

# The Epistle

March 2016

*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection!*

*Philippians 3:10*

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As we enter into these final days of Lent, we look forward to the most Holy of Weeks. We watch and pray our way through the final hours of Jesus' life, all the while longing to share in his glorious resurrection. It's tempting to jump to Easter, that day when death is vanquished and the power of evil is destroyed. But the Church compels us to journey through these final days, soaking in the stories that lead to Easter's triumph.

Paul, writing to the early communities of faith, expressed the longing of his heart to experience Easter when he said, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection." Paul had discovered that the Easter event was not an end to human suffering or evil in the world. Rather Easter was God's exclamation point that the heart that leans in toward God can be healed. Earlier stories of Paul (known then as Saul) tell us that he sought to destroy the Jesus movement and carried papers that would have led to

the arrest and likely death of the apostles. While on the way to secure their arrest, he encountered the risen Christ near Damascus (Acts 9). It was an event that changed his life from the inside out. His life was never the same and he soon became the most profound advocate for the very movement he was trying to destroy. Changed hearts become the most powerful witness to the good news of Easter.

Easter tells us that God is more powerful than anything that would seek to destroy our life or rob us of joy. The spiritual journey of Lent invites us to name those things and place them in the palm of God's hand that the Holy Spirit might begin a process of re-creation within us. Lent is a time to practice putting a new vision of our lives into practice – one day at a time. If you struggle to be generous, practice one act of mercy each day. If you find it difficult to forgive, ask

God to bless someone in the news whom the world thinks beyond redemption. If you catch yourself being wasteful, take some time to tend to God's creation.

Join us as we finish this season of Lent and move into this most Holy of Weeks to come:

**Stations of the Cross:**

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Palm Sunday:** Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 8am and 10am

**Tenebrae:** Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm

**Maundy Thursday:** Soup Supper at 6pm; Maundy Thursday Liturgy at 7pm

**Good Friday:** March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:10pm and 7pm

**Holy Saturday:** March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am

**The Great Vigil of Easter:** March 26<sup>th</sup> Potluck Dinner at 6pm; Vigil at 8pm Bring a bell!

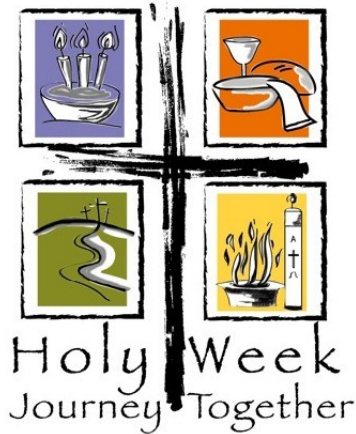
**Easter Sunday:** March 27<sup>th</sup> at 8am and 10am

Blessings,

*Lynell*

The Rev. Canon Lynell Walker  
Priest-in-Charge

## WE WELCOME YOU TO ST. PAUL'S AS YOU TRAVEL THIS HOLY WEEK



**Sunday, March 20:** Palm Sunday at 8am and 10am

**Tuesday, March 22:** Service of Tenebrae at 7:00pm

**Thursday, March 24:** Soup Supper at 6pm.

Maundy Thursday liturgy begins at 7pm.

**Friday, March 25:** Good Friday Services at 12:10pm and 7pm

**Saturday, March 26:** Holy Saturday Liturgy at 10am

**Saturday, March 26:** The Great Vigil of Easter:

Potluck Dinner at 6pm and Liturgy at 8pm.

**Sunday, March 27:** Easter Sunday Services – 8am and 10am

## SPRING SPRUCE UP AT ST. PAUL'S



We will be chasing out the Winter Blahs and sprucing up St. Paul's for a glorious Spring with a good clean up on **Saturday, April 2 beginning at 8:00 am**. Wear your dungarees, bring your rubber gloves and join in the fun. Coffee, goodies and fellowship to the crowd of workers will make for light work for all so don't miss out!

## THE BIBLE CHALLENGE 2016: LUKE AND ACTS by Rev. Anne McKeever

It's never too late to join St. Paul's acceptance of Bishop Beisner's Bible Challenge for 2016 to read the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts between February 2016 and March 2017.

Please find free resources on the back table that include binders of Luke and Acts printed side-by-side in the NRSV translation we use in church and The Message paraphrase version. These binders include the schedule of when to read each chapter—just one a week.

Our St. Paul's Bible Challenge Group meets the second Sunday of each month from noon to 1 pm in the church. Please bring your binder or your own Bible for a discussion of the most recently read chapters.

We will meet March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11 in 2016, and January 8, February 12, and

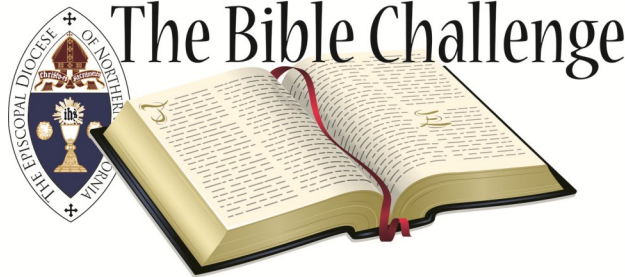
March 12 in 2017.

For more information about the Bible Challenge, visit the Diocesan website:

[www.norcalepiscopal.org/thebiblechallenge](http://www.norcalepiscopal.org/thebiblechallenge)

We are grateful to local clergy for their generous Bible Challenge offerings:

Father Peter Rodgers, vicar of St. Andrew's in Antelope and the Supervising Pastor of the Center for Bible Study, is offering reflections on each chapter. You may find these on



the Diocesan website above. Printed copies will be available each week on the back table.

Our own Associate priest, Father Michael Backlund, is offering for each chapter provocative questions to discuss,

ponder, and pray about through the week. These will be available on the same back table each week.

Recommended Resource: I highly recommend the book **A Journey With Luke** edited by the Rev. Marek P. Zabrieski, founder of the Bible Challenge. Each short chapter includes one chapter of Luke, a reflection, a few questions to consider and a prayer. This book also provides advice on ways to read the Bible and an introduction to the Gospel of Luke.

It's published by Forward Movement and available through its website: [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org) and via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

For more information, please contact Rev. Anne at [amckeever@wavecable.com](mailto:amckeever@wavecable.com).

### SPECIAL THANKS - BIBLE CHALLENGE

Special Thanks to Rev. Anne McKeever and Rev. Michael Backlund for coordinating this year's Bible Challenge for St. Paul's. If you have not received the study questions for reading the Gospel of Luke, please email Canon Walker at [lwalker259@aol.com](mailto:lwalker259@aol.com) and I will send you a copy of the ones you are missing. There are also copies available on the back table of the Church.

**St Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
 January through February 2016

	<u>Jan - Feb 16</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Operating Income (Budgeted)	17,958.65	14,678.00
Uncategorized Income	0.00	3,532.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>17,958.65</u>	<u>18,210.00</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	17,958.65	18,210.00
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>		
Administrative Overhead	612.51	768.00
Building Overhead	3,788.48	4,817.00
Loans & Apportionment	1,758.00	1,666.00
Programs	764.50	836.00
Outreach	713.53	500.00
Payroll & Benefits	8,834.99	10,111.00
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<u>16,472.01</u>	<u>18,698.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>16,472.01</u>	<u>18,698.00</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	1,486.64	-488.00
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
Other Income	836.04	
Other Expense	7,016.20	
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>-6,180.16</u>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-4,693.52</u></u>	<u><u>-488.00</u></u>

## BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew held its monthly meeting the last Sunday of February. The men's ministry group is currently reading and discussing this year's Lenten Study Book, *Letting Go with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. The Brotherhood's next scheduled meeting will be the Sunday after Easter, April 3rd at 11:30am. All men of the parish are welcome to become members. Questions? Contact Phelps Hobart, 916-739-6949, email [phth@cwo.com](mailto:phth@cwo.com) or Fr. Eric, 916-849-6272, email [fre-ric33@yahoo.com](mailto:fre-ric33@yahoo.com).

## BAPTISM? CONFIRMATION? RECEPTION? REAFFIRMATION?



Do you seek baptism? Confirmation? Reception into the Episcopal Church? Or, would you like to take an intentional look at what you promised when you were baptized, with an eye to reaffirming those promises? After Easter we will be starting a study group to explore this together. If you would like to join us talk with Loreen Kleinschmidt, or leave a message on the church phone or website.



## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

### ST. PAUL'S MARY MAGDALENE CHAPTER OF DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

INVITES ALL TO ENJOY

### ***GROUND***: FINDING GOD IN THE WORLD, A SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION

BY DIANA BUTLER BASS

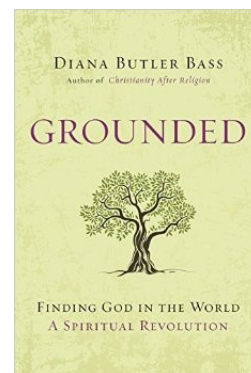
Where is God? Have you ever pondered that question? How can we have a closer relationship with God in the here and now?

Diana Butler Bass, author, professor, scholar and speaker, helps us to answer these questions and more in her latest of nine books, *Grounded: Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution*.

In the words of Glennon Doyle Melton, author of *Carry On Warrior*: "I have forever been grateful for Diana Butler Bass's razor-sharp mind, but upon finishing *Grounded*, I found myself in love with her mystical heart and gorgeous storytelling. We need to believe that God is here, with us, in dirt and water and our suffering and homes and neighborhoods. God is definitely in this book."

Our Book Group will meet every Thursday from 3 to 4 pm in the church to discuss *Grounded*. Please join us!

For more information, please contact the Rev. Anne Dryden McKeever at [amckeeper@wavecable.com](mailto:amckeeper@wavecable.com) or ask her in church.





As we start the Easter season for 2016, I sincerely hope that your Lenten journey this year has been a period of repentance and renewal. I have found in my own life that Lent is not necessarily a time of only negatives; on the contrary, it can also call for something positive and lasting in our lives. For example, the Lenten season can cultivate a deeper faith in God, turn a hardened heart to acts of charity, and encourage a deeper, loving relationship with the Lord. It can also point us toward joining in more activities of Parish life. For my own journey I made a list of things I would like to change. On my change list I wrote: living without fear and focusing on the Love of God instead. Another one was overcoming self-criticism and believing in a God who loves me and accepts me as I am. In fact, in Stephen Ministry training this week, we were reminded that the first disciples of Christ were simply told "follow me" and Jesus wasn't asking for anything else. He wasn't demanding us to change first, (like being better, smarter, and holier, etc.). We only need to be ourselves right now, right this minute. We don't have to pre-qualify ourselves or meet any expectations. In John 12:26, Jesus tells us: "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be." The wonderful thing is—there is always time to do this—to make those positive changes in our lives to follow Him and also bring our time, talent, and commitment to the Lord, whatever season we are currently in.

My own journey of instruction with Stephen Ministry is also quickly coming to a close, which started last September 2015 and will consummate in May 2016, when I am commissioned as a Stephen Minister, along with my assigned group of associates who have also shared in this wonderful journey with me. It is a daunting task, studying such subjects as grief, depression, suicide, aging and death and dying. In addition, topics we will study in April include hospitalization, long-term care and divorce. These are all scary subjects and as a Stephen Minister, I will be caring for people in crisis situations—that include these subjects and many others. I have heard the phrase that "Aging is not for the faint hearted." I would also like to add: No matter how messy life can get, God never stops loving us. Simply put: God IS Love. If I have learned anything in life so far, it is this: We are not alone. No matter where we are in life, in every circumstance, God is present: he never leaves us.

In closing, I want to share a reading (and a wonderful reflection) from my Stephen Ministry Training Manual. In Volume 2, Page 470 it reads: "As you regularly read the Gospels and other parts of the Old and New Testaments, ask yourself the questions that follow: What is God: giving you? Requiring of you? Asking of you? Promising you? Empowering you to do? This instruction also consists of locating personal and meaningful scripture passages and meditating on them. The third thing on my change list? It was to "never stop being your own beautiful self." Please put this on your list too. This is what God wants us to do.

## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING SPRING ASSEMBLY

**Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9:30 am to 3 pm**

**St. Michael's Church, 2140 Mission Avenue, Sacramento**



Our St. Paul's Mary Magdalene Chapter of Daughters of the King invites all women to attend our Spring Assembly on April 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's Church. The theme of the day will be discerning where and how to share our spiritual energy, preventing burn-out. We will begin with a continental breakfast, followed by Eucharist, with Rev. Anne Dryden McKeever preaching. Suggested donation for lunch is \$5. If you need a ride or would like to be our guest for

lunch, please contact Sally Smith at [sally0236@comcast.net](mailto:sally0236@comcast.net)

Our diocese offers a steady stream of informative workshops and conferences for clergy and laity. In early February two sessions were held at St. John's Episcopal Church Roseville and St. Paul's had representatives in attendance.

Friday, February 5th a congregational leadership workshop focused on "Sources of Transformation in Community." About twenty from Episcopal churches near Roseville attended including three St. Paul's members: Rev. Anne Slakey, Loreen Kleinschmidt, and Phelps Hobart. Discussion centered around a white board diagram containing four interconnected circles – in the center circle was prayer and worship, the outlining circles were labeled:

- ◇ Study and learning
- ◇ Action – work and service
- ◇ Life in Community

Attendees broke into small groups at the room's tables to discuss each element then reconvene to present insights as a whole. Intended to reflect and strategize together about faith formation in our congregations, all came away with a shared experience. The possibility exists that a spark ignited that will enhance some parishes' life.

Saturday, February 6th The training, a 2016 Congregational Leadership Conference, had an anti-racism theme "More than Just Color." Bishop Barry Beisner spent the day with the one hundred plus parish delegates and diocesan staff members attending. This training is under the auspice of the diocesan Commission for Intercultural Ministry. The conference goal was to help Episcopal worship communities appreciate and welcome the diversity of people among us and around us. Here is text from the conference an-

nouncement...

"Diversity goes beyond ethnicity and race, as we come to church from different religious backgrounds, family systems, ages and sexual orientations. This specific anti-racism training is required for many positions of leadership within our congregations and in our diocese. This specific training is also an opportunity for all of us to grow to more faithfully resemble the Church we are called to be, and will help us to live the promises of our Baptismal Covenant. Together, this diocese will learn, understand and be trained to step into a more responsive and welcoming future. Anti-racism training will be available on an ongoing basis throughout the year in our diocese."

Everyone had nametags and received a locally prepared hand-out approaching seventy pages. As the day progressed each of the pages was shown on the church sanctuary's two audio-visual screens. Like Friday we went back and forth between the large group and the tables to listen to and discuss the day's various subjects. With racism as a topic and a church setting, it is hard to avoid frequently overworked clichés – challenge, commitment, discovery, encourage, openness, reconciliation, willingness, etc. The subjects presented were diverse; for example woven into the discussion were the Martyrs of Japan – Christians in Japan persecuted for their faith during the 17th century. A primary topic was structural and institutional racism in society. Avoided was racism within the Episcopal Church – maybe another time.

St. John's Roseville was a great host. The facility and training tools were superb. Food and beverages were ideal. The members of the Diocesan Commission for Intercul-

tural Ministries had obviously spent a great deal of time and effort. Phelps Hobart was the sole parish representative to the February 6th training. This subject will be covered again in different formats in different locations. Our vestry is using a training program from Trinity Institute.

In a December 2015 letter to the diocesan clergy, Bishop Beisner stated: "Beginning Eastertide 2016, anti-racism training will now be required for all licensed ministries. This means that any request for new licenses or for renewal of existing licenses must include assurance of completion of anti-racism training, in addition to all other current requirements. I hope that you will help all concerned to see this as an opportunity for us to grow to more faithfully resemble the Church we are called to be, and be something to help us live the promises of our Baptismal Covenant. Certainly the times call for it."

References:

- ◇ Diocese of Northern California: <http://www.norcalepiscopal.org>
- ◇ Diocesan Congregational Leadership Conferences: <http://www.norcalepiscopal.org/clc>
- ◇ Bishop Barry Beisner's December 2015 letter to the clergy: <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs173/1102570574034/archive/1123066199503.html>
- ◇ Martyrs of Japan: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs\\_of\\_Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_Japan)
- ◇ St. John's Episcopal Church Roseville: <http://www.stjohnsroseville.org>



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OPEN MINDS**

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### St. Paul's Vestry

Joann Askew, Jr. Warden (2017)	Sharon Kennedy (2016)
Chris Cacciatore, Sr. Warden (2018)	Loreen Kleinschmidt (2018)
Doug Clay, Treasurer	Carolyn Konrad (2017)
Dori Darrington, Clerk (2018)	Diane Richards, Strategic Plan
Mark Kane (2018)	Tammy Trovatten (2017)

### Clergy and Staff

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