



# The Epistle

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

January, 2012

## Looking Both Ways

The month of January derives its name from the Roman god Janus, who had two faces, each looking in a different direction. Janus was special to the Romans at times of transitions because he looked back and looked forward at the same time.

As Christians, Janus has no spiritual meaning to us; nonetheless, the concept of looking toward the past and toward the future at the same time does, because it can be very helpful. We gain perspective and insight from reviewing the past, and we open up ourselves to renewal and growth by considering the possibilities of the future.

It is with these things in mind that the Vestry has

embraced the idea of celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish's formal organization as a congregation. This celebration, which will be held Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5, will give us the opportunity to look back into the past, and to consider the possibilities of the future.

While our celebration has some conflicts with other community events, *I hope that members of St. Paul's will make a special effort to join with their fellow parishioners to participate*, both in the anniversary dinner on Saturday night, and in one of the worship services on Sunday morning. It will be an enjoyable and enriching time for all.

### 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Set for Saturday, February 4

St. Paul's Church was organized as a congregation on February 8, 1887. In celebration of all the ministry that has been a part of the life of the parish in the ensuing 125 years, there will be a special dinner on Saturday, February 4.

The festivities will be held at the Lamp Litter Inn, beginning at 6:00 with hors d'oeuvre and wine, and followed by dinner. Historical displays and special raffles will also be a part of the evening.

Guest speaker for the event will be local historian Terry Ommen, who will speak about St. Paul's history and the church's impact in the community.

Other guests will include Bishop Menees, Bishop Schofield, and other members of the clergy.

Cost is \$35 per person. Invitations have already been mailed to parishioners, so anyone who has not received one should contact the church office.

### Bishop Menees to Visit St. Paul's on Sunday, February 5

Bishop Eric Menees will be at St. Paul's on Sunday, February 5, as part of the parish's anniversary celebration. Parishioners will hear the new bishop speak about the opportunities that lie ahead for the people of St. Paul's as the parish enters a new era of ministry in the community.

**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 Very Reverend Richard James, Rector  
The Venerable Donald Seeks, Assisting  
Elaine McKinney, Parish Secretary  
Antoinette Horsting, Bookkeeper  
Melvin Morris, Sexton

**Members of the Vestry**

**2009-2012**

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

**2010-2013**

Larry Akey, Mark Cave,  
Sue Nyberg, Sue Piper,  
Ed Robinson

**Delegates to Diocesan Convention**

Kathy Bernardi, Betty Blackmon,  
Kim Robinson, Chet Smeds

**Alternates to Diocesan Convention**

Amy Gunn, Sue Piper,  
Nancy Salmon

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St. Paul's Anglican Church, Visalia, CA

**Sunday Brunch and Annual Meeting**

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's Anglican Church will be held in Rivera Hall at 12:15 PM, Sunday, January 29.

During the meeting, the budget for 2012 will be presented along with ministry reports, and elections will be held to select new Vestry members and Delegates to Diocesan Convention.

Prior to the meeting, beginning at 11:30 AM, a brunch will be served by the Sequoia Deanery Medical team members. Cost will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, with all proceeds being used for this summer's mission trip.

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**New Foyer Groups Being Formed**

About two years ago, St. Paul's began a "foyer group" program that allowed parishioners an opportunity of joining other parishioners for brunch or dinner on a monthly basis. Now, new groups are being formed to begin the parish's fourth round of gatherings.

An introductory dinner will be held on Saturday, February 11, for those who sign up. At the dinner the new groupings will be announced and the members of each group can then set the time and place for their first gathering.

Anyone with questions about this great opportunity for fellowship should contact Jim or Noreen Siebenaler, Merle or Judy Engleka, or Barbara Melton.

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**Lost and Found**

Anyone who has lost the following items may claim them in the parish office: light blue blanket with stripes; black girl's scarf with speckles; boy's black and red pull-over; girl's green hooded jacket (Roxy brand).

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## Anglican Church Women

### *St. Paul's Guilds*

St. Paul's has two guilds, both of which are open to all the 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.

For the month of January, the guilds will have a joint meeting on Monday, January 16, at 10:00 AM, in the Guild Room.

Questions about the guilds may be addressed to one of the guild leaders, as follows:

St. Mary-Agnes' Guild  
Wendy Johns  
St. Anne's Guild  
Maggie King

### *February Luncheon*

The next ACW luncheon will be held Monday, February 6, at 11:45 in Rivera Hall.

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## From the Parish Records

### *Deaths*

Marjorie Allen  
Alvern Condon  
Frenchie Stafford

## Grief Recovery Group

The next meeting of the Grief Recovery Group will be at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 17.

The group will gather at the home of Kashy Rowland-Smith, 2743 W. Harvard Avenue, Visalia. Those suffering from a loss are invited to attend.

For more information, interested persons should call Kashy Rowland-Smith or Betty Peters.

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## 2012 Pledge Drive

Throughout the month of November, stewardship and pledging information was presented to the parish, and Pledge Sunday was held November 20.

Wonderfully, parishioners responded with generosity, pledging \$370,000 for operating expenses, and another \$25,000 for legal expenses.

While actual expenses are expected to be higher than the pledged amounts, it is hoped that other giving will make up the difference, as it has in past years.

Anyone who has not made a pledge of support for 2012 may do so by contacting the church office at 732-4821.

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## News from the Diocese of San Joaquin



Printing and mailing costs have risen to the point that it is no longer possible for the diocese to publish a printed version of the diocesan newsletter. However, it is possible to get the monthly newsletter, along with other information about programs and events in the diocese, by logging on to the diocesan website at [www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net](http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net). The links to specific items are found at the bottom of the page.

## Thank You Notes

Dear St. Paul's family,

I would like to thank the church for the Altar flowers, phone calls and visits which meant so much to me. Your prayers have been a source of comfort and help. Thank you to the choir and the congregation for the prayers on my behalf.

God bless you all,  
Bill Johnson

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful prayers and telephone calls during my recent hip surgery. I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am for each of you. I have been blessed with a smooth recovery.

Love in Christ,  
Paula Linihan

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Dear Fr. James,

Thank you for bringing the St. Paul's carolers by Wednesday. What a joy to see their happy faces as they sang the Christmas songs. James was so pleased that you thought to include him in this wonderful ministry to "shut-ins." May God bless our church.

Dorothy Neeley

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Dear Parishioners:

We would like to thank all of you who sent cards and gave wonderful gifts of cookies, candies, fruit and other items for Christmas. The generosity of the parish is greatly appreciated.

The Rector and Staff

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A special thank you to everyone that either baked desserts, roasted turkey's, served or contributed financially to help make the Christmas Eve dinner at Town Meadows so special and successful. A special thank you to the Churchill Cooke trio for providing singing and music during dinner.

This is our third year of providing Christmas Eve dinner at Town Meadows and the joy it provides never ceases to amaze me. Thank you everyone, you're all so special.

God Bless You,  
Jack and Judy Ramirez

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## Sunday School Classes

Classes for children, youth and adults are held each Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:15. Beginning Sunday, January 15, the adult class will be studying the Gospel of Mark.

All are welcome, and *no Bible study experience or prior knowledge* is required!

## Wednesday Nights Out

The Wednesday Nights Out program has resumed with the following schedule:

- 5:30 ☞ Informal Holy Communion in Rivera Hall (Child care provided)
- 6:15 ☞ Family-style dining in Rivera Hall (No charge, but donations accepted)
- 7:00 ☞ Adult class (child care provided)
  - ☞ Bell choir rehearsal
  - ☞ Activities for children and youth
- 8:00 ☞ Choir rehearsal

The adult class is held at 7:00. Led by Fr. James, the current topic is "The Prodigal God" by Timothy Keller. Copies of the book are available at the class. All are welcome.

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