

# The Epistle

May 2013

**“Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine,  
to do and to endure.”**

These are the words to the second verse of a well loved hymn written by Edwin Hatch (1835-1889). It is often sung during the season of Pentecost - the longest of the liturgical seasons of the Christian year. This period begins with Pentecost Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, where the colors in the church turn to a vivid red representing the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is a season of great challenge. During this time of year the Church invites us to begin to practice living the life of Christ by imitating irrational generosity, unleashing reckless forgiveness, and sharing

lunches with unkempt friends who would otherwise dine alone.

Pentecost is also a season of great hope. Pentecost tells us that the work of getting from where we are to where God is calling us to be belongs to the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew that without the unleashed infilling of the Holy Spirit, the disciples would go back to fishing for fish.

Pentecost is gutsy work. Peter needed the Holy Spirit to move him out of the shadows where he was holding court with roosters. He was being called to trade in coops for open spaces that he might proclaim the good news of God's salvation. *“And three thousand were added to their number that day.” Acts 2:41*

Pentecost changes us. Thanks be to God! Pentecost invites us to welcome the Holy Spirit into

our lives that we might become the children of God that Love intended. May this season of Pentecost fill you with joy, purify your heart, align your will and give you peace.

Remember on  
Pentecost Sunday  
May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8 and 10  
Wear RED!

Blessings,  
*Lynell+*

The Rev. Canon Lynell Walker  
Priest- in- Charge

## Inside this issue:

From the Desk of the Ordinand	2
Long Range Planning Update	2
Education & Spiritual Growth Opportunities	3
Movie Night - a Success!	3
On Worship	4
Treasurer's Corner	5
Announcements	6-7

## FROM THE DESK OF THE ORDINAND

Rik Rasmussen

From the title of this article and from the announcements you have probably guessed that I have taken another step on the path towards ordination! On April 18<sup>th</sup> I met with the Diocesan Commission on Ministry and on April 19<sup>th</sup> I met with the Standing Committee. Both groups recommended to the Bishop that I be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate. I am on the schedule to be ordained on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at Trinity Cathedral (along with seven other people so come early to get a good seat!).

I will most likely be a Deacon for a year while I do the required clinical pastoral education (CPE). I hope to do my CPE at U.C. Davis Medical center as they are one of two hospitals that offer the extended program of nights and weekends, which will work with my full time

day job! The plan is that I will remain at St. Paul's while I am a deacon. Although with CPE there may be weekends that I am not at church but am at the hospital instead.

On the school front I am just about done with the program. My last day "in class" will be May 19<sup>th</sup> and I will graduate on Friday May 24<sup>th</sup>. I find it hard to believe that two years have past since I started at CDSP. The graduation is going to be webcast starting at 10:30 A.M. so you can "attend" without going down to Berkeley. The commencement address will be given by Sister Simone, the executive director of NETWORK based in Washington D.C who is a Catholic nun in the order of the Sisters of Social Service, is best known as the leader of the Nuns on the Bus that toured the country last year drawing atten-

tion to how proposed federal budget cuts would hurt the poor. It should be a great address and one worth tuning in for. To see the webcast go to [www.cdsp.edu](http://www.cdsp.edu) and there will be a link from the homepage.

Finally, it is wonderful to be back home again at St. Paul's. I had a great experience being out at St. Matthew's for six months and I hope that we can find ways to partner with them on ministry in the future. Both congregations have their strengths some shared, such as the diversity of the congregations, and some unique – like the differences in the physical plants. I think by finding ways to partner in ministry we will find new ways to make God's loving presence known in our communities.

## Long Range Planning Update—Celebrating Our Success!

We are happy to report that St. Paul's Strategic Plan Committees and members have been very productive over the past few months. Please join us on June 9, 2013, following both the 8 am and 10 am services, for highlights of actions completed by our committees. These include: Membership, Community Outreach, Worship, Education & Spiritual Growth and Building & Grounds. A written report will be available for you to take home.

## EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Doug Clay

After the 10:00 o'clock a.m. service on May 3, 2013, four members of the parish met and discussed plans for continuing opportunities for taking classes and increasing our spiritual awareness. There were many exciting ideas that we have kept on our wish list for later in the year and we will unveil them to the parishioners as we are able to facilitate those classes.

There were great ideas that came from the Bishop's Conference that was recently held, including social, justice and ecological issues we face every day at St Paul's.

I am very excited for the potential these classes and presentations can bring to our parish. We also looked at special events we can bring during the Advent and Lenten Season.

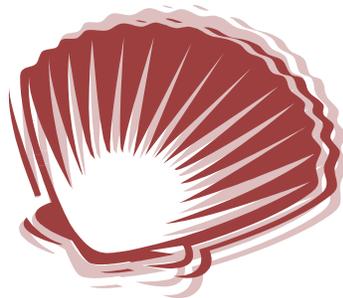
What was decided for the immediate term was to continue facilitating and focusing the parish on the Bible Challenge. Beginning May 16, 2013 discussions will be held for all interested in what the readings were for the previous week. These classes will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Please plan to

attend these exciting and enlightening events.

The Education and Spiritual Growth Committee is open to your wants and needs for these important parts of Christian life. We have set our next planning meeting for Sunday, for August 11, 2013 after the 10:00 o'clock a.m. service in the church building. You are invited to attend and participate in planning this important ministry.

## Movie Night—A Success!

Our first ever movie night was a great success! An enjoyable evening for many members, friends and visitors. The movie, *The Way*, was inspiring and featured beautiful scenery and cathedrals of France and Spain. Guests enjoyed home-made popcorn and desserts in very comfortable seating. St. Paul's wishes to acknowledge the gracious and generous donation of the projector and large screen and technical support of Anil Weerakoon - thank you!! . Thanks also to: Carolyn Konrad, Andrea Weerakoon, Richard and Sharon Kennedy and Chris Onechyk for helping to make movie night a success.





## ON WORSHIP

Andrea Patten-Weerakoon

Most gracious Father Who has called me Your child to serve  
in the preparation of Your Altar, so that it may be a suitable place  
for the offering of Your Body and Blood;  
Sanctify my life and consecrate my hands so that I may worthily handle  
Those Sacred Gifts which are being offered to You.  
As I handle holy things, grant that my whole life may be illuminated  
and blessed by You, in whose honor I prepare them,  
and grant that the people who shall be blessed by their use,  
May find their lives drawn closer to Him Whose Body and Blood  
is our hope and our strength, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

(National Altar Guild Prayer, The Rt. Rev. E. Don Taylor, Vicar Bishop of New York City)

"The first and noblest parochial society is the Altar Guild, that organization that has the beauty of holiness in view, which so modestly and carefully assists the clergy in the maintenance of the things of the altar." (*The Young Churchman*, 1900)

Altar Guild members are known to have a deep love for God, his Church, and his altar. Their work is considered a sacred duty, and it is an honor to serve on an Altar Guild. The primary responsibility of the Altar Guild is to prepare "everything needed" to conduct a church service. This includes regularly scheduled Sunday and weekday services as well as baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other special services, such as during Holy Week.

The general role of the Altar Guild has not changed significantly through the centuries. Fortunately, some expectations of Altar Guild members have changed as society changed. Before Altar Guilds were

common, many of what we consider Altar Guild duties was done by a sacristan. In the 1927 "Plain Guide to Lay Work, No. 7," the sacristan's role was described in part as, "Of course, the sacristan is often a woman, in some few churches a nun. In the discharge of the duties of the office there is equality of the sexes. A man can conveniently double the office of sacristan and ceremoniarus, but he will often need a woman's help in the former. Vestments wear and tear, linen splits and frays, there is much washing to be done, and everything--basins, cruets, bowls, pyxes, chalices, and patens--needs frequent cleansing. Probably no mere man, except he be a lay brother of a monastery, will do the whole work satisfactorily, whereas a woman can do nearly all of it quite well, relying, in cases of necessity, on a chivalrous verger for the rest." (Fortunately at St. Paul's, we have many

gifted male and female seamstresses and Altar Guild members!)

St. Paul's is fortunate to have a small, yet dedicated Altar Guild who faithfully carry out their duties every week. It is one of the greatest hospitality ministries of the church, and as noted in the 1949 history of St. Alban's in Philadelphia, PA, "Those who never see 'behind the scenes' have no idea of the time and trouble that is taken to have our beautiful services and to have everything done 'decently and in order.'"

If you have questions about the Altar Guild or are interested in being an Altar Guild member, please see Andrea Patten-Weerakoon, Rik Rasmussen or Canon Lynell.

## TREASURER'S CORNER

Doug Clay, Treasurer

I was planning to have some financial news for the parish for this Epistle. However, as of this evening, we have not received our bank statement so I can reconcile all the funds and present a report to the parish. I do anticipate on having a full report for the Vestry .

Although I do not have a complete report for the parish, I am excited by the generosity of the members of this congregation in outreach to the community.

From January 1, 2013 through April 30, 2013, the parish has collected and disbursed \$1,415.85 to outside entities.

These are the recipients and amounts of your generosity:

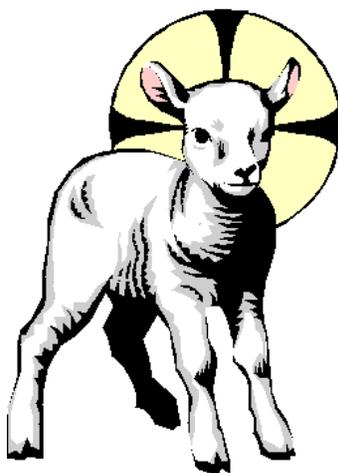
CDSP (divinity school)	\$187.50
St Matthew's (food closet)	\$362.50
Community visibility	\$431.78
Hospitality Outreach	\$ 98.07
Diocese of Jerusalem	\$337.00

These numbers do not include all the food donations that have been brought to the church so we can assemble and distribute more than 100 quick lunches every month for the needy who stop by our door.

This is what Jesus asked us to do when he instructed the apostles through all genera-

tions to us "Feed my sheep."

I would feel remiss in my responsibility in keeping the finances of St. Paul's in order without a friendly reminder. Summer is coming with its times of vacation and family events. Please remember that the needs of the church and the community remain whether you are in attendance on a particular Sunday or not. Please continue your pledge payments throughout all your absences.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

We are in need of more ushers to assist at the 10AM service. Being an usher is, in large part, a ministry of hospitality. The welcoming smile or handshake from an usher says "Welcome! We're glad you're here!"

The duties involved include handing out the service booklet, passing the offertory plates, bringing the offering, bread and wine to the altar, and assisting/directing worshipers to come forward for communion. With enough volunteers, ushers should be scheduled to serve one Sunday per month. If you are interested in being an usher, please see any Vestry member or Lynell.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### Altar Guild Work Day



Many hands make light work! Our Altar Guild consists of a small number of faithful parishioners who help prepare for every service offered at St. Paul's, including both Sunday services, every weekday service, and the occasional wedding, funeral or other service.

Regular cleaning, maintenance and occasional repair of the chalices, patens, candlesticks, linens, and other items used during our services is necessary and important.

Please join us on Saturday May 25th from 9:30AM—Noon. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information.

### Rhine River Travelogue

Join us on Saturday June 1st at 6:30PM to enjoy the slide show and discussion of Mark Kane and Doug Clay's trip last year along the Rhine River. They saw fabulous sites, including markers of the El Camino de Santiago de Campostela.

Bring a friend and enjoy a trip along the Rhine!

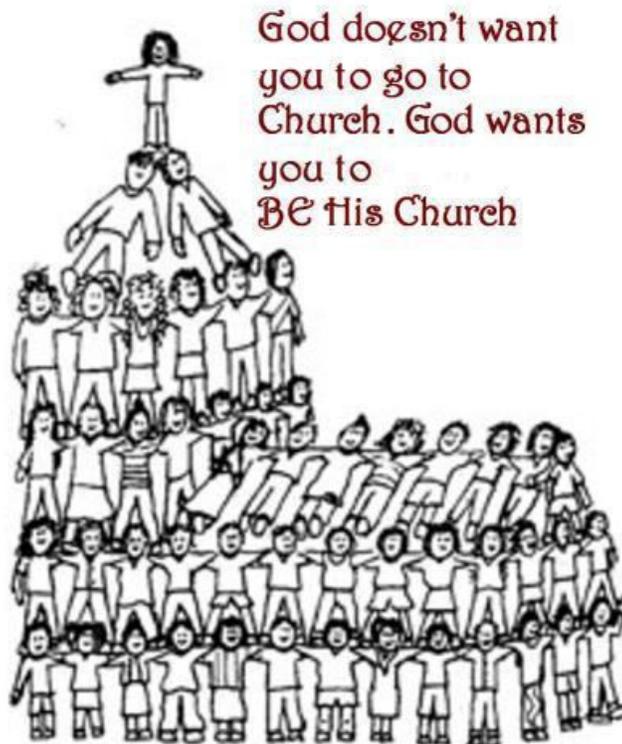


## SAVE THE DATE!

Friday May 24, 2013	10:30AM	CDSP Graduation
Saturday May 25, 2013	9:30AM	Altar Guild Workday
Saturday June 1, 2013	6:30PM	Rhine River Travelogue
Sunday June 9, 2013	8AM and 10AM	Bring a Friend to Church Sunday
Saturday June 29, 2013	11:00AM	Rik's Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate

## CDSP GRADUATION

Rik Rasmussen will graduate from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) with a Certificate of Anglican Studies on Friday May 24, 2013. The graduation ceremony will be streamed live at <http://cdsp.edu/home> beginning at 10:30AM. The commencement address will be delivered by Sister Simone Campbell, a Catholic nun in the order of the Sisters of Social Service. She is best known as the leader of the *Nuns on the Bus* that toured the US last year drawing attention to how the poor would be impacted by proposed federal budget cuts.





1430 J Street,  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916)446-2620

**OPEN HEARTS,  
OPEN MINDS**

**Like us on Facebook**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church,  
Sacramento, CA

**VISIT US ONLINE**  
[WWW.STPAULSSACRAMENTO.ORG](http://WWW.STPAULSSACRAMENTO.ORG)

### St. Paul's Vestry

Diane Richards, Senior Warden (2014)	Rik Rasmussen (2014)
Alex Larkey, Junior Warden (2014)	Leigh Stamets (2015)
Doug Clay, Treasurer (2015)	Daryl Reiber (2015)
Andrea Patten-Weerakoon, Clerk (2016)	Keith Askew (2016)

### Clergy and Staff

Rev. Canon Lynell Walker, Priest-in-Charge	st1849paul@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Eric Symons, Associate Priest	st1849paul@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Anne Slakey, Associate Priest	st1849paul@sbcglobal.net
Mark Robinson, Music Director	goldenfalconjet@comcast.net
Andrea Patten-Weerakoon, Handbell Director	andrew709@gmail.com
Pat Underwood, Parish Administrator	st1849paul@sbcglobal.net