

The Epistle

Newsletter of St. Paul's Church
A Parish in the Diocese of San Joaquin
Anglican Church of the Southern Cone of America

January, 2009

Bishop's Visitation and Confirmation Set for Sunday, January 25

The Rt. Rev. John-David Schofield, Bishop of San Joaquin, will be at St. Paul's Church on Sunday, January 25, for his annual visitation to the parish, which will include Confirmation during the 10:30 service.

In addition to preaching the Gospel and celebrating the Eucharist during the services, during the adult Sunday school class between the 8:00 and 10:30 services, the bishop will be available for a question and answer forum, to which all parishioners are invited.

Having the bishop visit on January 25 is especially appropriate as it will be the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle, and therefore is a special time in the liturgical life of the parish.

It is customary on the occasion of the Bishop's visitation to have a special offering for the benefit of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. This fund is used to help both clerical and lay members of the diocese in times of special need, and the generosity of parishioners is greatly appreciated.

Anyone with questions about Confirmation or about any other aspect of the bishop's visit is asked to contact Fr. James.



Annual Congregational Meeting Will Be Sunday, January 25

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's Church will be held in Rivera Hall on Sunday, January 25, at 12:30 PM.

Immediately prior to the meeting, the Sequoia Deanery Mission Team will host a fund-raiser brunch. Cost will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children.

During the Annual Meeting, Fr. James will provide a report on the state of the parish. In addition, there will also be an opportunity for reports from the various groups within the church regarding the work they have done in the past year or are planning to do this year and beyond.

Groups not wishing to make an oral report are invited to submit a written report to the church office so that it can be included in the booklet that will be distributed at the meeting.

Also, at the Annual Meeting parishioners will elect five people to serve three-year terms on the Vestry. In addition, there will be an election for Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention, who serve one-year terms.

The Nominations Committee's report will be sent to parishioners prior to the meeting, and additional nominations may be made at the meeting, provided that the person being nominated is eligible to serve and has agreed to do so, if elected.

Anyone with questions about the meeting, or about his or her eligibility to be nominated or to vote, should speak with Fr. James prior to the meeting.

St. Paul's Parish
120 North Hall Street
Visalia, California 93291
Church Office: (559) 732-4821
Rivera Hall: (559) 732-4822

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Communion Services
Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 AM
Wednesdays at 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM

Clergy and Staff
The Rev. Richard James, Rector
The Rev. Tancredo Pastores, Assistant
The Rev. Francie Levy, Assisting Deacon
Elaine McKinney, Parish Secretary
Antoinette Horsting, Financial Secretary
Melvin Morris, Sexton

Members of the Vestry

2008
Cathy Guadagni, Lorraine McElroy,
Bill Nebe, Suzette Peters

2009
Kathy Bernardi, Kris Bratton,
Randy Hammond, Kim Robinson, Chet Smeds

2010
Amy Gunn, Mary Murray
Jack Ramirez, Kashy Rowland-Smith,
William Winn

Delegates to Diocesan Convention
Kathy Bernardi, Betty Blackmon,
John Higgins, Kim Robinson, Nancy Salmon

Alternates to Diocesan Convention
Amy Gunn, Chet Smeds, Larry Wilds



Coffee Hour Teams

Volunteer Opportunities Available

With the beginning of the new year comes new opportunities for people to participate in the church's ministry of hospitality through the Sunday morning Coffee Hours.



Cathy Guadagni and Barbara Melton are this year's Coffee Hour coordinators, and anyone wanting to help with this ministry is invited to speak to one of them.

Nominations Sought for Vestry Members and Delegates to Diocesan Convention

At the Annual Congregational Meeting, which will be held at 12:30 PM on Sunday, January 25, five Vestry members will be elected to three-year terms. Also, four Delegates and Alternates for Diocesan Convention will be elected for one-year terms. All adult confirmed communicants in good standing are eligible for elections. (Good standing means being faithful in public worship and in working, praying and giving for the Kingdom of God.)

Anyone who would like to be considered, or who has someone else in mind for one of these offices, is invited to speak to the Rector, or to Senior Warden Randy Hammond. All submissions will be considered carefully by the Nominations Committee, with a report of the Committee's nominations being made to the congregation before the Annual meeting.

Sunday Brunch in Rivera Hall

The Sequoia Deanery Mission Team is hosting a fundraiser brunch in Rivera Hall on Sunday, January 25. The brunch will be served immediately after the 10:30 Service. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children.

Anglican Church Women

Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Board for the Anglican Church Women of St. Paul's Parish will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, January 12. The meeting will be held in the Guild Room, and is open to all.

St. Paul's Guilds

St. Paul's has two guilds for women of the parish. These guilds allow women opportunities to participate in a variety of activities and ministries in addition to those that are offered by the parish as a whole. Any women is welcome to join one of the guilds – no special invitation is required.

St. Mary-Agnes' Guild will meet at 10:00 AM in the Guild Room on Monday, January 19. Guild leader is Carol Whiteside.

St. Anne's Guild will meet at 11:45 in the Guild Room, on Monday, January 19. Guild leader is Dorothy Neeley.

Fund-raiser Tea

On Saturday, February 7, at 10:00 AM, the ACW will host a tea with Carolyn "Cookie" Wagenman.

Cookie is a talented and energetic speaker who operates her own business as a fashion consultant. She holds classes on image improvement, color, body analysis, personality, make up, hair style, accessories and wardrobe planning.

Cookie also shares God's word while providing some very interesting and humorous help to everyone present.

Any woman able to help with this event is asked to speak with her guild leader.

Card Party Luncheon

The annual card party luncheon will be on Monday, April 20.

Children's and Youth Ministries

Sunday School Classes Resume January 11

Sunday School classes for children and youth resume on Sunday, January 11. Classes run from 9:30 to 10:15 each Sunday morning.

Diocesan Youth Convention

A convention for junior and senior high school students is going to be held January 16-17, 2009, at St. James' Cathedral in Fresno.

The theme of the Convention is "Most Live For Themselves. God's Plan Is Different." Activities and events will include a concert, sports, a video game room, workshops and worship. Cost is \$30.

Questions about the convention should be addressed to Fr. Tancredo Pastores at 732-4821.

Wednesday Nights at St. Paul's

"Wednesday Nights Out" at St. Paul's resumes on Wednesday, 21. The schedule for children and youth is as follows:

- 5:30 – Junior Bell Choir (or Holy Communion)
- 6:15 – Dinner (regular menu or PB&J sandwiches)
- 7:00 – Special Activities

Dust of Snow

Robert Frost - 1923

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Wednesday Nights at St. Paul's

"Wednesday Nights Out" at St. Paul's resumes on Wednesday, January 21. The centerpiece of the evening is the dinner held at 6:15, featuring foods from around the country. However, there are activities both before and after dinner. Nursery care is provided all evening.

The adult program is as follows:

5:30 – Holy Communion in Rivera Hall

6:15 – Dinner in Rivera Hall

7:00 – Adult Class, as listed below

During Epiphany, the adult class will be studying the Ten Commandments, using curriculum from the Kerygma program. Led by Fr. James, the class will meet from 7:00 to 7:45 each week.

The schedule for children and youth is as follows:

5:30 – Junior Bell Choir (or Holy Communion)

6:15 – Dinner (regular menu or PB&J sandwiches)

7:00 – Special Activities

Volunteer Positions Available

Parish Librarian

St. Paul's parish library has a wide assortment of books and video and audio tapes cataloged and available for use, but currently no one is "in charge" of the library. Anyone who would like to help keep the library in proper order is asked to speak with Fr. James.

Parish Archivist

St. Paul's was established in 1887, so there is a great deal of historical material that has been collected over the years. Unfortunately, some of the this material has been damaged, and much of it is unorganized. So as not to lose the history of the parish, this material needs to be sorted, cataloged and properly stored. Anyone who can help with this project is asked to speak with Fr. James.

Truth in Advertising: Reading the Fine Print

Everyone knows that what an advertisement proclaims in large print is often limited or negated by the small print at the bottom. And that is true, it seems, not only with consumer products and services, but with religious ones, too.

Specifically, parishioners may have noticed that ads in the newspaper for The Episcopal Church's local congregation invite people to services at the "Visalia Episcopal Church." However, the fine print at the bottom of the page states, "The continuing St. Paul's Episcopal Church."

As mentioned in the August edition of *The Epistle*, this is misleading. More than that, it is dishonest, since St. Paul's Episcopal Church actually continues on as St. Paul's Anglican Church. This was a decision legally made by the congregation as a whole in March, 2008.

That the Episcopal Church started a new congregation in Visalia is understandable, but it is a new congregation and not a continuation of an old one. The new Episcopal congregation, by whatever name it calls itself, has no legitimate claim upon our buildings, or our history, or the many ministries that are associated in the community with St. Paul's Church.

The *Episcopal Life San Joaquin* monthly newspaper being sent to our members continues to publish false statements about our bishop, our clergy, and our congregation. Parishioners should not rely on it to provide accurate information about our congregation, our diocese, or the new Anglican Church in North America.

The official newspaper for our diocese was, and continues to, be *The San Joaquin Star*. **There is no subscription fee to receive the *Star***, and anyone who is not receiving it should contact Fr. James.

Thank You's

My convalescence from recent hip surgery was certainly made more pleasant by visits by Fr. James. I thank him for this use of his valuable time.

Also, the beautiful bouquet from the altar brightened my days. Thank you.

A time like this makes one really appreciate the loving fellowship of St Paul's.

Sincerely,
Katie Crookshanks



Dear Christmas Carollers

Thank you for including me in your visits. Each year your coming means more to me and helps me to have happy memories of years gone by.

A blessed Christmas to each of you.

Marion L. Deissler



Many thanks to all of you for your prayer during my long illness. I'm back doing my floral arrangements.

Thank you Fr. James and Fr. Pastores for your many visits to the hospital.

Gloria Gail Green



The clergy and staff would like to thank everyone who sent Christmas cards or who dropped off gifts in the church office. We appreciate your thoughtfulness at Christmas and throughout the whole year.

St. Paul's Church
The Clergy and Staff



Dear Friends:

My heartfelt thanks to everyone at St. Paul's who reached out so compassionately to our family when we lost Mac so suddenly.

Fr. James is an ongoing source of strength. His comforting solace and prayers were a blessing to us all.

The ladies of the ACW were a God send! Their prayers, support and generosity were a great source of comfort to our family.

Two of our Canadian relatives wished they could take Fr. James and the ladies home to Canada but Steve and I adamantly said "No"! They are truly a blessing unto Visalia.

Mac would be so happy to know we feel as though we're home again.

God Bless you one and all!!

Barbara Boyle and family



My mom, Betty Turney, is now living at TCL Assisted Living For Seniors. She is doing very well and receiving excellent care. Please visit her as often as you would like – she would love to see you.

Many thanks to Fr. James, Fr. Pastores and members of St. Paul's for their visits to Betty especially while she was in the hospital and rehabilitating at Westgate.

Thank you,
Dave Turney



COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PASTORAL CARE

Helping Women and Children in Need

St. Paul's Community Service Committee is gathering items for the women's shelter in Visalia.

A baby crib has been set up in Rivera Hall to receive donations of items such as baby clothes, large diapers, receiving blankets and other baby blankets, crib sheets, and bath towels.

Any and all donations will be put to good use, and are greatly appreciated.

Grief Recovery Group

The Grief Recovery Group will be meeting at 10:00 on Tuesday, January 20. Anyone who has suffered a loss of a loved one through death or divorce, or has experienced the loss of a job or some other such experience, is invited to participate.

Anyone wanting more information about the group is asked to contact Betty Peters or Fr. James at 732-4821.

Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 302 will have a pancake breakfast fund-raiser in Rivera Hall on Saturday, January 24, from 7:00 to 11:00. Parishioners are invited to help support the troop in their activities by enjoying a delicious breakfast.

From the Parish Records

Births

Lillian Grace Iverson, born December 23, 2008

- ▶ daughter of Scott and Jocelyn Iverson
- ▶ granddaughter of Dennis and Laurie Buhler

Baptisms

Brayden Lee Torres, baptized December 28, 2008

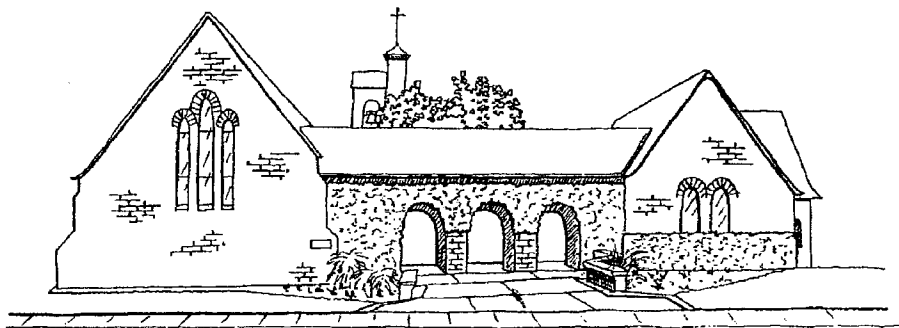
- ▶ son of Adam and Megan Torres
- ▶ grandson of Alex and Cathy Torres

Deaths

Eric Malcolm Boyle, died December 4, 2008

- ▶ husband of Barbara Boyle

St. Paul's Church Founded 1887



The Epistle is published by The Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Paul's Parish in Visalia, California, a California nonprofit corporation.