

Spiritsword

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church



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Healdsburg, California

Love in a Time of Lent

One of the longest-living of the Apostles was John, whom Christian tradition (if not biblical research) credits with writing the Gospel known by his name, three epistles, and even the book of Revelation. Unlike so many of his fellow disciples, John did not suffer a martyr's death, but did suffer something else--the occasional boredom of his listeners. Legend has it that towards the end of his exceptional life, he had little more to say to his congregation than, "Love one another, my children." As beautiful a sentiment as that might be, some people thought he said it a little too often. Perhaps he thought he *had* to. The simplicity of the message is deceptive and sounds so much easier than it actually is.

Mother Maria, a spiritual writer from the Eastern Christian tradition, has written: "However hard I try, I find it impossible to construct anything greater than the three words, 'Love one another' – only to the end, and without exceptions, and then all is justified and life is illuminated, whereas otherwise it is an abomination and a burden."

A story is told of the elderly preacher whose sermon on love and forgiveness sat uncomfortably with the congregation, and doubly so when he repeated it the next Sunday. On the third Sunday, when he gave it yet again word for word, the wardens, concerned that senility might have affected the old man, asked whether he realized that he had preached the same sermon three times in a row. "Yes," came the reply, "and I intend to keep on giving it until you take it seriously!"

We often take the season of Lent as a time of personal accomplishment, self-sacrifice, and individual growth. We forget that in order to renew our relationship with Christ through the ways we keep Lent, we need to renew our relationship with each other by asking and giving forgiveness--an act of mutual love that ought never to get boring or routine.

--Fr. Tyler Strand



Farewell to Flowers (until Easter)

These lovely arrangements graced the church for a wedding on Valentine's weekend. The groom, a member of a Vietnamese refugee family sponsored by St. Paul's, was 8 years old when he came to Healdsburg.

Vestry Highlights
of January 12, 2010

[Complete, prayer-to-prayer minutes can be found on the information table in the Parish Hall.]

- Rector's Report: Fr. Strand's written report submitted in January was mistakenly summarized in last issue's December 8th Vestry highlights. Did no one notice that a good attendance was reported for "the great holiday" more than two weeks before the 25th?
- The Senior Warden reported that the nomination committee has three confirmed Vestry candidates and will continue to talk to qualified parishioners.
- The Junior Warden reported that the microwave is broken. Bo Simons offered to donate one no longer needed by the library.
- The proposed 2010 Budget was presented and explained by Edith Wilson. After discussion it was revised, and the revised version was adopted.
- The Mission Bell Restoration Memorial Project has been fully funded, and work is commencing on the new bell support and rose trellis, with a target completion date of Easter.
- North County Community Services: In January NCCS gave financial housing assistance to three families and utility bill assistance to four families. There were 124 bednights in the Victory transitional units, 104 in the Holbrook unit, and 38 bednights (10 people) in the Spare Room. Eighty-eight people showered in the Spare Room. The new Victory Studios apartments should be fully occupied by the end of February. NCCS is helping people fill out applications for the new low-income units on W. Grant that will probably be ready in June.

"If I don't ask, 'Why me?' after my victories, I cannot ask, 'Why me?' after my setbacks and disasters."
--Arthur Ashe, tennis player

THANKS

TO

Glenn Stoneking-Jones, who has offered to apply his professional expertise as a landscape designer to the St. Paul's grounds. (He is also available for paying gigs; you can leave word for him in the office if you have need of his services.)

AND TO

New Vestry leaders Keith Fielder (Senior Warden), Kathryn Miller (Junior Warden), Persis McCarley (Treasurer), and Sally Nicholson (Clerk), who were commissioned in their ministries at the 9:30 service February 21st.

AND TO

The coordinators and chefs of the Pancake Supper: Dennis and Katie Murphy, Edith Wilson and Tony Fleming, and Fr. Tyler.



Big Need, Big Numbers

The Healdsburg Food Pantry provided food for 3,000 people in January 2010, the same number of people as a year before. November and December of 2009 were "definitely our biggest months," says Food Pantry director Robin Ridder, with 3,500 served each month. The numbers for all times of year are significantly up since the recession began. So we need to keep making those donations of food and money to keep the pantry shelves full! And many thanks to the volunteers who keep the food flying off those full shelves to those who need it. (Spiritsword will highlight Food Pantry volunteers from St. Paul's in the next issue.)

The Vanderhursts— Still Part of St. Paul's

“We want to feel as if we’ll always be part of the church,” said Esther Vanderhurst in the early 1970s, explaining why she and her husband, Harold, planned to leave their estate to St. Paul’s. “Chicken ranchers” and “simple country folks” is how Vi Santucci fondly describes them, although they lived in town. (Their home was on Johnson Street across from the old hospital.) Their nest egg came not from their hens, but from following a hot tip about PG&E stock.

Vi says the Vanderhursts were “a wonderful older couple,” hard-working, modest, and without pretense. Harold was quieter—shyer—than the community-minded Esther, but they were both faithful parishioners. They had no children, and they originally planned to leave half of their money to seniors and half to the church.

Esther was president of the Soroptimists when that group held big Sunday dinners, complete with entertainment and programs, for local seniors in our parish hall (before the front part was partitioned into small rooms and a hallway). But the city took over the program, buying the Tribune Building from owner/editor Arnold Santucci to use for a senior center, and the Vanderhursts changed their minds and designated everything for St. Paul’s.

Harold died first, and after Esther’s death in 1978, the estate was distributed to St. Paul’s. The terms of the trust did not dictate its uses, although the donors had been heard to say they especially wanted their money to benefit youth. Through the years, withdrawals have been made (and generally paid back) for remodeling (and un-remodeling) of the building that now bears their name, as well as for other projects.

Vi wishes that her old friends could be remembered as more than a name for the rectory, and she is searching (futilely, she fears) for a picture of them that could be rendered into a portrait to match the others near the fireplace. Even without a tangible reminder in our midst, however, it is fair to say that the Vanderhursts are definitely still a part of St. Paul’s.



St. Paul's Palm Sunday celebration will probably once again begin across the street at St. John's, but the details are not yet known. Here are some pictures from last year.



Window on Matheson

Our neighbors studying Romans in the parish hall early last month found themselves suddenly in the dark, just as our rectory was. Marian came up with a small flashlight from her purse. (She says she's practical and well prepared because she's a Virgo.) The leader of the group, shunning this sign stuff as well as purses, was not similarly equipped. Joe Mayo rectified that lack at the next Bible Study session by presenting him with a plastic, squeeze-it-to-use-it keychain flashlight that's so tacky we're surprised it doesn't stick to one's hand. We weren't perturbed by the power failure ourselves, being used to frequent such brown-outs, as we call them, in Manila during storms.

Shelley and Ginny told us how much they enjoyed a recent Lenten retreat at the Bishop's Ranch. We understand it was a quiet day, and we're betting that the Massachusetts gal who puts the "ahr" in "saw" might have had more trouble with that than her companion.

The church mouse is back! We thought Claire had dispatched it permanently-- maybe it stole one of our nine lives. It has the cheek to leave little droppings announcing its presence, like a note saying, "Returned for a visit to say hello," and a valentine for the rector. At least it seems to have abandoned its appetite for munching on candles.

We were sad not to be invited to eat with everybody on Shrove Tuesday. We hear the sausages were mighty tasty and that our guy flipped pancakes with aplomb (akin to a spatula). It may be harder to keep us away from such gatherings, now that we know that two overweight canines waddled into coffee hour on Valentine's Day and were fussed over inordinately.



We whiled away some of our wintry evenings watching the snow and ice antics of the Olympic athletes. We noticed there was no delegation from the Philippines, although there was excitement in the archipelago about U.S. short track speed skater JR Celski, who's of Filipino and Polish descent. Some countries borrowed athletes to carry their sporting colors. Our guy could have competed for Ireland, having dual citizenship with America and the Emerald Isle. Then again, since the Irish specialty in Vancouver was the skeleton, it might not have been a good match for his talents. He'll have to content himself with marching in the Paddy's Day Parade when he goes home to Chicago for a visit mid-March.

Ourselves, the closest we want to come to snow is the drifts of ivory-pink blossoms that build up along the curb on Matheson when the cherry trees bloom. And they can't bloom too soon!

'Til next time, here's looking at you! —Tigger and Roo



Celebrating a Calling



On February 3rd Fr. Maloney marked the 47th anniversary of his ordination by celebrating mass at the 10 o'clock service, an appropriate commemoration for a man who says, "The greatest part of being a priest is celebrating the Eucharist with the people of God." (And he's fond of preaching, too!) After the service, over coffee and cake, Fr. Maloney shared stories about his years of ministry and his life in retirement.

Raymond Burgess Maloney was raised in a Catholic family in Massachusetts. Inspired by his uncle, who was his godfather as well as a Dominican friar, he knew since boyhood that he wanted to enter the priesthood. He did so in 1963.

Maloney left the Catholic priesthood in 1981 and went to work as a counselor for children with special needs. In that endeavor he met Anna, a former nun who worked with schizophrenic children. He courted her for several years, finally asking if she'd consider becoming an Episcopalian so they could be married.

Ray and Anna joined the Episcopal Church in 1985, and he was received as a priest in 1992 by Bishop George Hunt of Rhode Island. He was assigned as curate to St. George's in Central Falls, Rhode Island, where the congregation was largely Hispanic. St. George's had two vestries—one for the worshippers

and the other for the owners/descendants of the founding business, who were lace makers. He recalls wryly that the two bodies didn't agree on much! After 2 years at St. George's he was "The Vicar of Alton" on the Rhode Island-Connecticut border for a few months. "I should have written a book," he says. He was still working part-time as a school psychologist, but he was beginning to realize that he much preferred ministering to education.

In 1999 he followed Bishop Hunt to Christ Church in Windsor, and in 2000, after 15 years of marriage that were "the best 15 years of my life," Anna died of cancer. In that same year Christ Church closed, and after a while the transplanted cleric was asked by Bishop Lamb to serve in Cloverdale. He retired in May 2008, leaving the Good Shepherd vicarage for a home in Windsor, where a 3-year-old cattle herding dog named Vanna Bella, rescued from a shelter, keeps him company.

Fr. Maloney has found many ways to be enjoyably and usefully occupied in retirement. He bowls with a friend from St. Paul's every Monday morning, and on Sundays he goes to Bishop's Ranch. He admits to doing "a lot of reading" and also says he's addicted to television, especially classic comedies and "Brit-coms." (He subscribed to Netflix so he could get episodes of "Ballykissangel," a series about an Anglican priest in a village in Ireland.) His net browsing leads him to www.episcopalcafe.com, which he recommends. And, of course, he often assists or officiates at the Wednesday service at St. Paul's and sometimes "supplies" us on a Sunday morning, allowing us also to celebrate his calling.



Adventures with the Bible in Brazil
by Frederick C. Glass--

A Find, a Review, a Donation



In the FFT Antique Store in Sebastopol I came across an interesting book, seemingly quite old, entitled *Adventures with the Bible in Brazil*. I brought it to church on a Sunday to show Church Librarian Alice, and the volume attracted a bit of attention and curiosity, especially as to when it was published, as it doesn't have a copyright date. *Adventures* was published by Pickering and Inglis of London, England.

Frederick Glass took his first trip to Brazil in 1892 to work in gold mining as an assay officer. In 1897, after escaping what could have been a deadly horseback riding accident on a narrow mountain path, our author began a search for "peace with God." He undertook to spread the Gospel and Bibles throughout the jungles, as well as in the prisons of Brazil. His book chronicles those missionary adventures.

I haven't yet read the entire book, but I did enjoy reading chapter III, "On the Upper Amazon," which

takes place on the Japura River leading to the Amazon. Glass had a box of Bibles to distribute in a small settlement along the way, but he could not arouse any attention. He finally drew people to him by playing records on a small wind-up gramophone, something wondrous and new to them. Augmenting the music with readings and a sermon, he inspired a couple of the listeners to become Christians, and one convert went on to build a school.

The book is illustrated with amazing photographs taken by the author on his journeys that are fun to peruse. I love the formal British prose, which fits the style of Glass's era. These "adventures" must have been nerve-wracking sometimes for a staid Britisher. I hope that when I reach the end of his book I'll learn that Glass did indeed find his "peace with God."

See this unusual book in our library, where it has found a home. Even if you just sample a chapter, they're short and fun to read!

--Shelley Bermudez, guest reviewer and book donor
(Thanks, Shelley!)

Annual Meeting

Parishioners gathered in the sanctuary Sunday Jan. 31 for Evening Prayer, followed by the Annual Meeting in the parish hall. Senior Warden Jan Herbert welcomed those present and spoke of the highlights of the past year. Junior Warden Keith Fielder reported on several major improvements that had been accomplished in 2009, and Treasurer Persis McCarley explained the 2010 budget adopted by the Vestry.

The qualified electors present cast ballots and elected the following Vestry members: Catherine Borchert (Class of 2011), Susan Schmid (Class of 2012), and Maggie Bates, Mary Ann Mayo, Greta Mesics, and Sally Nicholson (Class of 2013). They also elected the following delegates and alternates to the Diocesan convention: Persis McCarley, Keith Fielder, Sally Nicholson, Catherine Borchert, and Doug McCasland, and Dee Buechy, Wanda Moak, and Jane Smith Oriel.

After the business meeting we enjoyed a meal of tri-tip and mac and cheese provided by Denny and Katie Murphy plus salads and desserts brought by the Vestry.

[More pictures from the Annual Meeting are on pages 10-11.]

ERD's Continuing Haiti Earthquake Response

(Excerpted from the website; updated February 19, 2010)

In the wake of the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12, Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) has been working closely with local partners to assist those most impacted by this disaster. It is estimated that one in three Haitians were affected by the quake, roughly three million people. The most recent numbers from the Haitian government indicate that the death toll has reached 230,000 people, and that number continues to climb.

In the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, the largest Episcopal diocese in the world, ERD is offering technical support and funds to obtain critical supplies for those in need. In addition to supplying food and water, the agency has secured vehicles for delivering supplies, fuel for those vehicles, and camping supplies for shelter. The agency is also helping the diocese increase its human resources by hiring additional staff for logistical work, health service provision, and construction. These efforts are expanding the diocese's capacity to help the 25,000 survivors at over 60 mission sites in 8 localities.

Prior to the earthquake, ERD was partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti's Development Office. This diverse program included fostering a network of 28 community development workers trained in disaster management. Since the quake, these development agents have completed initial needs assessments in their own communities. The data provided by these agents is enabling the Diocese and ERD to work together, setting priorities for ongoing relief and recovery efforts.

Whenever possible, ERD purchases items locally. This practice supports local economic recovery, creates local employment, and ensures Haitian leadership in program design and management.

To assist those suffering in the wake of this disaster, please consider making an online donation to ERD's Haiti fund at www.er-d.org or calling 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. Please write "Haiti fund" in the memo of all checks.



From left to right: Kathryn, Maggie, Mary Ann, Keith, Wanda, Catherine, Susan, and Sally



March Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--|
| 5 | Alex Espinosa
Bob Hopkins |
| 8 | Christian Olsen |
| 16 | Claire Posson |
| 19 | Win Hall |
| 25 | Bill Cordtz |
| 26 | Daniel Ertel |



FYI: Congregations in the Kitchen

The churches that make up Healdsburg Shared Ministries operate the Food Pantry and distribute Christmas baskets, and responsibility for the Sunday free dinner rotates among them. The 12 congregations are: Seventh Day Adventist Church of Healdsburg, Bahai's of Healdsburg, Trinity Baptist Church, Calvary Chapel (at Rio Linda Academy), Healdsburg Community Church, LDS Healdsburg Stake, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, St. John's Español, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

[Note that St. Paul's is no longer scheduled to prepare the free dinner on Palm Sunday.]

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Sally Nicholson

Treasurer

Persis McCarley

Members

Maggie Bates

Catherine Borchert

Ginny Leary

Mary Ann Mayo

Greta Mesics

Dennis Murphy

Susan Schmid

Ellen Silge

Edith Wilson

Parish Calendar for March



The "Everys"

- Every Sunday** 7:30 am Eucharist (Rite I)
9:20 am Sunday School
9:30 am Eucharist (Rite I)
Food collection for Food Pantry
at both services
- Every Monday** 3:00 Bible Study
- Every Wed.** 10:00 am Eucharist
7:30 Choir rehearsal
- Every Thurs.** 7:00 Bible Study
- Every Saturday** 6:00 Misa (Eucharist in Spanish)
- Every 15th** *Spiritword* deadline

The "Specials"

- Every Friday** Stations of the Cross 6:00
- March 10** (Wed.) Sign-up deadline for ECW
lunch
- March 11** (Thurs.) ECW luncheon 12:30
- March 14** (Sun.) Daylight Savings Time starts
Vestry meeting 11:30 am
- March 16** (Tues.) NCCS Board 7:00
- March 28** Palm Sunday

Reconciliation
by Martin L. Smith, SSJE

This book on preparing for confession is my favorite, and one I always recommend for Lent. It is a classic and written in a clear and direct style. Fr. Smith helps us understand the reason and our need for this sacrament.

"Focusing solely on our own pain over wrongdoing, and the pain we feel in sympathy with those we have wounded, only deals with the outer edge.... The heart of the experience is that we sense the pain of God.... Our relationship to God is utterly different. God is affected immediately and intimately by what we do and what we are.... God is our very life, the creative, sustaining environment in which we live and move and have our being."

Fr. Smith tells us to "find an honest, kind and dedicated priest." We have one.

Other books for Lenten study are on the side table in the Library.
--Alice Cordtz



Alaric's Army Wants You!

The St. Paul's Relay for Life team is now recruiting team members. Together we can fight cancer by raising funds and awareness—and have a good time while doing so!

The culminating Relay event is a 24-hour walk on June 12-13th. (Alaric's Army has already earned 2 hours' "immunity" from nighttime walking because of contributions to the American Cancer Society we turned in last summer.)

Being on the team doesn't wholly depend on being able to walk in June. A new fund-raising wrinkle this year is a "Bark-a-Thon" scheduled for Saturday May 1. You can let your adorable canine companion appeal to contributors!

To sign up with Alaric's Army, contact Ellen Silge (431-0814; ellensilge@yahoo.com.)

Good for the Soul

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession) is highly appropriate during Lent. Fr. Strand is available for appointment, or he can suggest other clergy who might be of service.

Snapshots from the Annual Meeting



