

THE EPISTLE

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

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

One of the most intimidating words in the Christian life is 'tithing.' For many of us, it may come across as a churchy word that has something to do with money and something to do with God's judgment. I write to you this month, as our Stewardship Campaign approaches, to share my own reflections and experiences with this big word.

There is no question that 'tithing' is a profound challenge. The simple definition is to give away 10% of your pre-tax income. The average American gives between 1% and 2% of their income. So, for most, the call to give 10% would represent a very significant shift in lifestyle and priorities because to tithe would mean to be giving away money- and additional 8% to 9%- that would otherwise be used on things in our lives that have come to seem important, if not essential.

However, the word isn't simply church code for 'give more to our institution rather than some other non-profit.' It's a word that comes from the book that is at the center of our lives together, the Bible. The Bible is very concerned with how we order our lives and what we do with what God has given us. The Ten Commandments are the prime example. In our Godly Play classrooms these are known as the 'ten best ways.' They are the 'best ways' because even though some of them run against our instincts, God knows that they ultimately lead to our thriving.

The Biblical practice of tithing is something like a double edged sword. On one hand, the practice can seem very restrictive. 10% is an awful lot of our income, and if we were to look at our budgets, we will probably see that it would restrict some things to which we are accustomed and that give us pleasure. But tithing, like all God's commandments, promises a deeper freedom and leads to our thriving. How can this be?

I can only speak from my own, new experience. Chloe and I started out, many years ago, with what I've come to see is a pretty standard first pledge to the church- \$1200 which is, of course, \$100 a month. For many years our pledge, which grew slightly, lagged behind our growing commitment to Jesus and the church. Nine years ago, we finally found ourselves in a Christian community that was clear and courageous in challenging its members to give generously. Our financial commitment to the church began to grow significantly and in one year it more than doubled. Still we were short of the Biblical 10% goal.

Last year, for the first time, Chloe and I gave an honest 10% of our pre-tax income to the church. Although we'd been working towards this goal for a long time I was taken by surprise by the shift that happened in me. Over the last year since we've tithed, three of the most important relationships in my life have shifted for the better. The first is with money. Although Chloe and I have always had the good fortune of having financial resources, money was always a source of anxiety for me. In my teen years, my family struggled with debt. I was afraid to talk openly and confidently about money in my own life and our decisions about what we were called to do with that. This year, that fear has dissolved and I have nothing to explain for it other than our shift to tithing. Tithing took away my fear.

It has shifted my relationship to St. Paul's. I'm sure you know how deeply I have a desire that we thrive and grow. A constant sense of tension for me has been the classic discrepancy between my desire and contribution and that of the parish. I will admit that I would feel, from time to time, some resentment that Chloe and I were by far some of the generous givers to St. Paul's. Why weren't others stepping up? This resentment too has vanished. It is as though tithing has reframed my giving so that I feel just like, in the first instance, it is a gift we are giving to God and not for the 'success' of St. Paul's. I know that St. Paul's is ex-

Continued on page 2

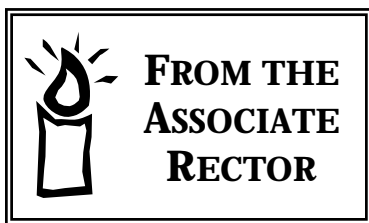
cellent stewards of the money given to the church, but that's not ultimately what will cause us to grow and thrive- the source of all life and growth is God alone. Tithing has helped me remember that.

Finally, I feel a shift in my relationship to God. I want to be very careful here. Jesus has very harsh words for religious leaders who are proud of their tithing. Tithing won't win us the kingdom of heaven any more than trying to be good will. Only God's grace saves us. However, I feel a new lightness and freedom in my relationship to God that wasn't there before. It is as though, by really putting our financial resources into proper perspective with the spiritual practice of tithing, I am free to focus even more of my attention on the one thing that will never leave me, God's love.

Our next step is to become even more transparent together about our money. When it comes to leadership in Stewardship, one of my teachers is the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, who is the Bishop on the Diocese of Olympia and a national leader in Stewardship. He wrote a letter to the whole Diocese sharing his finances and exactly how he and his wife tithed. When I've asked if we're ready for that here, I've gotten a clear, unambiguous and unanimous 'NO!' I understand and share the fear. But it makes me wonder. What, for God's sake, are we afraid of?

Peace,

Christopher



O.K., so I'm freaking out a little here. I was in Long's yesterday, and it was all about Halloween. I passed by a small, sweet older woman thoughtfully considering the candy isle, which went on for miles, and I thought: "What? Is September over already?" One whole isle was dedicated to black and orange in various manifestations of hoods and hats and Spider-man costumes. A little boy about seven years old walked by a big box of swords and nasty looking black pitch forks and long silver hatchets. He pulled one out, took it for a spin, slashing imaginary villains with all manner of self-righteous vigor. Then he stopped, considered his weapon of choice carefully, checking out the sharpness of the blade before returning it to it's box.

There is a street not far from where Greg and I live that transforms itself every Halloween. I visited it a few Halloweens ago, and it was amazing. The houses on either side, no doubt in an attempt to outdo the Joneses, were transformed into cemeteries, complete with scary music, mist coming up from the ground, a few gravestones and ghosts hanging in the trees. One grand house on a corner, put on a live production of the Pirates Caribbean, singing and dancing on the wide, wrap around porch. The yard had various interactive displays, from a fortune-teller, to a ghost who made it his business to chase after any unsuspecting toddler. They block the street off, now, so no cars can get through. It probably won't take long before the people of that block will start to charge admission.

What is that about? Why does it seem that people are getting more and more into Halloween? It just seems to my untrained eye that the energy around the whole Halloween thing is working into a fever. I have not consulted any psychiatrist or sage to figure it out, but I am wondering if the people we live amongst are just looking for a reason to party; to put on masks, to scare a little kid out of her wits, to eat candy until your sick. As if there's a need in their soul for some kind of ritual. As if they are on the hunt for a secular-sacred annual festival of sorts. As if they want to pour their hearts and energy into something that's bigger than themselves.

Hmmm. What does that sound like?

CHECK OUT THE VESTRY

We are looking for 4 good-hearted people to serve on the Vestry starting February 2009. We invite you to come to a Vestry meeting this fall to 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. Our next meetings are September 16th and October 21st.

TIPS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH CHILDREN

We believe children belong in worship. We try to design liturgy that fully integrates all participants in the worshipping life of our covenant community. Children present in worship help us to think more creatively and intentionally about our liturgy. Having to teach children why we do what we do in worship forces us to think about what we do and why we do it. Children inspire us to remain fresh, relevant and alive in our expressions of praise.

We sometimes think of children as having certain limits that prevent them from entering fully into a worship experience. For example: They have a short attention span. They do not have an appreciation of moral complexity. Their age shelters them from many of life's challenges.

But children also bring unique qualities to worship. Children tend to be authentic, or "real," not yet having learned to hide behind a public face. They demonstrate genuine enthusiasm and avoid self-censoring behavior that sometimes inhibits adults. They give and receive love freely.

We welcome children in our liturgy. Below is a list of things you can do to help children enter more fully into worship.

- Show genuine interest in our children. Learn their names. Talk to them and try to discover their interests, concerns, passions and gifts.
- Help children participate fully in worship by helping them to make enthusiastic responses to the liturgy. When the priest says, "The Lord be with you!" Teach your children to respond with great enthusiasm, "And also with you!" After the Eucharistic prayer, when the priest elevates the body and blood of Christ, the people respond with the great AMEN. Help your child to join you in an enthusiastic and joyous "AMEN!"
- During the liturgy help your child learn the different parts of the liturgy by calling attention to what is going on. When the scripture is read say, "Now it is time to listen to God's Word." During the Prayers of the People ask, "Who would you like to pray for this morning?"
- If a child doesn't have a good view of a liturgical action, a baptism for example, quietly move to another part of the nave where your child can see more clearly. Once again, explain what is going on.
- If you do not have a child with you in church but see that a family seems overwhelmed managing their children, offer a friendly nod or hand to help mother and father to make this a positive worship experience for their family. If you are the mother or father who needs help, please do not be offended when it is offered. We have all been there before.
- When it is time to receive the offering be sure everyone in the family has something to put in the offering plate or basket. Pass the plate or basket *to* children, not *past* children.
- Teach your children appropriate liturgical actions. Teach them to make the sign of the cross after prayer or in receiving a blessing in remembrance of their baptism. Help them to make a "cradle for Jesus" (overlapping hands, cupped) to receive the Body of Christ in Communion. Teach them how to receive the Cup, to assist in steadying the base of the cup and in guiding the cup to their lips. If receiving communion remind them to say, "Amen." If you need help understanding these things yourself, please ask a priest or one of our lay leaders, it is a privilege to help people learn.
- When it is time for the sermon, cuddle with your children. Make listening to the sermon a special family time together.
- After the service talk to your children about their experience. Ask, "Did Jesus speak to you in church today?" Or, refer to the gospel reading and ask, "I wonder what it felt like when Jesus. . . ?" 🌻





**PARISH PROFILE - WANDA RICE
BY MARION CEDARBLADE**

If you are planning a serious long-distance move – like New York or Paris say – taking the family, spouse and children, get in touch with Wanda Rice. She has been there, done that, ten times over. In the course of husband Bob’s active and busy career, they moved ten times. Four years here, two years there. He was an Engineer for Standard Oil of Ohio and Bechtel and moved at their request. Wanda says it was lovely to see the country and nice to live in Paris and in London for two years, but there was never enough time to establish lasting friendships. That she regrets.

Bob retired and they returned to Marin eight years ago after he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. He has since died. And Wanda took over the moving – among jobs. She worked in the Stock Market, earned a real estate license, went to work for a mortgage company and then became editor of a stock market magazine, a job she loved best of all.

Wanda has three daughters – Dawn a member of this parish, Leslie who lives in Texas and Stacy in Illinois. Wanda grew up in Missouri where she took part of her college education and then finished with a degree from Dominican in Marin County. She has attended many different churches as she moved around the country, but the one that always lingered in her mind was St. Thomas Episcopal Church in New York City. So when she came to Marin, she looked for an Episcopal church and found just what she was looking for at St. Paul’s.

And what does she do in retirement? She is a member of the Winifred baker Chorale and was present when they sang at Carnegie Hall. She is a volunteer at the Southern Novato Library – and at St. Paul’s she is clerk of the vestry, a member of the Basic Discipleship Group, goes to Centering Prayer, is active in St. Anne’s Guild and belongs to the Book Club and the Bible Study class. Thank you St. Thomas. If Wanda were the right age and gender, we would sign her up for your Boys Choir in gratitude!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 3 Alissa Pritchard
- 4 Jonathan Baxter
- 5 Barbara Alexander
- 8 Amelia Werstler
- 8 Joan Peterson
- 11 William York
- 12 Jimette Rosas
- 12 Lesley Purnal
- 14 Wanda Rice
- 14 Brian Hughes
- 14 Marianne Delaporte
- 16 Emilie Olson
- 21 Bobbe Rockoff
- 23 Bob DeMasi
- 25 Joe Allanson
- 25 Brian Andersen
- 26 Cassie Gortner
- 30 Sienna Kraft
- 31 Beverly Quenzer

**OCTOBER
ANNIVERSARIES!**

- 5 Cindy Grijalva & Sandra Stone
- 16 Jeff & Lynn Dunn
- 16 Heather & David Gortner
- 26 John & Holly Pritchard

ST. PAUL’S BOOK CLUB

St. Paul's Book Club will meet on October 19th at 7:00 pm in Duncan Hall. The book we will be discussing is Niagara River by Kay Ryan. Kay is the new U.S. Poet laureate. This will be a new challenge for us fiction readers. How do we read a poem?

All are welcome to join our book discussion.

- November: Rabbi Jesus by Bruce Chilton
- December: Saving Fish from Drowning by Amy Tan

Happy Reading!
Joy Moss

COME FOR THE SALES, COME FOR THE SINGING



St. Anne's Clothing Sale - October 11, 10am-3pm and October 12, 9am-12noon

Dress for success, or a party, or for kicking back! Basic Cotton to Haute Couture! Plus the ladies participated in a Canning B and their preserves and jams will also be available for purchase! This will be a fun shopping experience for all! Bring a friend! Dressing room provided.



WAVE - October 12 3:00 pm www.wavewomen.org

Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble - An ensemble of women promoting and performing music of the medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. Tickets are \$15 General Admission or \$5 Students and Seniors



Numina - November 1 7:30 pm www.numinacenter.org

The Numina Center for Spirituality and the Arts and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, San Rafael present a performance of Music from the Time of Saint Francis on November 1 (All Soul's Day). This event will celebrate the music that surrounded him - songs and dances of 12th century France, Italy, and Spain. A candlelit labyrinth walk will follow the concert. Tickets are \$20 at the door.



St. Anne's Harvest Bazaar - November 8, 10am-3pm and November 9, 9am-1pm

Do not miss this event! Bring a friend to church with you to experience our Sacred Space and offer them a unique shopping experience! Shop our Holiday Selection of goodies and find treasures from attics across the county. We are still taking donations until the end of October. What's in your attic? And don't forget all the canned and baked goods for sale from our Harvest Cupboard. Lunch will be served - be sure to come hungry.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS

Calling all Knitters: St. Anne's has an over abundance of yarn just waiting for your nimble fingers to turn into works of art to be sold at the annual bazaar in November. You will be provided with yarn, needles, patterns and expert advice. You may contact Sue Adamson (461-1798), Nancy Dods (472-6619) or Wanda Rice (883-9461) if you can help.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES NEWS

Hurray! The Marin Community Foundation has for the third continuous year, approved our Teen Success Breakfast grant. The County Community School began session last Wednesday, August 27th and the number of students attending the breakfast have ranged from 17 to 23 kids. Servers are pleased with the experience thus far. New volunteers are always welcome to join us.

The Social Ministries commission in July approved two disbursements in response to hunger needs. The first was to FINCA, an international microloan organization to benefit Haiti, with matching funds provided by an anonymous donor. The second disbursement was made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for their Healthy Kitchens Program.

SING, PRAY, EAT, BREATHE
FINDING OUR VOICES, PRAYING THE PSALMS
WOMEN'S RETREAT

If you are reading this and are a woman here at St. Paul's, this message is for you. The women of St. Paul's are hereby cordially invited to gather together at Marconi Conference Center to have a wonderful weekend together of contemplating the Psalms, writing a few of our own, and relaxing together, far away from the usual stresses of home and work. The fantastic and very funny Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore, a pastor and a poet, will lead our time together. An hour and a half north, the setting could not be more beautiful. The food has a fantastic reputation.

Good food, good company, time, time, time. What more could you want?

We're trying to get a handle on how many of you will join us, so please sign up if you can. The cost should be about \$ 160.00 or less, for sharing a room. If you want a single room, the cost is closer to \$ 500.00 for the weekend. Please don't let lack of funds keep you away as we have scholarship funds available. Note: there are handicapped rooms available.

Please note: Women who are nursing, feel free to come and bring your sweet little one. There will be no lack of laps to hold her or him, and you might be able to sneak away for a much needed nap!

PRAYER LIST

+In the Short Term Prayer List:

A Friend	Rick & Judy Felton	Tracy Peterson
Mary Jane	Muriel Hammond	Katrena Rey
Mike's Mom	Fred Hastings	Sharon Riggan
Renee	Ethelle Haus	Willy Riggan
Marion D.	Alisa Lafferty	Josie Saber
Dylan Diliberto	Vicky and Peter Martin	Christine Spaulding & Family
Robert & Dorothy Essen	Joni Peterson	The Stark Family

+In the Long Term Prayer List:

Baby Lillian Grace	Mary Cialikians	The McGeehan Family
Ben	Joseph Cook	Emily Monforte & Family
Chuck and Sharon	Letty Dell'Era	Jocelyn O.
D. Family	Alex Elliot	Sandy Olenik
Melissa	Fr. Kimo	Matt Peterson
N.	Corinna K.	Marianne S.
Natalie	Vera Levitan	Beverly Sherman
Cheryl August	Blaine Marshall	Eugin W. & Family
Maria C.		

+ For those who have died: Winnie Schaver, Marie Stark

+ For those serving in the military: Jason Brooks, Ryan Richard Gourley, Alex Rey, 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.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER EPISTLE IS OCTOBER 9TH.

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

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

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.



Visit our website to enjoy
the photos in color!

www.stpaulssanrafael.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
The Office is closed on Mondays.

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The Reverend Julie Anderson Love
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please leave a message in Ana's
voicemail.

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Marin Community Food Bank

75 Digital Drive
Novato, CA 94949
415-883-1302

The Food Bank provides 2,000 complete food orders to the seven pantries every month. Each order contains enough related food for the client family to prepare three meals per day for three days.

The Food Bank provides food to the following pantries:

- Canal Alliance
- Community Resource Center of West Marin
- Novato Human Needs Center
- Ritter Center
- San Geronimo Valley Community Center
- Southern Marin /St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
- The Salvation Army

**Visit their website for learn
about their programs and
volunteer opportunities**



Support the Food Bank by visiting their store:
1701 Fourth Street, San Rafael



www.marinfoodbank.org



**ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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