

# THE EPISTLE

*OUR MISSION... is to understand and celebrate God's dream for the world,  
to be transformed in Jesus' love and to use our gifts to make a difference for others.*

*OUR VISION... is a world in which God's embracing love is joyfully shared by all people.*

A Monthly Newsletter

July 2009

## From the Rector's Desk...

### Like A Mustard Seed

For months we had been organizing our trip to Mexico. What was supposed to have been a cross-cultural trip to an exotic land was derailed, first by violence in Tijuana, and then just 4 weeks before we were scheduled to depart, by the swine flu in our alternate destination of Veracruz.

This left our group scrambling to figure out what we might do. Within a week of cancelling our Mexico flights we knew. Through a friend in Nevada, we arranged a week long vacation bible school, and deck building project in Wadsworth, Nevada. Wadsworth is one of two towns that make up the Northern Paiute reservation.

I was really happy that we were able to use our talents to travel somewhere, and yet a little disappointed that our journey would not be so exotic.

Our work team, 16 strong, gathered at the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist here at Saint Paul's to make a right beginning for our journey. The gospel reading for the day was the parable of the mustard seed. The mystery of even the smallest seed bearing much fruit. I carried that story with me all week in Nevada. This little band of teens and adults from three churches, doing common ordinary things was planting seeds.

St. Michael's in Wadsworth is a century old Episcopal church located on the Paiute reservation. It is a small congregation with no paid clergy. Each Sunday, between 12 and 16 people, some Anglo and some Paiute gather for worship. Their small worship attendance doesn't reflect the church's place on the reservation though. Almost all the Paiutes there are Episcopalian. They are married and baptized at the Episcopal church.

For many years the Episcopal church was a part of the effort, with the government, to enculturate the tribe, which meant doing what could be done to eradicate their own culture. Speaking the Paiute language was forbidden and the old native ceremonies were almost completely wiped out about 30 years ago.

That is changing. Now it is the Episcopal church that is an important part of recapturing the culture of the Paiute. It is an Episcopalian who teaches the Paiute language in the local schools. At their Easter Vigil some of the creation stories of



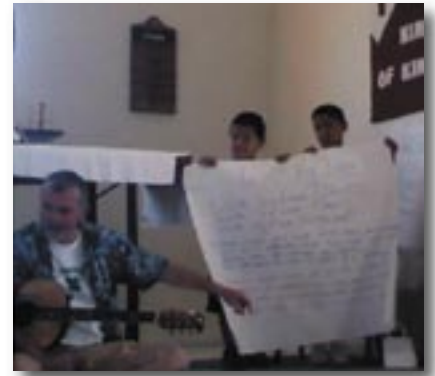
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the Paiute were told and native dance was a part of the celebration. The local priest told me that many of the elders at the Easter Vigil had tears in their eyes because it was the first time they had seen the native dances in decades.

And so this little church in the middle of the desert became the place where we would go to plant seeds, and also to have some seeds planted in our souls.

### *While there we did three things:*

1. Every morning we led a vacation Bible school. Each day 16 children from Wadsworth would arrive at 9:00 a.m. We would gather for singing and storytelling, then work on a craft and then have an activity to work off some energy. We would end with more singing and a time of sharing and prayer. By the end of the week we had made new friends with these children, and perhaps they knew something more about the story of God in their lives.



2. Every afternoon we worked on a deck for the parish hall. Ten short years ago St. Michael's was a little white clapboard church on a bare piece of ground.



Gradually the local congregation has been improving the church and the grounds by planting new trees, building a new parish hall and renovating the church. Each of these has made St. Michael's a better resource for the local community. 12-step groups, weddings and other gatherings are now regularly held there.

The deck provides an outside place for these groups to gather. The stunning natural scenery and the flowing Truckee River right down the hill can now form a backdrop for even more effective community gathering.



On our last Sunday there we gathered for Eucharist on the deck with a lively congregation of Anglos and Paiutes to celebrate the week of vacation Bible school and this new gathering place.

3. We tried to learn something more about ourselves through the eyes of native Paiute culture and theology. All through the week the Rev. Eric Heidigger met with us to reflect on how Paiutes can help us understand God in new ways. In particular he noted how native spirituality is so closely tied to balance with all creation, whereas traditional Christianity emphasizes loving relationships between people.



One night we traveled to Pyramid Lake to visit both the "Pyramid" and, more importantly, the Stone Mother. These natural formations frame the most sacred place on the reservation. The Stone Mother is central to one of the Paiute creation stories. One of our team shared how awesome it was to hear this central story in the very place where the story originated. Perhaps it would be like us hearing about the story of Jesus in Jerusalem.



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From the Rector's Desk*

On a second night we experienced some of the Paiute dancers, sharing with us the dances that are only now being recovered. These dances are ways that the Paiute people honor and give thanks to the creator who has blessed them so abundantly through the animals and plants that sustained their lives. But most moving, and fun, for many of us was to be invited to dance with them hand in hand.



During the week we also visited the Paiute museum on the reservation, had Indian tacos (One team member declared it "the best food ever!"), and visited the local diner that had the most extensive collection of Indian art in the area.



***What we learned***

It was truly an amazing week. For some there was a new understanding of who God is, creator and living among us in relationship. For some there was the surprising fact that we could actually run VBS and build a deck all in one week. For all of us there was deep gratitude at the gift of learning that we could push through difficulties and complete a difficult task.

We discovered that three groups of people who didn't know one another could learn to work together and to become a supportive and loving community.



We learned that there are those who live so close to us, and yet we aren't even aware of who they really are. And, these people have important stories to share with us.

Faithfully,  
*Thomas* ✝



**THE VESTRY** spent time at our June meeting reviewing the status of our pledge income to date. I thought I would share this simple analysis of our pledging pattern. – See chart below for details.

2009	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	YTD	Total Pre-Paid used so far
Payments Received	27,272	14,733	17,997	23,700	19,854	103,596	59,500
Budgeted Payments	27,270	18,000	25,000	27,000	25,000	122,270	34,000
Difference (over/under)	2	(3,227)	(7,003)	(3,300)	(5,146)	(18,674)	
<b>Total 2009</b>							
Prepaid Pledges	97,500						
YTD Pledges Received	<u>103,596</u>						
Total	201,096						
Annual Budget	354,600						
Pledges yet to be received	153,504						

As this chart reflects we are currently receiving only 85% of our budgeted payments. In August, the Vestry will be looking at pledges received in 2009 and decisions will need to be made to address this shortfall of income. This year, more than ever - timely payments of our pledges are vitally important. One way to ensure on time payments may be to set up your annual giving with an automatic payment by credit card. If you would like to set up credit card payments, please call the office (348-4811) and this can be easily and confidentially arranged.

The vestry was pleased to learn of the completion of the office reorganization necessitated by the budget reductions adopted in January. We are pleased to have **Ms. Karen Locke** join our office team. She will be working 7.5 hours a week and her duties will be primarily financial. With summer now upon us, our clergy is now fulfilling another major budget reduction adopted in January. All the clergy will be taking unpaid leave, commonly known as furloughs. These furloughs were put in place as a means of achieving further reductions in our personnel costs. The Rev. Julie Graham is on an 8-week furlough and the Rev. Sally Boelter is on a six week furlough. Our Rector, Thomas Skillings, will take the second week of his 2-week furlough in the fall. While all of us enjoy having time off, this time off represents sacrifices on each of our clergy's parts (both financial and being away from the ministry they love) and the Vestry thanks them again for their devotion to St. Paul's! Likewise, Dr. Susan Matthew's position has been reorganized to a 75% position rather than a full-time position; again we thank Dr. Matthew's for her devotion to St. Paul's.

We on the Vestry realize that these uncertain economic times are having an impact not only on our budget, but also on the lives of our parishioners, and their families and friends. But we continue to have faith that together we can come out of these times still a strong and vibrant community that will act as a "beacon on the highway" for many years to come.

The Vestry wishes all our parishioners an enjoyable summer. While this is a time to travel, we hope when you are in town we will continue to see you at St. Paul's.

Yours in faith,  
*Kathy Martin*  
 Senior Warden



## A Note About the Wednesday Eucharist/Healing Service...

There will be no Wednesday Eucharist/Healing service during the month of July.

## St. Paul's Pictorial Directory

In early October, photos of all parish member families will be taken for the new directory. Each family will receive one FREE family portrait.

We hope everyone will participate in this project so that we can all put faces to names in our growing parish life together. For more information, contact Gail Pettit at 650.726.5646

Photos will be taken on the following dates:

Friday 9th October  
Saturday 10th October  
Wednesday 21st October

*Signups will begin in early September.*

## The St. Paul's Columbarium

*"Behind the dim unknown  
Standeth God within the shadow  
Keeping watch above his own."*

The Columbarium & Garden is one of the silent ministries at St. Paul's. Herein is the resting place for many faithful parishioners who have chosen to remain close to their spiritual home in perpetuity.

Our parish offers a unique opportunity to members and families in the St. Paul's community to have a special place in this beautiful columbarium. Since its dedication in February of 2005, twenty-four of the first forty-eight double niches have been purchased. Of these, there have been sixteen internments to date.

Consider our columbarium as an option in your long range planning. Brochures are located in a holder outside the cloister entrance to the garden or in the church office. If you have questions, please contact our clergy.

## We Need Donations For Our September Silent Auction

It's time again to start thinking about our September Silent Auction that benefits Habitat for Humanity and IHN. We get our best auction items donated from our fellow parishioners. Please contact Bonnie Adams at 342-0618 or bonnie417@aol.com if you have something to donate.

### *Some ideas for donations:*

Dinner at a favorite restaurant, a stay at a special hotel or bed & breakfast, a haircut at your favorite stylist, spa services, a gift item from your favorite store (if you've never asked before, you'll be surprised how ready most businesses are to donate items to silent auctions!)

Family vacation homes or timeshares (you can limit the dates, the number of people and the age of the occupants – and you'll know they'll be great guests, they're St. Paul's members after all!)

A cocktail party, a children's birthday party, a pool party, a teen make-up party, an elegant tea, a gourmet dinner. These are great auction items!

Or anything else that appeals to you! We accept items at all price points that will appeal to any age group. Donor receipts are available from the church office.

Thank you!  
Bonnie Adams



## Mark Your Calendars!!!

The Circle of St. Paul's presents their Fall Rummage Sale *The Circle of Rummage* on October 2nd and 3rd. We welcome your many donations but **PLEASE** remember we cannot accept mattresses, sofas, TV's, skis, or computers. Thank you!

## St. Paul's Circle Needs Stackable Boxes!

Do you have boxes cluttering your garage or basement? If so, please bring them to church because St. Paul's Circle really, really needs boxes. Our only request is that all boxes can be closed on top with flaps or lids so that we can stack them. Thank you,  
- The Circle

## Who Will Take Over for You?

If you voted for President Roosevelt, you may be in a bit of a pickle. You may have outlived most of your contemporaries and you may not have any family members living in this part of the country. So whom can you name as your healthcare proxy or as executor of your will or trust?

Parish priests are sometimes asked by parishioners to serve in one of these capacities. However tempting to fill the evident need, this is not appropriate.

Fortunately, there is a good solution: a professional fiduciary.

Recently, a rector alerted me to a situation in which a widowed parishioner needed to update her 25 year old revocable trust and was at a loss. Key people mentioned in her original trust were no longer living, and at that time she had named her bank as successor trustee. This meant that if she became unable to manage her own affairs, a representative appointed by her bank would take over. She wished to change this. She wanted someone to take over whom she would know and trust. This is an advantage of a professional fiduciary.

A professional fiduciary is trained and now licensed by the State of California to perform such services. A fiduciary can also identify and contract for needed homecare, arrange to have medications monitored, pay bills, and so on.

For people of any age, engaging a professional fiduciary as executor of your will or as successor trustee on your revocable trust may be a good alternative to naming a friend, distant family member or an impersonal institution. For more information about choosing an executor or trustee, or for referrals, contact your Gift Planning Officer. My ministry is here to serve you in your desire to be a good steward of all that God has given you.

The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP  
Gift Planning Officer  
(415) 869-7812  
RichardS@diocal.org

## Diocesan Convention Nominations Are Now Being Received



Nominations are now being received for the elections at the 160th Diocesan Convention which takes place on October 17, 2009. The deadline for nominations is August 4th.

The nominating committee is looking to you to nominate qualified, responsible people who desire to serve God and this Diocese. We continue to look for new leadership and for all deaneries to be represented. We ask you to review the duties and responsibilities of these positions and will prayerfully consider who might best qualify. Please be sure your nominee understands the commitments of time and resources for the position and has agreed to stand as a nominee.

Application forms can be found on the Diocesan Web Site: [www.diocal.org](http://www.diocal.org) or ask your church office for a copy.

Please send completed nomination forms electronically to [onebreadonecup@msn.com](mailto:onebreadonecup@msn.com) or mail to:

Diocesan Nominating Committee  
c/o The Reverend Ron Culmer  
St. Clare's Episcopal Church  
3350 Hopyard Road  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Nominators and nominees will receive confirmation notices. If you do not, please call Ron Culmer at (925) 462-4802  
- *the Rev. Ron Culmer*

## Summer Travels

Dr. Susan Matthews is definitely keeping busy this summer. She is in Germany for 3 weeks enjoying time with family and friends and tending to her musical passion.

She begins her trip with efforts to finish up a CD that will be a release of a live concert she performed last summer at the Himmerod Abbey located outside of Trier.

Next, with great anticipation, she is traveling to Leipzig for the first time to visit the Thomaskirche where Susan hopes to hear both the St. Matthew Passion and B-minor mass performed in Bach's church. At Leipzig's Bach Festival, the works of the great composer are performed by internationally acclaimed musicians in venues associated with the great former cantor of St. Thomas' Church's. Alongside Bach's Masses, the festival also boasts orchestral and choral works as well as organ and symphony concerts. The program is complemented by special exhibitions and events.

Now summer doesn't get any better than that. Susan's eyes lit up while she talked about her plans. Just imagine her sitting inside Bach's hometown church listening to his own compositions in all their glory. That's right, summer doesn't get any better than that.

## Gloria Barton Honored

Gloria Barton, a long time member and parish leader at St. Paul's, who passed away in 2004 was selected to the Burlingame Walk of Fame for 2009.

In 2007, the City of Burlingame established the Walk of Fame to recognize those citizens who have made significant contributions to our community. To be honored, those contributions must have included at least ten or more years of volunteer service to the community, have had a positive impact on the lives of Burlingame's citizens, created opportunities for the community through new facilities or programs, and for the nominee to have been considered an appropriate role model.

Since nominations were only accepted from non-profit organizations, St. Paul's was honored to enter its name for consideration along with a list of her considerable contributions to the welfare and improvement of Burlingame. A team comprised of members from the City's Beautification Commission, Civil Service Commission, Library Board, Parks and Recreation Department reviewed all of the applications and reached their decision in May. The City Council confirmed the team's recommendation at their May Meeting.

At the June 15th Council meeting, Vice-Mayor Cathy Baylock presented the award to the Barton family and to St. Paul's. Gloria's sons, Derek and Jack, were on hand to receive the award for their mother.

## Staff Summer Schedules

With the summer comes a change in the rhythm and pattern of our lives. The combination of vacations, staff reductions and furloughs means that many of our staff will be away for much of the summer.

### **The Rev. Thomas Skillings**

Vacation: 7/13-20

### **The Rev. Sally Boelter**

Furlough: 6/15-7/26

Continuing Ed: 7/27-8/3



### **The Rev. Julie Graham**

Furlough: 6/8-8/2

### **Dr. Susan Jane Matthews**

Vacation: 6/1-21

Away due to staff reductions: 6/23-30, 8/24-9/9

Continuing Ed 7/28-8/7



415 EL CAMINO REAL  
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The Rev. Thomas Skillings, Rector  
The Rev. Sally Boelter, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Julie Graham, Associate Rector

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday: 8am** - Eucharist in Chapel

**Sunday: 10am** - Sung Eucharist

**Wednesday: 11am** - Eucharist and Healing

**Saturday: 5pm** - Monthly Choral Evensong  
(September - May)

### **Tongan Service:**

2nd & 3rd Sundays - 2pm

4th Sundays - 1pm - Anglican Eucharist

### **ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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Fax: 650.348.2126

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