I find in this reading is that Christ did not glorify himself in becoming our high priest. Rather, he set for us, all priests by virtue of our Baptism, the example of selfless giving in service to others. It is admittedly with some boldness that I share my belief that this is precisely who we are in the process of becoming. That selfless giving has carried us through the joining of two churches, the revisioning of our identity with Eric Law, and the process by which we have become a parish. It has helped us to learn and grow together, recognizing that St. Paul's belongs to all its people, not just a few. It has helped us endure through a church flood, the loss of loved ones who were once pillars of this church, and through our own individual times of turmoil. It has even helped us make it through all the Shrove Tuesday talent shows, with Chuck Sheaffer's bad, bad jokes!

I know that each of you could stand up and share a memory or two of your time at St. Paul's, however long or short. Let us today lift that all up to Jesus Christ our high priest, seeking his continued grace and blessing upon this church family.

And so, my dear people (I needed to say that for one last time), I leave you with the sentiment that no one ever crosses our path with our ever remaining the same. Our paths have crossed in ever so many ways, and because of that none of us is exactly the same as before we first met. For all that has been, I thank you. For your support, encouragement and prayers I am forever grateful. For your walking along side me instead of behind me, I thank you.

Let us now join together at this holy table where so often we have shared the bread and the cup that make us one. And may we ever remember that it is in this Eucharist that we forever remain one with each other. Amen.



### *November Ministry Schedule*

	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28
Clergy	Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Lyn
Homily	Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn	Deacon Greg	Rev. Lyn
Acolytes	Nancy S	Jim P	Nancy S	Nancy S
	Judy T	Annamary P	Judy T	Claudine R
Lectors	Ann M	Stephanie G	Linda L	Judy T
	Annamary P	Nancy S	Stephanie H.W	Eric G
Intercessor	Eric G	Sarah H	Joyce B	Chuck S
Vestry Rep	Eric G	Sarah H	Joyce B	Chuck S

### *Honoring Our Veterans*



Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

## ***Every Perfect Gift***

The Gift of Faith

James 1:17

As I reflect on this years Stewardship Campaign, “Every Perfect Gift, The Gift of Faith,” I reflected on Romans 12:12, “Be Joyful in Hope, Patient in Affliction, Faithful in Prayer”.

St. Paul’s has filled me with the eternal Word of God as addressed to us through scripture and the liturgy. I receive the courage and strength to live my life with purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Paul’s has given all of us the gift of freedom to worship in community.

My Hope is that each of you experience the abundance of God’s love.

Faithfully,  
Stephanie Gilmer

## ***Orval and Carmen Johnston Private Family Military Funeral***

The family of Carmen Johnston was recently contacted to inquire if they were interested in having a Memorial for Carmen as the protocols for COVID-19 have been changed to allow funeral and memorial services to held in the church.

Contact with the family revealed that a joint Military Service was held in private for both of Orval and Carmen at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery when her remains were released.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Faithfully,  
Stephanie Gilmer



## *A New Thanksgiving Tradition*

At Thanksgiving, we give thanks for things (food, home, clothing, work) and loved ones (family, friends, pets). But if the people we name aren't present, they may never know how precious they are to us. This November, start a new tradition by writing notes of thanks to people you appreciate.

Follow Paul's model of starting letters with thanksgiving: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Romans 1:8, NIV). Notice how he thanks his addressees by thanking God for them. Paul is specific too, not writing, "Thanks for everything!"

Expressing genuine thanksgiving to God and another person, you might write something like this:

Dear Sue, This Thanksgiving I'm thinking about special people in my life. You are one! I thank God for our friendship, for your strong witness for Jesus and for your willingness to lend a hand as a substitute teacher. (Your chocolate cookies are icing on the cake!) I praise God for you! Sincerely,  
Joan

### *The Simplest Prayer*

An eccentric blind man nicknamed Joybubbles reportedly loved Mr. Rogers so much he listened to 10 hours of the TV show daily until he'd heard them all. One night, when Joybubbles was in a kind of awake dream state, he said Mr. Rogers visited him and offered to teach him how to pray.

Joybubbles protested that he couldn't pray because he always forgot the words. To which Mr. Rogers said not to worry; the prayer he'd teach had only three words. "What kind of prayer has only three words?" Joybubbles asked.

"Thank you, God," Mr. Rogers replied.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



## *Salvation Army Shelter Dinner Sunday November 14, 2021*

The Salvation Army Shelter Dinner Team will be doing dinner Sunday, November 14th. We'll do a traditional tur-key dinner. Anyone interested in helping in any way may call Linda Lowe, 209-529-5467 or 209-496-3937, or

email: [lwlowe@outlook.com](mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com).

Last week I had a number of people ask for this recipe that I was pretty sure had been in the Epistle but I didn't realize that it was 1 1/2 years ago. Here it is again.

### “Cream” of Broccoli Soup

1 cup raw cashews  
5 cups vegetable stock, or vegetable bullion, divided  
2 medium boiling potatoes, unpeeled, cut into ½-inch cubes  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
4 ½ cups broccoli, trimmed and coarsely chopped  
1 teaspoon dried basil  
Salt and pepper to taste

Put cashews & 1 cup of stock in a blender, and blend until smooth, about 1 minute.

Put the 4 cups of stock, potatoes, onions and garlic into a large pot. Bring to a simmer, cover, and cook for 5 minutes.

Stir in the broccoli and basil and return to a simmer. Cover and cook until the potatoes are tender, about 10 minutes.

Stir in the reserved cashew mixture, the seasonings and bring to a simmer.

Remove from the heat, transfer about half the soup to a blender, and puree.

Return the puree to the pot and stir well. Serve immediately.

Enjoy!  
Linda Lowe

## *Blackberry Jam for Air Conditioners*

For everyone who loves summer fruit and who wants to find ways to enjoy that fruit when the season is long gone, your wish has been heard. Blackberry Jam has been made from the Central Valley berry abundance and is available to assist St. Paul's.

For a suggested donation of \$5 for an 8 oz jar and \$10 for a 16 oz jar you may enjoy the jam along with almond butter, or on pancakes, or as part of countless yummy recipes. All of the donations will go to St. Paul's to help replenish the savings account.

Contact Linda Lowe, 209-529-5467, 209-496-3937, or [lwlowe@outlook.com](mailto:lwlowe@outlook.com) First come, first served-availability is limited. Call or email today!



**Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday the 6th so that you can get to church on time Sunday the 7th.**





## *Prayer and Praise* 10-25-2021

☞ Please pray healing for Eugene Solus 89yrs old (close friend of Phil Machado) He had a mild heart attack and has a blocked artery.

☞ **Update:** Celebration of Life is Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.

Please pray for the family of Jo Fox's cousin Joe. He passed away unexpectedly. Pray for peace for his family and answers regarding his death.

- ☞ Please pray for the search and hiring of a new Priest for St. Paul's.
- ☞ Please pray for The Gap. A new support group for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ children.
- ☞ Lydia (step-daughter of Rex Adamson) has passed and the family is in desperate need of prayer for comfort, peace and strength.
- ☞ Please pray for Olga Lorenzetti as she settles into her new home with her daughter in Jessup, Pennsylvania.
- ☞ **Update:** Don is doing better, now in rehab. Please pray for Don, a friend of Judy Teter who recently had a stroke.
- ☞ Please pray that Janene Lewis will be able to get her driver's license.
- ☞ Please continue your prayers for healing and comfort for Christine Judd.
- ☞ William Latham, previous congregant passed. Please pray for comfort and peace for his wife Janice and their family and friends.
- ☞ Please pray for Mike Statzer. He fell at work and landed on his bad shoulder and has 2 broken ribs.
- ☞ Please pray for Paige Cano, for healing from her back surgery.

- ☞ **Update:** Leticia is doing much better. Rodger is still in rehab and has a ways to go. Please pray for healing for Leticia and Rodger (friends of Claudine) they both had strokes and have heart issues.
- ☞ Please pray for the Diaz family and they mourn the loss of Alex.
- ☞ **Update:** Marsha West (David West's Mom) is recovering much quicker than expected from the horrible car crash she was in. Please continue to pray for her recovery!
- ☞ **Update:** Cynthia Merrell (Mom of Brandi Anderson) will be having open heart surgery in two weeks. Please pray for peace and health while they await the upcoming surgery.
- ☞ Please pray for Ralph Wallace (brother of Linda Lowe) he is continuing to recover from the accident he had last fall and needs a new job. Please also pray for healing of relationships in his life.
- ☞ Please keep Fr. Nick in your prayers and especially for safe travel as he relocates to Pennsylvania.
- ☞ **Update:** Beverly has completed three rounds of chemo and is able to still work some. Beverly (Claudia Miller's daughter) Please continue to pray for her healing and recovery.
- ☞ Please pray for Barbara Poth and her son Kevin. Kevin has been diagnosed with liver disease. Pray for healing and comfort for his family.
- ☞ Please pray for comfort, healing, and an accurate medical diagnosis for Louisa Bryant.
- ☞ Please continue to pray for Rj Moriconi as he recovers, strength, peace and that he is surrounded by God's love.

Please help us keep the prayer list up-to-date. If you have any prayers or praises you would like added or updated, please contact Jeni using the church phone number 209-522-3267.

## *New Addresses*

Fr. Nick and Olga  
413 Third Ave.  
Jessup, Pennsylvania 18434

Wilson  
125 Vaquero Lane Apt. 89  
El Paso, Texas 79912

### *Cookie Walk December 2021*

Don't forget that the Cookie Walk is coming up.  
Have you started baking yet?



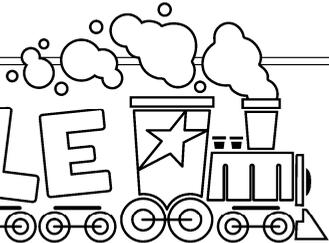
## *Virtual Worship, Study, and Engagement Opportunities at St. Paul's*

***Sunday Service*** Every Sunday Morning at 10:00 am  
St Paul's Episcopal Church Modesto, CA [Facebook page](#)

***Jump Start to Sundays*** Every Thursday @ 2:30 pm  
For Zoom link and information email  
Sarah Hartmann ([shartmann1@charter.net](mailto:shartmann1@charter.net))

***Book Club/Bible Study*** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays @ 10:30 am  
For Zoom Link and information email  
Judy Thorkelson ([jthork2404@aol.com](mailto:jthork2404@aol.com)) or  
Theresa Grieshaber ([tgrieshaber@gmail.com](mailto:tgrieshaber@gmail.com))

# PUZZLE



## GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

**Directions:** Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.



e  
7 2 4 1 6 3 i

w y l a s a  
3 5 2 4 6 a 1

pyra  
1 4 2 3

egvi  
4 1 3 2

h n t a s k  
2 4 1 3 6 5

continually,

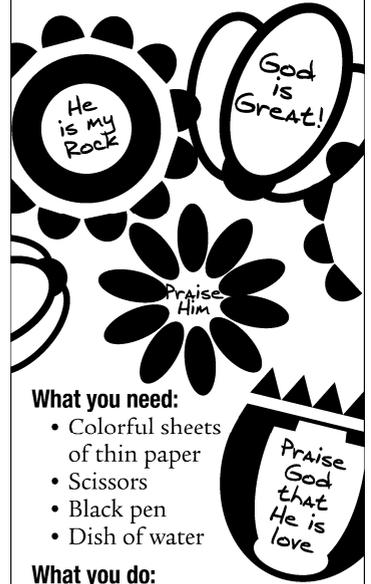
in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

## PRAISE-FILLED petals

Create an interactive display of God's provision for a Thanksgiving centerpiece.



### What you need:

- Colorful sheets of thin paper
- Scissors
- Black pen
- Dish of water

### What you do:

1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals.
2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers.
3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower.
4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words.
5. Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.

called  
to  
be...

## *Northern Migration from Latin America*

**On Saturday, November 20 at 10am on ZOOM,** SJRAISE, Anti-Racism and Creation Care Commissions are hosting their first joint program on Northern Migration from Latin America.

We will be joined by Sean Hawkey, a photojournalist who works with World Council of Churches, who has witnessed the struggle of migrants and refugees firsthand, and who will be speaking to the reasons of migration (violence, climate change, and a desire to have a better life for their families).

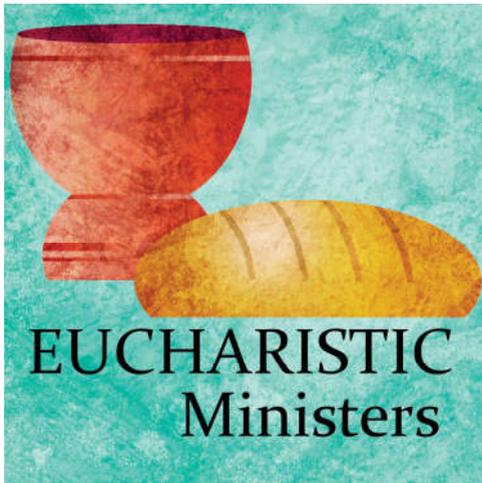
### *A Blessing or a Curse?*

Holocaust survivor and devout Christian Corrie ten Boom recounts how her sister Betsie thanked God for the fleas infesting their packed barracks. When Corrie resisted the idea, Betsie pointed out that 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says to “give thanks in all circumstances.”

Still, Corrie wasn’t convinced — until the sisters realized the infestation kept the guards away, giving prisoners in those quarters freedom to worship and pray. The biting pests, which seemed like added misery, became a blessing.

Anger and bitterness sometimes cloud our vision, causing us to forget to thank God in all situations, though not necessarily for them. Other times we don’t wait long enough for blessings to be revealed. But faith is like waiting through a storm, knowing a rainbow is coming eventually. Meanwhile, the Lord holds an umbrella for us, and the closer with him we walk, the less wet we’ll get.

—Julie Lee



## ***Did you know that St. Paul's has Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors?***

The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin licenses lay people to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors. Training for this ministry is conducted by parish clergy.

A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the consecrated elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister acts under the direction of a deacon, if any, or otherwise, the member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. Currently only clergy act as the Eucharistic Ministers at time do to COVID-19 protocols.

A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the consecrated elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration of the Eucharist. A Eucharistic Visitor acts under the direction of a deacon, if any, or otherwise, the member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

If you are wishing to serve as Eucharistic Visitor, please advise Deacon Greg Maszta of your desire to serve in this ministry.

We currently have five Eucharistic Visitor available to serve you.

Please if you have any needs, call either Sarah Hartmann at 1-215-917-8477 or Stephanie Gilmer at 1-209-402-3017.

Faithfully,  
Sarah and Stephanie



**Michael B. Curry**, our Presiding Bishop  
**David Rice**, our Bishop & **Anna Carmichael**, our Canon

**Armed Forces**



**Tom Allen**, Wyoming Air National Guard  
**Melissa Allen**, U. S. Air Force  
**Brandon Alonzo**, U. S. Air Force  
**Christopher Bradley**, U. S. Navy  
**T. J. Browning**, U. S. Navy  
**Jay Colón**, U. S. Air Force  
**Brandon Cox**, Texas Air National Guard  
**Cheryl Edelman**, U. S. Army  
**Jenavieve Johnston**, U. S. Air Force

**Jorgito Fuentes**, U. S. Navy  
**Nick Garber**, U. S. Army  
**Johnny Olmos**, U. S. Coast Guard  
**Brett List**, U. S. Navy  
**Cole Medeiros**, U. S. Navy  
**Nate Wallace**, U. S. Air Force R  
**Carson Repan**, U. S. Air Force  
**Jeffrey Kinnaman**, U. S. Coast Guard

*Please pray for all of our sisters and brothers in Christ.  
God of wisdom and love, help me and all others who are struggling with difficult circumstances find direction and strength to face our challenges. Give us the assurance that underneath us are your everlasting arms, which will sustain us through everything we face day and night. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**November Birthdays**

Daniel Iller - 2	Arlene Cox - 18	Mike Cox - 23
Murray Ivy - 3	Bonnie Olson - 18	Jim Bland - 27
Judy Teter - 7	Chad Peters - 18	Marti Persons - 28
Mary Griffin - 12	Norm VanSpronsen-18	Anthony Iller - 29
Abel Maestas - 15	Nell Gerber - 19	
Tom Hampson - 17	Jim Peck - 22	

**November Anniversaries**

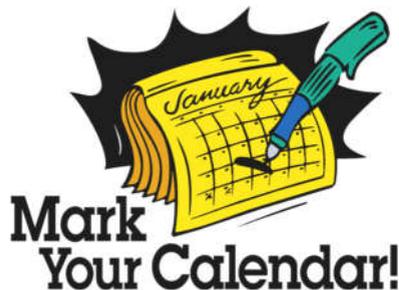
George & Paige Cano - 2  
Daniel & Louis Iller - 11  
Doug Welsch & Tami Ingram - 11  
Stewart & Valerie Peters - 12  
Ed & Roberta Bearden - 25



If your birthday or anniversary is in November and you aren't listed here, please let Cherie Sheaffer know. We don't want to leave anyone out.

# Upcoming Events

Church office hours:  
The church office is closed  
until further notice.



## Special November Days

- All Saint's Day - 1
- All Saint's celebration at St. Paul's - 7
- Daylight Savings time ends - 7
- Veteran's Day - 11
- Christ the King Sunday - 21
- Thanksgiving Day - 25
- First Sunday of Advent - 28

November 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

If you have any updates or new names for the Armed Forces list, please let Cherie Sheaffer know.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Episcopal-Church-of-Modesto-CA-106952012668211/>

Then click on videos.

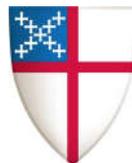


St. Paul's Episcopal Church Modesto CA

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBAbwqOZphWFUZVjnc7eFqw>



[www.https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/](https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/)





# The Epistle

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

October 30, 2021, Volume 12, Number 11 Nov

**Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267**, [st.pauls\\_episcopal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.pauls_episcopal@sbcglobal.net)  
**Office Hours:** Closed till further notice

### E-mail Addresses

**Parish Admin. & Facilities Coordinator**  
Jeni Statzer, [stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com)

**Music Director, Organist & Choir**  
Chuck Sheaffer, [cbshea@pacbell.net](mailto:cbshea@pacbell.net)

**Bell Choir Director**  
Judy Teter, [jltp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jltp@sbcglobal.net)

**St. Paul's Epistle Editor & Bulletins**  
Cherie Sheaffer, [cbshea@pacbell.net](mailto:cbshea@pacbell.net)

**St. Paul's Web Page & Social Media**  
Greg Masztal, [gregmasz@gmail.com](mailto:gregmasz@gmail.com)

**St. Paul's Event Coordinator**  
Tracy Pugh, [vinofileincal@gmail.com](mailto:vinofileincal@gmail.com)

**Stewardship Campaign**  
Carolyn List and Stephanie Gilmer

**Coffee Hour**  
Sara Heintz, [sara19811007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sara19811007@sbcglobal.net)

**Finance Committee**  
Judy Teter, [jltp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jltp@sbcglobal.net)

**Safeguarding God's Children/People**  
Jeni Statzer and Stephanie Gilmer

**Children's Sunday School**  
Zach Statzer, [bigstatz16@gmail.com](mailto:bigstatz16@gmail.com)

### *Vestry Members*

**Senior Warden** - Joyce Bell, 215-275-5502  
[bellj1@charter.net](mailto:bellj1@charter.net)

**Jr. Warden**-Claudine Romegialli 209-489-8722  
[mrgialli06457@yahoo.com](mailto:mrgialli06457@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer** - Stephanie Gilmer, (*non member*)  
Brandi Anderson

Eric Goossens

Sarah Heintz

Carolyn List

Linda Lowe

Jim Peck

Chuck Sheaffer

### **Sunday Services**

Holy Eucharist at 10 am in the church and live  
streamed on Facebook

Children's Sunday School -cancelled till notice

[www.saintpaulsmodesto.org](http://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org)

Visit and like us on Facebook

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

