

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
San Rafael, California

The Epistle

On the Web

July, 2001

Volume 22, Issue 7

The Rector's Corner Changes, Challenges, Risks and Growth Rev. Bruce R. Bramlett, Rector

It has been a full year since St. Paul's began its consultative process with the staff from Church Development Systems or Richard and Robert as we came quickly to know and love them. A number of St. Paul's people worked very hard over the past summer to develop a "Vision" for our congregation that would provide us with a road map for spiritual growth and a heightened sense of our mission and ministry. I am very grateful to all of them for all their work. In September, we hope to have some sort of great "party" to celebrate their work and to kick off the next phase of the process that began with them.

We should be proud of the accom-

plishments of the Vision Team and their work. We now have a clear and concise statement of who we are as a congregation and what we think we ought to be about in terms of the focus of our ministry efforts. We have received from Richard and Robert a great set of "tools" for taking that mission statement and implementing it in the many concrete ways by which we need to now begin to "live into" our vision. We have been provided an outline of those tasks that will allow us to accomplish our goals with some success and satisfaction and also to be faithful to each other in the process. We will begin asking how we can welcome new people into our midst more effectively, nurture and

integrate them into the life of St. Paul's more effectively, empower each to do the ministries which God is calling them to do while with us and to enable them to serve Christ and his church in the process. In short, we want to begin the long process of growing up into our Vision of ourselves as the Body of Christ in this place.

All of this is taking place at a very important transitional time for St. Paul's. As all of you are aware, through the hard work of our Assistant Lynn and her Family Ministries Team, we added our very successful third service, the "Wild Things Worship" at 9:00 am on Sundays. There have been a number of days this year

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Thoughts from the Rev: Alaska, Here We Come!	2
Tips on Using the Epistle on the Web's Navigation Aids	3
Mary Frances Schjonberg on Healing & Timothy McVeigh	4
Netweavers: The Women's Retreat	5
When Good Banners Go Bad: a New Banner Rule	7
Parish News	8



The Vision of St. Ezekiel

Growth, contd.

when attendance at that service approached the numbers at our “primary” service. This is a great sign of new life and health for us. We are also watching across the street as the “Rafael Center” project moves toward completion with its promise of 113 new apartments filling with potentially new members for St. Paul’s. We must begin to make plans to welcoming and nourishing a number of these new neighbors into the life of our parish. Many of these, I suspect, will be either single people or couples with no children. How will we minister to their needs and be a community that invites and welcomes them to become a part of our life and ministry? This is a very important question and we, quite frankly, don’t have a lot

of time to plan and get ready.

All in all, as we slow down for the summer months here and enjoy a more leisurely pace for our life together, the work that we need to be about remains before us. It is an exciting moment in our history as a congregation. While not without its anxieties, like all changes, these also are times for God’s Spirit to work within us as a congregation, revitalizing us, nourishing us and giving us the strength and courage to become more fully who and what we are as Christ’s Body in this City of San Rafael. I hope that each of us will catch a bit of that excitement and join in as we look forward toward the future into which God has called us. We are a great community of wonderful Christian

people. I have great confidence that we can do whatever we set our minds and hearts to do. Have a restful and relaxing summer and don’t forget, Please don’t take a vacation from worship. Our spiritual lives need a constant source of nourishment. Be with us this summer.

The Mission Statement of St. Paul’s Episcopal 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.

Thoughts from the Rev: Alaska, Here We Come Lynn Oldham Robinett

My thoughts this month are not going to be many. By the time you read this, the youth and I will be back from Alaska, but in actuality we are leaving tomorrow morning.

Being with the youth and working towards the goal of going to Fort Yukon has taught me so much about St. Paul’s and the generosity and love that are present here. When we set out to plan a mission trip, we didn’t know what form it would take, or if we could raise enough money. Planning the trip turned out to be easy

and fun, especially with the realization that we would get to experience parts of a place that most people only read about. Raising the money, while not simple, taught me much about the



Mt. McKinley

value the members of St. Paul’s place on the children and youth they see around them on Sundays. We set out to raise \$6,000 in 7 months, and we were able to do it. Each fundraiser we had was a

success due to the spirit of caring that the people of St. Paul’s carry around in their hearts. Every time I turned around it seemed as if someone different were asking how we were doing in our fundraising and then writing a check when I said we were getting close but still not there.

At our last fundraising event, the sit-down pasta dinner marvelously cooked by Father Bruce, over 60 people joined us for an evening of fabulous food, fun, and good company. It was a wonderful evening (although

(Continued on page 3)

Alaska, contd.

remind me next time not to do it seven months pregnant), and everyone agreed that we should do something similar more often. Even many of you who weren't able to join us sent in donations to help us out, so much so that just from that one event we raised nearly \$2,000. I personally am overwhelmed at the generosity that we experienced that night and in the past seven months. Thank you so much for supporting the youth in their desire to go up to

Alaska. Each one of them worked very hard to make the trip a reality, and unfortunately at the last minute Shoshannah Bramlett got mononucleosis and is unable to go. All of you can imagine her disappointment and ours. The trip won't be the same without her, and our prayers and thoughts are with her as she heals. Thank you again for aiding us in our desire to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PLEDGE THIS SUMMER

Our parish bills don't take a summer vacation!! Please keep your pledge up to date during summer.

Haven't made your pledge to St. Paul's yet? It's never too late! Download a pledge card from the church website or call the Parish Office today!

Tips On Using the Epistle's Navigation Aids

The Epistle on the Web is easier to navigate than a paperback book— if you use its *bookmarks, thumbnails* and *links*.

When you start the Epistle in your browser, a frame on the left side (called the Navigation Pane) shows all the article titles in this month's Epistle. Click the title to go straight to the article. You can get back to article listing at any time by clicking on the *Bookmarks* tab in the Navigation Pane. Click the *Thumbnails* tab in the Navigation Pane. Pictures of each of the pages of the *Epistle* appear. Double click the page to go directly to it.

Tired of looking at the navigation Pane? Clicking the Show/Hide Navigation Pane icon, shown here, will turn the Pane on and off.



Icon

The Table of Contents ("Inside This Issue") on page 1 of the *Epistle* is also *linked* to the article; just click on the title or page number to go to the article.

On articles that continue on later pages, the last column on a page contains the phrase "*Continued on page x.*" This phrase is itself a link; click on it, and you'll be carried to the next page. How do you know it's a link? Whenever your mouse cursor turns into a pointing finger when you pass over text or a picture, that area's a link.

Want to go back to the page where you clicked that "*Continued. . .*" message? Just click the title of the article.

And if you see a Web address, or a word underlined in blue, click on it, too— the click will send you on your way to the website.

The same principle applies to pictures. If you see a picture or a

piece of art you like as you browse through the Epistle and want to take a closer look, pass your mouse cursor over it. If it turns into a pointing hand, the picture is a link to a larger version of the artwork, and your click will take you there.

But, you say, these are all frills. The big problem with the Epistle on the Web is that it loads too slowly, right? Well, there's an easy fix for that, too. Save it and read it offline, then delete it when you're done. You save it by clicking on the Save icon, the one that looks like a floppy, and then selecting the file name you like and the folder you want to save it in. From that point on, when you click on the file, it will open itself in your Acrobat Reader in a flash, and you can read it at your speed, instead of the speed of your Internet connection.

On Timothy McVeigh and Healing

Mary Frances Schjonberg

We have killed Timothy McVeigh and let a lot of people watch.

We have heard a lot of words about what this means, both the killing and the unprecedented closed-circuit television feed to Oklahoma City. To me the most stunning summation came Monday night from one of McVeigh's lawyers. "We have made killing part of the healing process," he told reporters after the execution.

All during the coverage that day I heard victims and their families and the survivors saying that justice had been served. President George W. Bush declared the same. People spoke of closure and healing and moving on. It all sounded so therapeutic.

Ginny Moser's husband, Cal, was injured in the bombing. She helped pull some of the little children from the destruction of the day-care center. The two of them

watched the execution from Oklahoma City.

"There was no rejoicing for Cal or me, just a knowledge that justice was served, and the death sentence was just that, final! No more McVeigh to taunt us or haunt us every day as we read the paper or listen to the radio, or watch the television. This man was silenced," Moser told ABCNews.com Tuesday.

"I think that he did have a soul, and now it is in God's hands. "We left the viewing building . . . Cal and I drove downtown to the Memorial, as we had agreed to speak with some of the media that was there, but mainly to embrace those we know who

"[M]y role as a priest sometimes makes me feel like I am the one to ask the "Yeah, but . . ." questions. Yeah, but should the death of another human being become part of your healing ritual?"

chose not to attend the execution, but to go to the Memorial to seek comfort, strength, peace, hope and serenity. That is the Memorial, and it has comforted us many times. What was once a place of horror and destruction is now a place of peace. Tears flow there as does the reflecting pool, but souls embrace and catch the tears and they are turned into love."

I keep wondering about all those people who talked Monday about feeling better because they finally do not have Timothy McVeigh around any more. Are they really never going to be haunted by what happened that day in 1995? Is closure really that neat and tidy? What happens if two years or 10 years from now the pain is just as raw? Will the ritual killing of Timothy McVeigh have meant anything to

(Continued on page 5)

Get Ready For Our Wine Dinner Fundraiser

St. Paul's 2d Annual *Wine and the Spirit* Fundraiser will be held on October 22, 2001 at Il Davide Restaurant in San Rafael.

People are needed to assist with the event. Also, we are looking for items to be auctioned or raffled. (Last year, for example, we had a week in a beach-front condo in Kauai, a day of carpentry work, and a wine dinner for 8.) If you have a vacation home, gift, talent, or business

service that you or a friend could donate, please contact a committee member. A tax deductible receipt will be provided.

There are many tasks— some small, some large— that have to be done in order to make this fundraiser a success. If you are able to help out in any way, please contact Katie Taggart (456-3201), Candice Miller (456-1696), Nancy Dods (472-6619), or Linda Monte (485-6077).

New Parish Directory

If you have not yet picked up your 2001 Parish Directory, they are available at the church entrance door, Parish Hall Door, or by calling the Parish Office. When known, e-mail addresses and fax numbers are given in addition to traditional phone numbers. Since supplies are limited, please limit yourself to one copy.

Netweavers: The Women's Retreat

Medora Gordon

We gather together, we form one sacred circle. Come Spirit, Come Nurturer, be in our midst.

With that opening circle, twelve of the women of St. Paul's gathered together to spend a very special weekend at St. Dorothy's Rest for our first annual Women's Spirituality Retreat. Led by the Rev. Peggy Moore and Medora Gordon, we rested, and learned and sang, and laughed and prayed and told stories. Some wrote poetry and some drew pictures, we were seen and heard by one another. We worshipped in ways that have been lost to us all for centuries, and in the end we decided that we would meet again in the Fall and in the Spring and have another weekend retreat sometime in 2002. It is our hope that many more will join us and

McVeigh, contd.

that end of easing the survivors' suffering? I suppose I who have never experienced the violent death of anyone I love should be the last person to second-guess those people. Those people who said Monday that Timothy McVeigh didn't suffer enough. However, my role as a priest sometimes makes me feel like I am the one to ask the "Yeah, but . . ." questions. Yeah, but should the death of another human being become part of your

rediscover the joy of worshipping and learning together. If you are wondering about who went and how deeply we were all touched, just ask any of the following people about the retreat:

Deborah Smith
Francesca Stafford
Bobbie Hanley
Beverly Armstrong
Laurie Rosa
Laurie's Friend – Pat
Judy Martin
Susie Quenzer
Nancy Warfield
Diane Suffridge
Medora Gordon
Pegg Moore

One of the song prayers that we sang throughout our time together is used daily by many of us as a prayer for both others and ourselves:

healing ritual?

It is true that I do not know how I would feel if someone I loved was murdered in this way or in any of the myriad of other ways that one human being takes the life of another. I might want to dismember that person's killer in a very slow and methodical way. I might get some satisfaction out of it, some revenge.

My need for satisfaction is why we have a legal system and not vigilante justice. My emo-

*How could anyone ever
tell you
You are anything but
beautiful?
How could anyone ever
tell you
You are less than whole?
How could anyone fail to
notice
That your loving is a
miracle?
How deeply I'm connected
to your soul.*

Please join us at the next one-day retreat in the Fall. Stay Tuned for the Date and Place!

Memorial Service
for a dear friend

Francis Gould

Wednesday, September 12
6:30 p.m.

tions, my desires for retribution, cannot be the matrix used to determine the imposition of the death penalty. The state, supposedly neutral and without emotion, rules on that killer's fate. It ought to be freer from the rage and vindictiveness that victims rightly feel. We have imposed on the state, however, our need for grief counseling and vengeance and ritual shamanism. I don't think we can

(Continued on page 6)

McVeigh, contd.

allow ourselves the luxury of ambivalence about the death penalty by saying “Well, I don’t know what I would do if . . .”

We need to ask the “Yeah, but . . .” questions here and now. Yeah, but what does this act of ritual killing say about us? That the only way we know how to deal with violence is with more violence, sanitized and controlled as it may be? Yeah, but why can’t we find a better way to heal than thinking that the simple act of killing the killer will bring us peace?

Yeah, but what about Timothy McVeigh? I keep thinking of Timothy McVeigh at 7:14 a.m. on

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is an exercise in letting go. That is all it is. It lays aside every thought. One touch of Divine Love enables you to take all the pleasures of the world and throw them all in the wastebasket...Try to develop a mind that does not cling to anything.

— Fr. Thomas Keating

Please join us for Centering Prayer each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm before the 6:30 Eucharist. Both beginners and experienced participants are welcome. Instruction in Centering Prayer is available at 5:45 by prior arrangement for those with questions or who are new to contemplative prayer and meditation. Call Chris Olson (479-0409) for more information.

Monday morning. Did he finally know a forgiveness and a peace that passes all understanding? Does that knowledge absolve us or condemn us?

The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg, St. Paul’s Church’s former seminarian, is curate at Christ Church in Short Hills, Short Hills, NJ. Her perceptive monthly column on her faith journey has been distributed on the Internet- by good old fashioned e-mail- since her seminary days. Current sermons are available at www.christchurchshorthills.org Next month: Thoughts on the Slave Girl’s Castout Demon

July 8 is

R&R Day!

St. Paul's Vision process began with Team Meetings taught by Robert Norton and Richard Southern, our growth consultants. Now, a year later, the process is drawing to a close, and it's time for *everyone* to profit from their insight. On July 8, they'll be at St. Paul's one last time in the Parish Hall after the 9:00 and 10:30 services to discuss how you can know your spiritual "type," what types of ministries you might personally like to be involved with, and how we can remain a welcoming, nurturing and empowering parish— while having a pile of fun in the process. All are welcome; hey, bring a friend!

July Birthdays

- 7/2 Diana Lyon
- 7/5 Mary Schmidt
- 7/7 Jack Beggs
- 7/7 Martha McAuliffe
- 7/8 Gregory Martin
- 7/12 Stevey Leist
- 7/14 Della Holloway
- 7/19 Courtney Jensen
- 7/19 Bill O'Brien
- 7/21 Jacob Jensen
- 7/22 Charlie Babb
- 7/23 Tom Swidler
- 7/26 Kaitlin Allanson
- 7/27 Dwight Mitchell
- 7/31 David Bramlett

Being Good Stewards

Financial Statements

May

Pledge Income	\$12,078
Total Income	\$20,266
Expenses	\$23,054
Deficit	(\$2,788)

Year to Date (as of 5/31)

Pledge Income	\$72,467
Total Income	\$119,017
Expenses	\$136,891
Deficit	(\$17,874)

Your pledge is always needed and will make a difference.

When Good Banners Go Bad

St. Paul's was recently fined \$300 by the City of San Rafael for displaying an "illegal banner"—one for which no city permit had been obtained and which was displayed longer than 72 hours. Both the permit requirement, and the posting length restriction, are currently being strenuously enforced by the city. The threat of further fines has made the church discuss the issue with all users of our facilities, and to announce a new rule:

Do not put up a banner or sign *anywhere* at St. Paul's without Fr. Bramlett's direct approval. (This includes placement on fences, trees, or buildings!)

If you have questions, please speak with Fr. Bruce.

St. Paul's will be talking with other San Rafael churches in the hope of making an argument to the City Council for relaxation of the rule. If you have any information that might be helpful to the effort, please let the Parish Office know.

The St. Anne's Thursday Lunch Bunch

All women in the parish are welcome to have lunch in the Parish Hall on Thursdays at noon at the regular St. Anne's get-together. We are already talking about the holiday bazaar, so bring your lunch and come on down!!



Make Our Guests Welcome. Wanted!!

Alive and Smiling Greeters for Sunday Morning Services! (Yes, you.) It's a fun-filled way to meet people, and . . . Training will be provided (bring your own pitchforks)!!

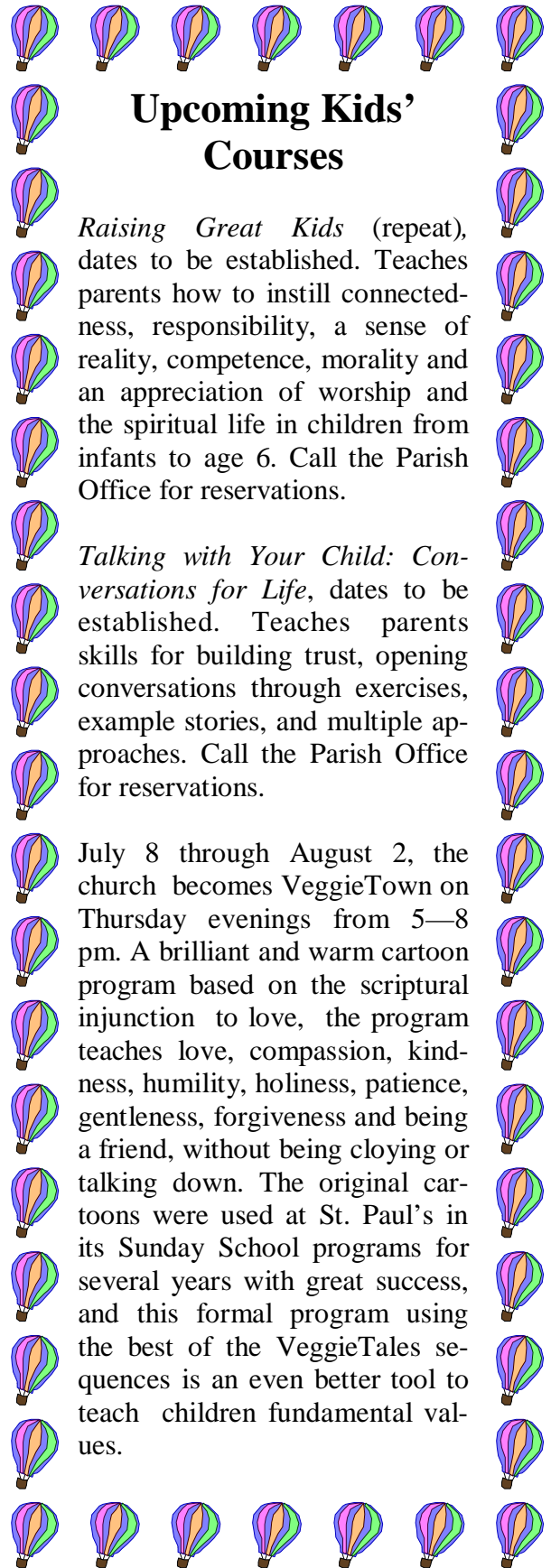
Please call the Welcoming Team's Laurie Rosa (454-3821) or Della Holloway (456-9670)

Upcoming Kids' Courses

Raising Great Kids (repeat), dates to be established. Teaches parents how to instill connectedness, responsibility, a sense of reality, competence, morality and an appreciation of worship and the spiritual life in children from infants to age 6. Call the Parish Office for reservations.

Talking with Your Child: Conversations for Life, dates to be established. Teaches parents skills for building trust, opening conversations through exercises, example stories, and multiple approaches. Call the Parish Office for reservations.

July 8 through August 2, the church becomes VeggieTown on Thursday evenings from 5—8 pm. A brilliant and warm cartoon program based on the scriptural injunction to love, the program teaches love, compassion, kindness, humility, holiness, patience, gentleness, forgiveness and being a friend, without being cloying or talking down. The original cartoons were used at St. Paul's in its Sunday School programs for several years with great success, and this formal program using the best of the VeggieTales sequences is an even better tool to teach children fundamental values.



Property Audit Report Completed

Richard Gordon's company recently completed a thorough property inspection audit and report on our facility. A big undertaking, it describes in detail the areas of the church that are in need of renewal, replacement, and upgrading if they are to continue to be a source of pride to St. Paul's. The report will be a valuable tool for the vestry for designing all future facilities projects and planning for parish financial needs. A copy of the report of the physical plan is available in the Parish Office for anyone to review. Thanks, Richard!!

Unknown Pix Attack History Team. Help!

If you are submitting photos and other memorabilia to the St. Paul's History Team, please be kind enough to identify the peo-

ple, date, event, etc. in the photos. Our memories aren't perfect and this will save time and be greatly appreciated!!! Thanks!!!

Parish Hall Project Nears Completion

Greg Alexander reported recently that the Parish Hall is nearly completed, with the remaining tasks consisting primarily of cosmetic work requiring about 80 hours of skilled labor. Unfortunately, this is a busy season for contractors, so it is difficult to line up skilled volunteers for workdays. Nonetheless, the intent is to have the work completed in time for dedication at our Homecoming service and celebration on September 16.

Music Survey Due

If you have not returned your music survey, please do it TO-

DAY!! Della Hollway will be reporting the results to the parish in the August Epistle

News From St. Anne's


BRING US YOUR USED BOOKS !!! It's almost time for the 2d Annual St. Anne's Used Book Sale. We need Fiction, Non-fiction, Mystery, children' books, etc. (No textbooks or magazines, please!!) Please leave books in the parish hall on Sunday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings.

BRING IN YOUR RUMMAGE!!! While you're going through things looking for those used books, don't forget about bringing in your good rummage for the St. Anne's Holiday Bazaar & Attic Sale which is held in mid-November. This is St. Anne's Guild's annual event which raises funds used for various Guild outreach projects.

For Those in Need	
July 1	Bottled Water
July 8	Baby Food (jars & cereal)
July 15	Deodorant
July 22	Canned Tuna
July 29	Canned Fruit & Vegetables

Please place items in the large wicker basket in the rear of the church for distribution by St. Paul's volunteers.

Clown Liturgy



Wally the Coach, a/k/a The Rev. C. H. "Skip" Fotch, mimes the story of Jesus and the Last Supper, while members of the congregation participate in unusual ways. Wally is a gentle naïve fool who delights in everything about the world and marvels at the small things in God's creation.

The Clown Liturgy, explaining the Eucharist and the Passion through mime, is an overpowering experience that allows all ages to see into the core of the Christian faith in a new way.

Sunday, July 29, at the 9:00 and 10:30 Services.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

On the Web



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Founded in 1868, St. Paul's parish worships weekly at the most beautiful and second oldest church in Marin County, a classic Gothic Revival structure built of 19th Century California Redwood. With a mission of providing a "compassionate haven for reconciliation, spiritual growth and commitment to social justice," it has been in the forefront of superb Anglican liturgy and music, healing and contemplative ministries, social action, and the building of Christian communities for decades.



Oh, no! I started a ministry. Now I'll have to do it forever.

Wrong again, Edvard.

A person's participation in a ministry should have a very definite beginning, middle and end, and those limits should be decided in advance. And whether you form your own ministry or join one that's been around for a long time, we know you'll need help. Helping people find and enjoy their ministries is the only ministry the Empowering Team has. So stop screaming and call Jay Luther at 456-6197 to start down the path of your very own Vision process.

Read our Ministry Faire brochure [here](#).