

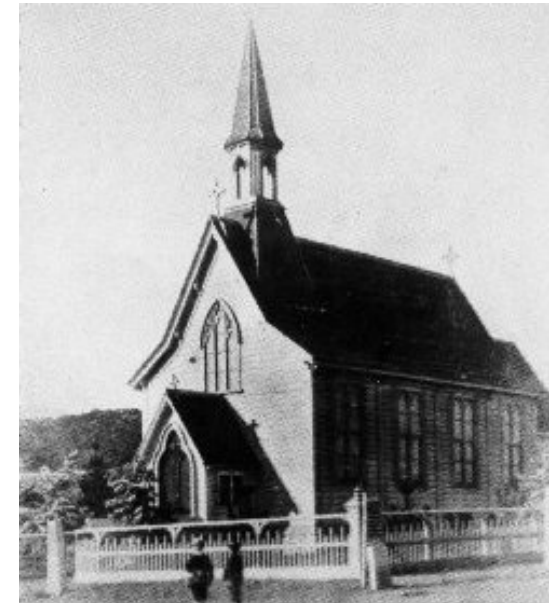


*A wedding, 2000*



*Church, Parish Hall and Rectory, 1958*

## HISTORY at St. Paul's



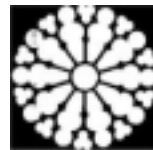
*The church at 4th and E, 1869*



*Looking toward the Rose Window,  
late afternoon*

### *The Mission Statement of St. Paul's Church*

*We are called to be a diverse and  
inclusive community of Christians  
in the Anglican tradition.  
We offer a compassionate haven for  
reconciliation, spiritual growth, and  
commitment to social justice.*



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

1123 Court Street  
San Rafael 94901  
415-456-4842  
info@stpaulssanrafael.org  
www.oldstpauls.org

*"This church is the result of earnest labor and  
faith. . . . A strong congregation has been gath-  
ered and there is no obstacle now in the way of  
future prosperity and increase."*

*-Bishop William I. Kip, 1869*

THE HISTORY TEAM OF ST.  
PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Why Be Concerned About History?

At its core, Christianity is largely about community—about people praying and



*Choir on the Air, 1948*

working together, about joint efforts at bringing about what God has called us to do. When people do things together, they inevitably share their stories with each other, both to celebrate what they have done and

to provide lessons for the future. The History Team's job is to listen to these quiet voices and carry on their story.

## What History?

St. Paul's is over 130 years old; there are a lot of people and many stories to hear.

- There's Ada Fairfax, whose efforts in the 1860's to get an Episcopal church built in San Rafael gave rise to what is now the second oldest church in Marin, and one of the most beautiful examples of Carpenter Gothic architecture anywhere.
- There's Herman Oelrichs, who needed money for a poker bet in 1895, and promised a vestryman that he'd give a stained glass window to the church if he would cover the bet. The bet was covered, Mr. Oelrichs lost the hand, and St. Paul's gained one of the most remarkable



*The Rose Window, 1895*

church windows in the West, the Apocalyptic Rose Window of 1895.

- There was the bride to be-- her name is now lost-- who is said to occasionally haunt the church, in return for having been stood up at the altar.
- There's R. H. Menzies, who fought for years to end pew rents, and was finally successful in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> Century in making St. Paul's a "free church."
- In later decades, there are the choir members broadcasting their voices and their faith to the Bay Area on KTIM in the late 1940s.
- There are the church members and clergy who worked with other churches to form new

Marin churches and ministries, most recently the well known Canal Ministry.

- There are the dozens of St. Paul's parishioners who arranged for housing for Vietnam refugees in the 1970s, and those who petitioned and spoke persuasively with other Marin churches before the City Council in a major, successful drive to save St. Vincent's Dining Hall in the mid-1990s.

## The History Team

The mission of St. Paul's History Team is to explore the fascinating history of the church, its parishioners, and its community. It is to rediscover those voices of the past and let them be heard again with all the vigor that formed St. Paul's as it exists today. It does this by reviewing archival documents and photographs, collecting oral histories, and discussing the bonds that tie the *then* to the *now*. Call the Parish Office for information on how to join this enduring adventure.



*Welcoming Sign, 1958  
"The Church is Open"*