

THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA - A SACRED SPACE FOR YOUR BUSY LIFE

**FROM THE
RECTOR**



Dear Friends,

In the immortal words of the governess Maria,

'Let's start from the very beginning
A very good place to start
When you read you begin with A-B-C
When you sing you begin with Do Re Mi'

And when you read the Bible you begin with Genesis 1-2-3. So this January I want to start from the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, with each one of you. For four Wednesday evenings, starting on January 14th, I am going to teach a special 'Basic Bible' that will focus on these three chapters that form the foundation for everything we need to know about God and about us.

Genesis 1-3 is endlessly fascinating. It contains two accounts of the creation of the world, the story of Adam and Eve and the story of Cain and Abel. Each of these stories has provoked endless commentary and reflection. One can say, without exaggeration, that the rest of the Bible is a playing out of the basic themes we hear in these first few chapters. Once we learn more clearly who we are and who God is as it is portrayed in the beginning, much of what is going on throughout the rest of the scriptures and indeed in our own lives starts to come into sharp focus.

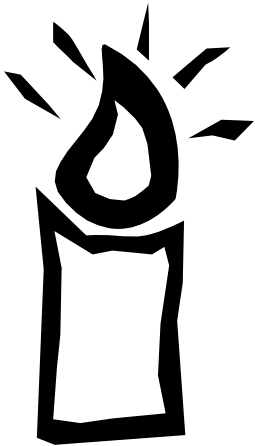
As always with Basic Bible, I'm going to begin with a basic introduction to scripture. I'll share with you a 'Bible Map' to help you get clear about what's in this great book and a few tools to help you get going with your own reading. Then, in weeks two three and four (January 21 and 28 and February 4) we will explore these chapters using the ancient art of Lectio Divina. This means we explore the text from three perspectives. We will start by exploring the literary meaning of the text. Then, through our imaginations, we discover what it might say to us about our life with Jesus. Finally, we ask what it means for our day to day life. As background text, we will use "How to Read the Old Testament" by Etienne Charpentier, which can easily be found on Amazon.com.

It is such a pleasure to explore scripture with my community here at St. Paul's. Every time we do this together, I feel the Spirit's presence drawing us deeper together into the mystery of God's life. I feel certain that these Wednesday evening Soup/Suppers, from 7pm to 8:30pm, will be a spiritual delight. Please join us.

Faithfully,

Christopher

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR



I am sitting at my desk looking out at the trees in the courtyard of the church. I would like to write that the branches are barren in this cold December day—it would be a nice, if overused metaphor for winter—and for the most part, it would be true. Most of the branches are playing by the rules—they've lost their leaves and now stretch up and around themselves mere sticks, behaving like good winter branches should. But there's a hefty number of them who apparently haven't gotten the word that its time to let it go, let the leaves meet their final end and move on. A good number of the leaves are in full rebellion, refusing even to change color.

I know what you're thinking, this is a newsletter article about how we in the church need to accept change, and let go of those things to which we cling. The whole "We've always done it this way before, why should we change?" line. And if that line tugs at your heart strings, then let it tug.

But, what I'm thinking about is art. I am thinking about form, and rebelling against form. I am thinking about discipline and rebellion. In my writing classes there is always the tension about what is the traditional form for, say, an essay or a letter, or a non-fiction narrative. Or even a paragraph or sentence. There are certain "rules" or expectations that come with each form. It is only after the writer has mastered the form, that the writer can know when she can break from it, expand it or contract it.

It is my experience that we in the discipleship groups are just starting to learn the rules of the game. We are learning some of the disciplines of following Jesus. We are learning to follow the discipline of prayer—encountering the holy one, or just the silence—as a daily part of our lives. And we are learning to be in community with each other on this journey.

These groups are truly a gift. And as we journey on together, our lives will become works of art.

Praise Be.

Julie

DISCIPLESHIP GATHERING

On Saturday, January 31st starting at 9am we will have a gathering for all of the over 40 people who have completed Basic Discipleship in Duncan Hall. We will be exchanging ideas and experiences between the three ongoing Discipleship Groups, encouraging others to join these small groups, and finding ways to invite others to join in this core way of following Jesus at St. Paul's.

Some of the ways we follow Jesus at St. Paul's are through worship, prayer and service. The Discipleship Groups are simply the place where we each work out what those three things - worship, prayer and service - mean in our lives. 'Discipleship' means following the 'disciplines' or practices of our Master. For us who follow Jesus at St. Paul's in this way, this probably means we worship for an hour a week, pray for 20 minutes a day, and give an hour a week in service. For each of us this is a struggle and so we look to the support of our own Discipleship Groups to help us grow into this rhythm of life.

ST. PAUL'S 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

February 1, 2009
11:00 am
Duncan Hall
Lunch included

Annual Meeting 101

On the first Sunday of February, after our 10am service, we will have our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is one of the most important gatherings of the year. It is an opportunity for the whole community to gather, share a great meal, vote on important issues, celebrate where we have been and look forward toward where we are going. In many important ways it sets the tone and the direction for the year to come. The booklet that we prepare for that meeting shares everything you need to know about how St. Paul's works, who we are, and how we make decisions together. If you are a member of St. Paul's or are curious about taking the next step in your relationship with our community, plan to be there on February 1st at 11am!

Report Inclusion in the Annual Meeting Packet

If you would like to have your report printed in the packet, please be sure to submit it to the office no later than January 6th. If your report is not available, it will not be included.

Running for Vestry

We are looking for four good-hearted people to serve on the Vestry starting February 2009. Explore how your gifts can enhance and make a difference. Share your thoughts and participate in a community of good-humored individuals who love their church. And if you decide to run, please provide a brief autobiography no later than January 6th.

St. Paul's Directories

If you have any changes to the Directory, please give them to the office by January 16th. The new Directories are available each year at the annual meeting. The printed directories have the names, addresses, one primary phone number and one primary email of all who pledge. The book is limited to those who pledge because of the way our database system works. We either need to print a book that includes absolutely everybody, including our friends in far off places, people who've since joined other churches and all the churches that receive our newsletter, or we must print a more limited list. If you'd like to be in the directory, all you need to do is fill out a card with a commitment for a few dollars, and we'll give you a pledge number and you'll be in the book.

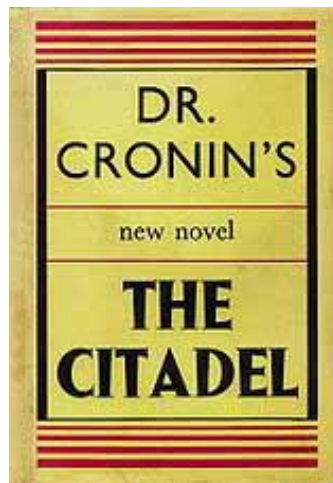
Not being in the directory doesn't mean you aren't loved or cared for, it simply means you haven't filled out a pledge card for a dollar or more. It means nothing more or less than that. If you would like to connect with anyone associated with St. Paul's who is not in the directory, please contact the office.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- 7 Alexis Lee
- 10 Dennis Puccinelli
- 12 Nancy Dods
- 12 Cathi Sullivan
- 13 Clare Army
- 15 Walter Dods
- 15 Hiroko Green
- 15 Dylan Rey
- 16 Yah Elizabeth Demann
- 18 Jeffrey Dunn
- 22 Victoria Vitas
- 23 William Stark
- 23 Claire Parkinson
- 24 Tori Truss
- 25 Zeina Asfour-Grifoni
- 25 Margaret Hanley
- 27 Jae Eitel
- 27 Dawn Rice
- 30 Harper Martin

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES!

What?
No one got married in January?



ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB

St. Paul's Book Club has changed its January meeting to Friday evening, January 16th, 2009 at 7 PM. Join us in in Duncan Hall.

The book we will be reading is "The Citadel" by A.J. Cronin. An oldie but goodie.

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES, COME ON!

How quickly a year goes by!
Did we miss your birthday or anniversary last year?
If so, we probably don't have it in our database!

All we need is the month and day -
you will never have to mention the year.
So if you would like honorable mention,
then please mention it to us...
Well... actually...mention it to Ana in the office.
She's in charge of the database.
Email her at ana@stpaulssanrafael.org
Or call her during business hours at
415.456.4842 ext. 1

Here's to sharing some cake!

RECTOR'S TIME AWAY

Christopher will be away from St. Paul's from December 29th to January 9th, missing only Sunday, January 4th. He'll be on retreat doing some writing. He will also be away from Monday, February 16th to Saturday, February 21st on vacation.

**PARISH PROFILE -
By MARION CEDARBLADE**



Don't be misled by the spelling of his name. Niels von Doepp is very much a Californian and an American citizen. Born in San Francisco, he spent the first ten years of his life there – as a member of St. James Episcopal Church. Then moved to Napa and St. Mary's parish where he served as an acolyte. The German ancestry is from his father who emigrated to the United States from Germany at the age of 12 and is now a practicing psychiatrist.

Niels, whose favorite hobby is skiing, went to college at the University of Colorado, which is definitely in good skiing country with its beautiful snow-covered mountains and slopes. And he also found the love of his life, Rachel, who he later married. With a degree in geology in hand and Rachel at his side, the two left for a year of bicycling through Europe. Two years later they spent two months in New Zealand. Both were great life changing experience, Niels said.

Meanwhile he was working as a geological engineer, and not finding it a career he wished to pursue. Four years later he moved into commercial real estate and found it a much happier choice. As a broker he is involved in buying, selling, and leasing commercial real estate. He does not deal with mortgages. He said he found his job fascinating particularly in viewing the multi-uses of individual buildings, such as commercial establishments on the first floor, offices above, and then apartments. Together they become a community.

Niels and Rachel have three children. Maxwell is eight, Aiden six, and Jade is three (see photo). Parish activities are children oriented – as is true of others with small children. Together the family enjoys Christmas caroling, wreath making and the ever-popular pageant. The von Doepp's have been members of the parish for four years and find it “a very special place – one where people care about each other.”

ST. ANNE'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



A tradition of several decades, these ladies know how to throw a party. Thank you St. Anne's for yet another wonderful Christmas lunch full of good cheer! The festive party-goers are (clockwise from left): Joan Adams, Linda Danford, Holly Pritchard, Judy Rowcliffe, Mary Schmidt, Wendy and Perry Olson, Nancy Dods, and Rev. Julie Anderson Love.

MERRIMENT, MEETINGS, AND MUSIC

Jan 4 - Epiphany Pageant, 10:00 am

Join us on Sunday, January 4, 2009 for the Epiphany Pageant.
Please note that there will not be a 9:00 service, nor Sunday School.

Jan 18 - Jazz Concert, 4:00 pm

Parishioner Erik von Buchau honors us with another performance.
If you missed the concert in the fall, here's a second chance to get in the groove!
Performance will be in the church at 4:00pm, so come early for a good seat.
The concert is free of charge, so bring a friend, or two.

Feb 1 - Annual Meeting, 11:00 am in Duncan Hall

Find out who has been doing what, where our funds go, and who is running for Vestry.
Come to the annual meeting, enjoy a provided lunch, and pick up your new Parish Directory.

Feb 1 - Sacred Music Concert, 4:00 pm

Please join us for the return of this vocal concert featuring Old & New Music from Around the World.
Concert is followed by refreshments in Duncan Hall. Suggested donation is \$10.

Feb 8 - San Francisco Boys Chorus, 10:00 am

A bay Area favorite, The San Francisco Boys Chorus will perform during the 10:00 am service.
Of special note, the chorus will be performing at the Presidential Inauguration on January 20th
with parishioner Eric Andersen in Washington D.C.
Congratulations SFBC!

PRAYER LIST

+In the Short Term Prayer List:

Dorothy Asay
Ken Asay
Suniti Batra Asay
Jackie Chew
Helen Colvette

Dylan Diliberto
Rick & Judy Felton
Chuck & Shay Hagerman
Muriel Hammond
Carol K.

Olivia Leitch
Irwin L.
Diane Luboff
Lisa & Greg Martin
Joni Peterson

Dee Rosier & Family
Gordon Swinney
Ginnette W.
Mandy Wick
Maureen Zeuss

+In the Long Term Prayer List:

Baby Lillian Grace
Ben
Bo
Chuck and Sharon
D. Family
Natalie

Maria C.
Mary Cialikians
Joseph Cook
Letty Dell'Era
Alex Elliot
Fr. Kimo

Corinna K.
Blaine Marshall
Emily Monforte & Family
Claudine Schiefblin
Howard Sherman
Eugin W. & Family

+ **For those who have died:** Mario Zabalaga

+ **For those serving in the military:** Jason Brooks, Gourley, Alex Rey and Troop 225, Aaron Sova, and our friend Brandon.

+ **We pray for the other Episcopal Churches in San Rafael:** Church of the Nativity and Church of the Redeemer.
We pray for the unity of the Anglican Church worldwide and the Episcopal Church in the United States.

WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S

SUNDAYS:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Family Service
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAYS:

9:00 am Morning Prayer
6:00 pm Centering Prayer
6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

THURSDAYS:

7:15 am Centering Prayer

HEALING PRAYER

Healing Prayer is available at the back of the church on the first and third Sundays of each month, during communion at the 10:00am service. It consists of the laying on of hands with prayers for you or for someone you love.

CENTERING PRAYER

Rediscover silent meditation in the Christian Tradition. Sessions are on the Second and Fourth Sunday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Upper Room. For more information, leave a message for Chris Olson at the Parish Office 415.456.4842.

Also note the regular service of Centering Prayer every Thursday morning at 7:15 am and Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

After Sunday Services, please join us in Duncan Hall for coffee and treats. Those whose last names begin with the following letters, please bring food on the respective Sunday:

First Sunday	A - G
Second Sunday	H - L
Third Sunday	M - R
Fourth Sunday	S - Z

A sign-up notebook will be on the coffee table each Sunday. Please help.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EPISTLE IS JANUARY 9TH.

Email your article to Ana Stark at
astark@stpaulssanrafael.org.

Articles need to be
received before the deadline.
Please reserve your space today!

Visit our website to enjoy
the photos in color!

www.stpaulssanrafael.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Phone: 415.456.4842

Fax: 415.456.1096

Email: info@stpaulssanrafael.org
www.StPaulsSanRafael.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Office is closed on Mondays.

RECTOR

The Reverend Christopher Martin

415.456.4842 ext. 3

415.454.1133 (H)

cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org

ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The Reverend Julie Anderson Love

jlove@stpaulssanrafael.org

If you need to reach her by phone,
please leave a message in Ana's
voicemail.

ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Jeremy Blodgett

415.499.0204 (H)

signsandwonders@juno.com

TREASURERS

Susie and Larry Quenzer

415.456.4842 ext. 4

415.457.3229 (H)

lsbqzr39@aol.com

ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

Michael Struck

415.892.9731 (H)

m_struck@comcast.net

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Ana Stark

415.456.4842 ext. 1

astark@stpaulssanrafael.org



Caroling at the Fifth Avenue Health Care Center

OUR COMMON OUTREACH - BY THE REV. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN

On November 12th the entire St. Paul's community was invited for an open consideration of outreach at St. Paul's. I facilitated the conversation. The twenty or so people that were there tried to capture what two or more people have done together from St. Paul's in 2008 to help those in need. I proposed that our common efforts might be seen in three areas:

Tend to At-risk Youth

- We serve breakfast three days a week at the Community School for probationary Youth. The program is known as the 'Teen Success Breakfast.'
- The program is funded with \$5000 from the Marin Community Foundation, \$1,100 from the Christmas Offering and out of the volunteer's pockets.
- At least 10 volunteers give 120-150 hours a month to make it happen.
- We buy Christmas gifts for the students who are teen parents and their babies through the Angel Tree.
- We occasionally sponsor and chaperone after school enrichment activities such as a trip to Alcatraz and going to the Nutcracker.

Feed the Hungry

- We gave \$500 to the Ritter Center, known as 'Marin's Safety Net.'
- We gave \$500 to the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen.
- There are 3 volunteers from St. Paul's who give about 30 hours a month in volunteer time to St. Vincent's.
- Every Sunday we gather a large basket, always filled to overflowing, for the Food bank at the Ritter Center.
- Every year the St. Anne's Guild adopts a family for Christmas.

Visit the Isolated

- Twice a month a team of up to 8 people from St. Paul's leads a half hour worship service at the 5th Avenue Health Care Center.
- Every year a group of 35-40 people go to the Health Care Center to sing carols and distribute handmade Christmas Cards.
- We give over \$500 to ICEP, an education effort in San Quentin Prison that successfully graduated its first person this year. (See the photo of him in the November Epistle!)
- We send gift baskets worth \$200 four times a year to our parishioner on Death Row, Joseph Cook, who uses some of it but also distributes the food to others in prison on Death Row.

Is this a perfect reflection of all that we do? By no means! There are many individuals doing things on their own. Also, we only captured what those of us who were there that evening knew about. Even those who were there did not all agree on these three categories. However, I know that we have great stories to tell of the good work we are doing yet so much of it is hidden or seems obscure. I also know that we are capable of so much more, particularly as we continue the inward work of prayer and outward work of service in our Basic Discipleship Groups. May the conversation continue at our Annual Meeting and beyond!



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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