



# The Epistle

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

February, 2010

## Sunday Brunch

The Honduras Mission Team is hosting a brunch on *Sunday, January 31*. The brunch, which will be in Rivera Hall beginning at 11:30, has been scheduled for two reasons.

First, it will provide an occasion of fellowship prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting, which will begin at 12:30 PM. Such occasions are very helpful to the unity of the congregation as it allows parishioners from the two Sunday services to know each other a little better.

Second, the brunch will be a way of raising money in support of the Honduras Medical Mission. While each team member pays his or her own way, there is still a need for financial support to cover the cost of medicines and other supplies. Cost of the brunch is only \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of twelve.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

*The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's Church will be held in Rivera Hall at 12:30 PM on Sunday, January 31.*

During the meeting, parishioners will elect five Vestry members and four Delegates to Diocesan Convention. The Nominations Committee will nominate Larry Akey, Mark Cave, Sue Nyberg, Sue Piper, and Ed Robinson for Vestry, and Kathy Bernardi, Betty Blackmon, Cindy Hoover, Kim Robinson, Nancy Salmon and Ched Smeds for Convention. Parishioners may also make nominations during the meeting.

Financial and other reports for 2009, and the 2010 budget will be presented at the meeting. In addition, there will be time for questions, comments and discussion about parish life. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

## Approaching Lent

I chose the title "Approaching Lent" for this article because it can mean two different things, both of which are important. First it can mean that "Lent is approaching," which is to say that the season of Lent, along with all of its special programs and activities, is getting closer and closer. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 17.

Second, "Approaching Lent" can refer to how we might approach the season – that is, how we might "deal with" it. Of course, there are many choices. We can ignore Lent altogether. Or, on the other hand, we can embrace it by taking up the Church's

annual call to greater devotion as experienced through prayer, fasting and alms-giving. Or, we can choose a path somewhere between these two.

Whatever the case, as Lent approaches I hope that each of us will consider how we might approach Lent. A special edition of *The Epistle* will soon be published highlighting St. Paul's Lenten programs, but even before receiving that, it would be good for all of us to have thought something about what our response will be.

**St. Paul's Church**

120 North Hall Street  
Visalia, California 93291  
Church Office: (559) 732-4821  
Rivera Hall: (559) 732-4822  
Internet: www.spvisalia.com

**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 Ian James, Rector  
Elaine McKinney, Parish Secretary  
Antoinette Horsting, Financial Secretary  
Melvin Morris, Sexton

**Members of the Vestry**

**2009**

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

**2010**

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

**2011**

David Francis, Monica Norton  
John Peters, Harry Tow, Larry Wilds

**Delegates to Diocesan Convention**

Kathy Bernardi, Betty Blackmon,  
Kim Robinson, Chet Smeds

**Alternates to Diocesan Convention**

Amy Gunn, Bill Nebe, Nancy Salmon

**Coffee Hour Teams**

Thanks are due to the following people who have volunteered to be on a coffee hour team in February:



**8:00 AM**

7 Kathie Shannon

14 Ellie Dennis  
Barbara Melton

21 Kathie Shannon

28 Dave and Cathy Francis

**10:30 AM**

Bill and Paula Linihan  
Kevin and Jill Geaney

Glen and Betty Blackmon  
Larry Akey

Didi Hammond  
*Open for new volunteers*

Merle and Judy Engleka  
Cathy Guadagni

In order to have refreshments available for the Coffee Hours every week about four more volunteers are needed. Anyone who is interested in helping with this ministry, either on a regular or an occasional basis, is asked to call Cathy Guadagni or Kathie Shannon.

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**From the Parish Records**

*Deaths*

Freeda Williams  
Elaine Murray – Scott Murray's mother

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**Thank you!**

Aloha St. Paul's Church,  
Mahalo Nui Loa!

Thank you for all your support and gifts!

God Bless,  
Fr. Tancredo, Elena, and Kids!

## Women's Ministries

### **Anglican Church Women Luncheon**

The February luncheon will be at 11:45 on Monday, February 1, and will be hosted by St. Mary-Agnes' Guild. Katelyn Reiswig from the Creative Center will be the guest speaker, and their very special dance group will perform at the luncheon.

Everyone is invited to this event. Cost is \$10 per person. Tickets may be obtained from Wendy Johns, Maggie King or Betty Blackmon.

### **Anglican Church Women Board Meeting**

The ACW Board will meet at 1:00 on February 8, in the Guild Room. The meeting is open to all, and all board members are encouraged to attend.

### **Guild Meetings**

Women of the parish are invited to participate in one of the parish guilds, which meet monthly. The next meetings are as follows:

- *St. Mary Agnes' Guild* will meet Monday, February 15, at 10:00 AM, in the Guild Room. Questions about the guild may be addressed to guild leader Wendy Johns.

- *St. Anne's Guild* will meet Monday, February 15, at 11:45, in the Guild Room. Questions about the guild may be addressed to guild leaders or Maggie King.

### **Daughters of the Holy Cross**

The Daughters of the Holy Cross will have their next meeting at 10:00, Thursday, February 11.

The Daughters are women who have committed their lives to the work and service of the Lord Jesus through prayer, service, study and evangelism. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 in the Guild Room.

Any woman who is interested in joining this dedicated group is welcome at any meeting, where questions will be gladly answered. Questions can also be addressed to Betty Blackmon.



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## Wednesday Nights Out

*Wednesday Nights Out* continues throughout February (with the exception of Ash Wednesday, February 17). The weekly Wednesday evening schedule is as follows:

- 5:30 ☞ Informal Holy Communion in Rivera Hall
- 6:15 ☞ Family-style dining in Rivera Hall
- 7:00 ☞ Bible study for adults – *Knowing God*, led by Fr. Richard James
  - ☞ Bell choir rehearsal
  - ☞ Activities for children and youth
- 7:45 ☞ Choir rehearsal

Parishioners are invited to participate in any or all of the activities. The program is a great way to get to know other parishioners better, all the while having opportunities for both worship and study.

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## Shrove Tuesday and the Pancake Supper

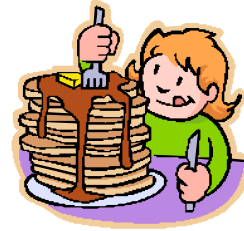
Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, and is thus linked to the practice of using up foods with oils and fats such as pancakes and sausages before beginning the traditional Lenten fast.

This using up of fats accounts for the day's other name – Fat Tuesday. Of course, sometimes more than just fatty foods are consumed, as witnessed by the wild celebrations held in many places.

While nothing wild will be going on, St. Paul's parishioners are invited to share good food and fellowship – and to support the youth group – by

coming to the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in Rivera Hall on Tuesday, February 16. Food will be served between 6:00 and 7:00.

Cost of the supper is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children aged six through twelve, and free for anyone else!



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## Singing in the Choir

by Churchill Cooke

Before I say anything else, I want all of you to know that we have a *wonderful* choir, and that is because each and every one of them works hard and gives his or her best. I am thankful for each and every one of them, and for what they are able to do.

At the same time, I also want to say that we could use a few more choir members. Since 2003, when I took over the choir, I have seen members come and go. Those who left usually really left, meaning they moved away. Fortunately, there was usually someone who decided to join the choir at about the same time, and this balanced things out.

Right now, we are in a situation where a few choir members have left, so we are waiting for some new members to join. So, with this in mind, I am actively seeking new members. Since I cannot draft someone into the choir, I have to rely on encouragement and exhortation, and on occasion, actual begging.

So, please consider joining the choir. Now, if you think that you can't sing, I'll let you in on a little secret. In my thirty-plus years as a choir director for five different churches, I have *never* asked someone to leave the choir because they "couldn't sing." Just try and break my record!

Remember the Bible says "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord," so anything better than "noise" is, to my ears, singing. If you can't read music you can sit next to someone who can and sing what they sing. I try to rehearse music months ahead of schedule so the choir has plenty of time to learn it. We also occasionally break into "sectionals" where the women and men rehearse separately. It helps everyone learn his or her part easier and better.

Therefore, right now is a great time to come and be a choir member. We rehearse from 7:45 until 9:00 PM on Wednesdays, and from 9:30 until 10:10 AM on Sundays. Please consider making a joyful noise with us. We sure would appreciate it.

## Friendship and Fellowship Group Super Bowl Party



Newcomers, long-time members, visitors and guests are all welcome at St. Paul's Super Bowl Party for adults.

This will be an informal time to relax and socialize with those you might otherwise see only at church. Some will watch the game, some the commercials, and some will play cards and talk. But everyone is welcome! It is a time to make new friends, as well as to renew friendships.

Bring an appetizer to share with others and your favorite beverage for yourself. Coffee and dessert will be provided.



Time: 3:00 PM  
Date: Sunday, February 7  
Place: Jack and Judy Ramirez's house  
2116 N. Ranch Street, Visalia  
RSVP – 732-4821

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## Valentine's Day Dinner

St. Paul's Community Service Committee will be having a special Valentine's Day Dinner on Sunday, February 14. The dinner will be at 6:00 in Rivera Hall. Everyone is invited.

Cost for the evening is \$20 per person, with all proceeds going to St. Paul's Community Service Fund, which is used to support organizations and ministries that help the poor and needy in the community.



## Remember the Food Barrel!

The food barrel stands at the front doors of the church every Sunday, waiting to be put to use by being filled with canned and other non-perishable food items. And, indeed, after services are over, there is always something in it. But there is usually room for more.

With this in mind, parishioners are encouraged to bring something to put in the barrel. One way of "not forgetting" is to buy a few extra items, and have them put into a separate bag (paper *or* plastic) at the store. And then leave that particular bag in your car. Voila! When you next get to church, you'll have the food to put in the barrel. How about it?

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## Visalia's Annual CROP Walk

It's no secret that there are many people in Tulare County and beyond who need help getting food for themselves and their families. With this in mind, St. Paul's Anglican Church is once again sponsoring the CROP Walk that is held in Visalia each year.

The walk will be on Saturday, March 13, beginning at 8:30 AM. The walk begins and ends at St. Paul's, and the clergy and parishioners from the parish have always helped with the event, both as organizers and as walkers. And, of course, the people of St. Paul's have been generous in their donations, too.

Those who intend to participate or help with registration or set-up can register at a kickoff meeting to be held in Rivera Hall at 4:00 PM, on Saturday, February 6. Pledge envelopes will be distributed at that time.

Anyone needing more information, or wanting to help with this important event is asked to contact Cathy Guadagni.

St. Paul's Church  
120 North Hall Street  
Visalia, California 93291

## **Return Service Requested**

The Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Paul's Parish in Visalia, California  
A California Non-profit Corporation, The Rev. Richard I. James, Rector and President

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### **Lenten Program at St. Paul's**

A special edition of *The Epistle* will be published soon with details about all of the special Lenten services and activities at St. Paul's. However, a brief listing of some of these Lenten programs is provided below.

#### ***Shrove Tuesday***

A pancake supper will be held in Rivera Hall from 6:00 to 7:00. Details are found in this edition of *The Epistle*.

#### ***Ash Wednesday***

Services with the Imposition of Ashes and the Celebration of Holy Communion will be held at 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM. Child care will be provided for the evening service.

#### ***Communion Instruction***

A Wednesday afternoon class will be held at 4:30 to instruct young children regarding the reception of Holy Communion.

#### ***Prayer Pals***

Parents who would like for their children to have a secret prayer pal during Lent will be able to register then in Rivera Hall.

#### ***Soup Suppers***

Soup suppers will be held in Rivera Hall at 6:15 each Wednesday evening. Different groups within the parish will be asked to assist in providing soup.

#### ***Adult Classes***

On Sunday mornings, Fr. Don Seeks will be leading a study of Galatians, while Fr. James will lead a Newcomers/Confirmation class. He will lead a Wednesday evening class as well.