
2010 Annual Report

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BENICIA, CALIFORNIA

Annual General Meeting Sunday, January 30, 2011

Notice is hereby given for the Annual General Meeting of the Parish of St. Paul's, Benicia on Sunday, January 30, 2011 for the purpose of election of members of Vestry and Convention, for the reception of reports, and for the transaction of any other business which may legally and canonically come before the meeting.

**The meeting follows a parish-wide
10 am Eucharist**

Lunch will be served before the meeting.
Nursery care and children's program
will be provided.



**Part I:
2010 Annual Report**

**Part II:
Jan/Feb 2011 Epistle**

**Part III:
Financial Summaries**

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STAFF

The Reverend Jeanne Forte	Rector
The Reverend Canon John L. Bogart, Th.D.	Associate Priest
The Reverend Linda L. Clader, Ph.D.	Associate Priest
The Reverend Shepherd Jenks	Deacon
Steven Yurosko	Seminarian
Glenn Walp	Traditional Music Director
Mark Sackett	Contemporary Music Director
JoAnn Souza	Parish Administrator
Madeline Stewart	Nursery Care Coordinator
Jacque Dennis-Jackson	Sexton

VESTRY

Current Vestry

Lee Anne Bundesen, Senior Warden	Term expires January 2012
Bill Smiglewski, Junior Warden	Term expires January 2013
Linda Tremain, Clerk	Term expires January 2011
Sue Davis	Term expires January 2013
Caleigh Furlong	Term expires January 2011
Jeff Jarvis	Term expires January 2011
Fred Railsback	Term Expires January 2013
Anne Seed	Term expires January 2012
John Wright, Jr.	Term expires January 2012

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 31, 2010

Lee Anne Bundesen, Senior Warden for the Vestry, welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

The Rev. Jeanne Forte opened the annual meeting with prayer. She followed by reading the Memorials: baptisms, marriage, and deaths for 2009.

Linda Tremain was declared clerk for the annual meeting, and then she declared that the annual meeting had a quorum.

Robin Silver, Neal Mulholand and Tom Mader were appointed as tellers.

The Rev. Jeanne Forte presented the annual meeting minutes from February 1, 2009, which were approved by the parish as submitted.

Caleigh Furlong presented the list of existing Vestry members and Lee Anne Bundesen provided an explanation of the purpose of Vestry. Sue Embree-Davis, Fred Railsback, and Bill "Ski" Smiglewski were presented as nominees for Vestry. A call was made for additional nominees from the floor, but none were made. A motion was made and approved to close nominations. A motion was made and approved to vote for the nominees through affirmation by voice. The affirmation by voice was made, and all three nominees were approved as new Vestry members.

The existing Diocesan Convention Delegates were then presented and affirmed and nominations were taken from the floor for an additional lay delegate and four alternate delegates. Nominations for Diocesan Convention Delegates were taken from the floor and included Carole Johnson, Sara Underwood, Caleigh Furlong, Tom Mader and Dale Kilbourne. A motion was made and approved to close nominations. Ballots were passed out for election. Votes were counted by the tellers. The nominated Delegate receiving the most votes, Carole Johnson, was elected as Diocesan Convention Delegate. Sara Underwood, Tom Mader, Dale Kilbourne and Caleigh Furlong were elected as Alternate Diocesan Convention Delegates.

Lee Anne Bundesen presented the year-end financial report, which is included in the 2009 Annual Report Addendum, Treasurer's Report and Financial Summaries. She explained the status of the reserve accounts, including use of the James Lloyd Breck fund which has been of benefit to Steven Yurosko, Seminarian student. Other Reserve funds used in 2009 aided the completion of the work on the siding of the Church and the deficit reduction of 2009. She outlined the way that the Vestry determined to resolve the deficit through expense goals and income goals. The Vestry has passed a Balanced Budget for 2010. Questions from the floor were taken and a discussion followed. Thanks were given to Sara Underwood for organizing the Party of Parties and the importance of the Parties for additional income. Thanks were also given to Debi Hall for leading the Community Meal and the kitchen remodel. New ministries for the year included the Stephen Ministries, Friday Activities for Kids, Living the Questions and the St. Paul's Book Club.

The Rev. Jeanne Forte presented the rector's address, which can be found on pages 5 and 6 of the 2009 Annual Report. She explained the budget cuts that were made by the Diocese, to maintain a balanced budget. Local parishes will need to help with Episcopal Relief and Development and increased Episcopal community support. She also explained upcoming events in 2010 and Imaginations from the 2009 Imagine Campaign. Imagine more music concerts for the community. Imagine a new banner in 2010. Imagine a Seminary Sunday. Imagine Kids' Vacation Academy, "Finding God in the Circle of Life" (The Lion King) where St. Paul's becomes an African savannah.

Acknowledgements were given to the following people for their work with various programs in the parish: Art Schipper for being the treasurer; Carole Johnson for being assistant treasurer; Tom Mader for being Pledge Clerk. Retiring Vestry members were thanked, Susie Bonstin, Angela Owston and Sara Underwood. JoAnn Souza was thanked for her work in the office, Caleigh Furlong for being Junior Warden for two years and Lee Anne Bundesen was given special recognition for her work as Senior Warden in 2009 and continuing as Senior Warden for 2010.

The new Vestry was commissioned.

The Rev. Jeanne Forte was thanked for all her work this year. She then led the closing prayer.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the St. Paul's Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Tremain
Clerk of the Vestry

A short Vestry meeting followed the Annual Meeting.

The Rev. Jeanne Forte asked for nominations for the positions of Jr. Warden and Secretary for the Vestry 2010.

Bill "Ski" Smiglewski was elected as Jr. Warden.

Linda Tremain was elected as Secretary.

The upcoming Vestry Retreat, February 13, 2010 at Cal Maritime, was discussed. All incoming and outgoing Vestry members and their spouses were invited to a reception at Lee Anne Bundesen's home following the Retreat.

The meeting was adjourned.

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

A Message of Gratitude – Epiphany, 2011

Last week, as I settled in relaxing, warm, wonderful Bali, I had an opportunity to reflect on this past year. The feeling that rushed through me was gratitude – for my family, growing and adding one more in May; for a year of personal health and meaningful pastimes; and for the gift of St. Paul's in my life. I am so thankful for the love, support, and prayers of my parish family. Our successful 2010 is due to the entire community. Please read the reports contained in this AGM Epistle. They testify to your wonderful, dedicated ministry.

We are rich in leadership: My colleagues John+, Linda+ and Shep+ bless us with their presbyteral and diaconal presences. Steve has passed the halfway mark in his journey toward ordination. Despite his busy scholastic life he continues to grace his parish home. The gift of music, seminal to good Anglican worship, continues thanks to so many people, with Mark and Glenn at the helm. Voices and instruments continue to make a joyful noise, blessing us with their ministry. A special thanks is extended to the young people who show up every week to play with the contemporary worship group, and also to those young musicians who graced us at the Christmas Eve service so beautifully. The Guilds – Flower, Altar and maintenance are wonderful. There are a host of others who exercise their gifts in worship: LEMs, Lectors, Intercessors, Healing Prayer ministers, Acolytes, Thurifers, Crucifers, teachers, artists, computer geeks, cooks, washers, and a “cloud” of others too many to name, but appreciated nonetheless. I am grateful to the dozens of you who serve the young people in our parish family. On Sundays, in the nursery, on Friday afternoons, our young people are blessed to have so much love and support.

The good order of St. Paul's is due largely to the excellent leadership of our Vestry, and Lee Anne Bundesen, our retiring Senior Warden, can take a (bit of a) breather as she exercises her considerable talents in so many other areas. Thanks so much for all your support and encouragement. The grounds and buildings continue to shine under the leadership of our Junior Warden Ski Smiglewski. Good work! Thanks to our capable “crunchers of numbers” Art, Carole and record keeper Tom. For the second year we anticipate a balanced budget, thanks to the hard work of your Vestry members, and Art's vigilance.

I continue to be blessed with the ministry of JoAnn, our Administrator. Her support, as well as that of her entire family, is wonderful. I am especially grateful to the folks that I meet in the dark hours, both late at night and in the early morning. So many people show up in the “thin” times of the week; support group meetings, educational sessions, prayer support, community action endeavors, vergers locking and unlocking doors, among others. It's the conversations in the hallways and doorways, extending friendship and camaraderie that elevate St. Paul's from community to family. And I am so grateful.

I believe that St. Paul's itself is a gift to the broader community. I can think of many ways that the presence of St. Paul's enhances life in Benicia and beyond. She is our offering to a world in need of the Good News of Jesus Christ. In order that we may continue in 2011 to strengthen our spiritual family's ministries, the Diocesan program “Grateful, Glad and Giving” will commence immediately. The program is centered on year-round Stewardship of our gifts and resources, care of ourselves and one another, and the ensuring of our financial and physical legacy to the world. You will hear much more about this very soon.

I am eager to begin this year, which will include a sabbatical time for me. It is a joy to serve St. Paul's as Rector. Thank you. Thank you and may God bless you in 2011.



Nominees for Vestry

Three-Year Terms:

Allison Connor

I am a single mom of three wonderful children. We've been members of St. Paul's for 15 years, so my family has grown up in this church: my oldest was confirmed here and teaches Sunday school, my middle one serves as crucifer, and my youngest was born in Benicia and baptized here. I was raised in the Lutheran church where I was confirmed, led Bible studies and served on a church school board, but it was here at St. Paul's that my faith was nurtured and grew because here I had the freedom to question. I have served on Altar Guild, sung in the choir, and been part of the Wednesday morning Bible study and a small group. I am so pleased and honored to have been asked to put my name in for nomination for Vestry and thus have the opportunity to serve my church in this way.

I am a Bay Area native and my parents and sister still live in Livermore. I worked as a chemist at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory for six years until my daughter was born, then left to be a stay-home mom for the next 13 years. I presently work in the lab at the Benicia Wastewater and Water Treatment plants.

Chris Mader

During the 10 years I have attended St. Paul's, I have volunteered in a variety of capacities. I have worked with the hospitality committee, the Community Meal and am an usher. I've been an adult volunteer in children's activities, including KVA, Friday Activities for Kids, and I am currently the Sunday School Coordinator. There are many opportunities for spiritual growth at St. Paul's, and I have benefited from participating in some of them, including bible study and a book group.

Before coming to Benicia, my husband, our children and I moved frequently. At times, I taught, volunteered, or substituted in the elementary schools. I also worked with several different community organizations and Navy family support groups. There were often challenges, but I enjoyed working creatively with others to find solutions.

Steve Rodekoher

I have been an active member of St. Paul's with my wife Kim and daughters Shelby and Haley for 15 years. I recently retired as a sergeant with the Alameda Police Department after 32 years in law enforcement and have been active in the community as a soccer coach and board member with the Benicia Arsenal Futbol Club for the past several years.

I have served on the Vestry as Junior Warden, which provided me with a wealth of experience and knowledge involving church operations and administration. Additionally, I served as the project director for Project Open Door (disabled access ramp at the main door) and a number of other renovations at St. Paul's over the years.

I am currently the director of the Usher Ministry and the Sierra Service Project and am active in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Cursillo and most recently as a Lector. If elected to serve on the Vestry, I would look forward to continuing my service to our faith community.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Senior Warden's Report

Submitted by Lee Anne Bundesen

Not to take the word “miracle” too lightly, it’s defined both as an unexpected event attributed to divine intervention and also, in casual usage, an unlikely but beneficial event. I’d like to suggest that many miracles have happened here at St. Paul’s whichever definition you apply. St. Paul’s vision statement explains how, “We are the hands of Christ in the heart of Benicia.”

In the past year, because of St. Paul’s people and presence...

- 6,000 meals were served by Feed the Hungry at the Community Meal.
- 1,000 pounds of food were delivered to Benicia Community Action Council to be distributed to local families.
- The recently deployed 749th Army National Guard based in Benicia received many prayers from St. Paul’s. Their families received a donation for Christmas toys.
- 20 more local high schoolers spent a week rehabbing homes on an Indian reservation and experienced the joy of giving everything as part of the 17 year living tradition of St. Paul’s Sierra Service Project.
- Godly lessons culled from the Lion King at Kids Vacation Academy were told to 58 children.
- Weekly insight was provided to 29 children about God’s place in their lives at Sunday School.
- Stephen Ministers listened with Christian care to individuals in crisis. This caring ministry provides ways to let individuals find solutions to difficult situations or distress.
- Recovery organizations met at St. Paul’s over 500 times this year giving local people support on a path toward freedom from addictions.
- A physical connection was made with our Lord, Jesus Christ, through the Eucharist. About 7,000 times this year, someone received the blessed bread and wine at St. Paul’s.
- Our open altar, door and hearts have welcomed 63 new members into this community to continue their journey toward a close relationship with God.

These miracles happen because the people of St. Paul’s are followers of Christ. You listen, you pray and you act. You give of yourselves. . .your time, your skills, your good fortune. Working together, the people of St. Paul’s are miracle workers!

Junior Warden's Report

Submitted by Bill Smiglewski

Let me begin by saying I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and the new year will bring prosperity to all who believe that God takes care of His flock. We bring this to light every time we say the Lord's Prayer. "Give us this day our daily bread...". It really has nothing to do with hope, but has everything to do with faith. When times look their bleakest, we take a deep breath and hand it over to our Lord and Savior.

2010 has been a quiet year as far as large projects go, such as stabilizing the walls of the church and insulating them was completed. Thanks to our good friend Larry Heltsley of Rainbow Properties and Steve Yurosko and funding from the Historic Trust. Not unlike the church building, the rectory also needs the same attention. New regulations by OSHA dictate new standards when dealing with old lead-based paint on existing buildings. This old style "salt box" building has no wall shear either nor is it insulated. If we elect to sand and paint, we have to "tent" the building and recover all debris with hazard waste—a paper trail that goes from Benicia to Vallejo. The cheapest way to go is to replace the siding with same time period styling.

Ongoing projects include redoing the remaining restroom in the hall, continuing upgrades for the kitchen, and remodeling the restroom in the rectory. The first of the year will find three new fan-light assemblies in the church hall, thanks to donations from past Junior Wardens. Thanks to a generous donation from Robin Silver, we can go forward with converting a room in the rectory to a new library.

The Bishop is coming, the Bishop is coming!! Yes, we have confirmations coming up on March 6, and we have a work party planned to get God's house in order. A sign-up sheet will be in the church hall and I expect all people who believe that God has placed us in charge of His church will turn out for a day of fun as we try to interact with other church members in a period of "spit and polish." As always, we will have pizza and soft drinks afterwards.

If I have forgotten anything let me know or ask and I will fill in the blank spaces. I would also like to give a special thanks to all those individuals who make my job easier. Fred Railsback, Mike Baldwin, Art Schipper, Walt Vater, Tom Mader, Debbie Varson (just because of who she is), Lee Anne Bundesen (who keeps me focused), The Rev. Jeanne Forte (who inspires everyone to do good things), Mark Sackett (my prayer buddy), and especially Caleigh Furlong (for handing me the keys...I know where you live Caleigh), and finally all the people who give "Time, Talent, and Treasure."

Yours always in Christ,
W.E. "Ski" Smiglewski

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Art Schipper

General: At the end of 2009 your Vestry prepared a budget for 2010 that envisioned a small surplus. Over the course of 2010 my monthly reports to the Vestry followed what I characterized as a sine wave. One month income would be at or slightly above budget, and the next month income would be several thousand dollars below budget. Throughout the year, expenses are relatively level month to month, so my monthly reports showed a small surplus of income over expenses, or a deficit. But at the end of the year, we had a surplus. And that without having to tap the deficit reduction funds from the Party of Parties.

Income: Total Income in 2010 was \$275,244 (\$514 below budget). Pledged income was \$236,260 (\$5,578 below budget). Income from Givers of Record was \$21,114 (\$5,114 above budget); income from Plate was \$6,077 (\$1,077 above budget); income from Rent was \$8,985 (\$985 above budget); income from Scrip was \$309 (\$110 above budget); and income from Miscellaneous sources was \$397 (\$1,603 below budget).

Expenses: Total expenses in 2010 were \$272,447 (\$3,022 below budget). Personnel expenses were \$174,466 (\$1,718 below budget; Merchant Services fees were \$775 (\$75 below budget); Office expenses were \$13,014 (\$61 below budget); Worship and Music expenses were \$1,072 (\$826 above budget); Christian Witness expenses were \$52,540 (\$80 below budget); Home Improvement expenses were \$26,960 (\$40 below budget); and Vestry expenses were \$1,520 (\$1,190 below budget). There also were unbudgeted expenses of \$382, largely to replace the freezer in the kitchen. So total budgeted and unbudgeted expenses in 2010 were \$272,674.

Net Income: At the end of 2010 we had a surplus of income less expenses of \$2,406 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$269.

Assets: Our assets are in various bank accounts, funds invested in the Episcopal Foundation of Northern California, and in one stock fund. Our assets are also in our physical facilities and equipment. I only have information on our liquid assets in bank accounts and investments. At the end of 2010 we had \$55,923 in the operating accounts, \$3,635 in other bank accounts, and \$331,226 in investment accounts (Reserves). The operating accounts are used to receive deposits and to pay bills. The other bank accounts are for Payroll, Rector Discretion, Community Meals, and the Brotherhood. Information on the investment accounts are through the end of November, as we have not received December information at the time this report was prepared.

Liabilities: All of our liabilities are in subordinate accounts that contain funds that have been earmarked for specific uses. Examples of these funds are Community Meals, Sierra Service Project, Party of Parties, Kitchen Remodeling, and a number of others. All of these accounts are in essence funds that are owed to ourselves. At the end of 2010, we had liabilities of \$60,689. I want to thank Carole Johnson, our Assistant Treasurer, who faithfully pays the bills and records deposits, and the Pledge Clerk and his assistants who faithfully count the offering funds each week.

Financial Summaries (separate document)

St. Paul's Historic Trust

Submitted by Fred Railsback

The Trust is comprised of seven members: Tom Aldinger, Bill Markley, Fred Railsback, community representative Manual Lopes, The Rev. Jeanne Forte, Senior Warden Lee Anne Bundesen, and Peddler's Fair chair Katie Scott. The charter of the Trust is to raise and invest funds, most of which come from the annual Peddler's Fair and to make sure that all proceeds are spent on the upkeep of our three historic buildings. The only funds used for any other purpose is the 10% of the Peddler's Fair net that goes back into the community as donations to Benicia non profits.

Please remember the Trust in your estate planning!

The Trust meets quarterly and all meetings are open to the parish.

Peddler's Fair

Submitted by Katie Scott

The 47th annual Peddler's Fair was held on Saturday, Aug. 14. The weather again cooperated and was as good as any seen in the last five years. This year we had 275 vendors selling antiques, collectibles, and crafts. We had 21 assorted food vendors and aside from a noisy generator no problems in the Fair as a whole. Our Fair attendance was estimated between 25,000 and 30,000 people. We had good local press and Business Pointe Impressions of Concord donated a dozen large posters for outdoor signage, which were professional and impressive. Pets were not allowed in the street unless disability associated and after clarification by the Health Department. The Fair was responsible from curb to curb only.

We cannot thank all of those who helped by name but here are a few of the sub group managers, directors and all-round great help: Traffic Trio: Tom Aldinger, Jeff Jarvis, Steve Rodekohr; Susie Bonstin for a fantastic job of shuttle organization; Robin Silver for donating the masseuse; Johanna Wright for a hot and excellent breakfast; the cleanup group; the office angels who helped all week in a multitude of tasks that would have brought the committee to their knees; our rector Jeanne Forte for Traffic and PR work; all in all those members of the parish who used this for an opportunity of outreach by bringing a friend.

We especially want to thank the City of Benicia: Public Works Jim Phillips, Benicia Police Department Event Coordinator Sgt. Frank Hartig and the Benicia Police Volunteers Coordinator Patty Barron. Without them we wouldn't have been able to have such a great fair. They supported us from 2 am towing cars to 7 pm overseeing Adobe cleaning the streets.

It is with great pleasure I tell you we had an even better fair financially than last year. We raised close to \$30,000 net after expenses. For future reference, we are looking for "sponsors" for major expense items for 2010: Advertising, PortaPotties (plumbing companies might be interested here), insurance, phone, water, and breakfast.

The 1st chair for the year 2011 is Linda Tremain, 2nd Chair is Mittie Railsback, and Chair Advisor is Susie Bonstin. We want to thank outgoing Chair Advisor Mike Baldwin who, if we didn't have him around this past year, many things would have been forgotten.

God bless to all of you who have helped through the years, especially the past chairs. We would like to thank Grace Kurtz in particular who, with Father Davis, ran the first 14 years of the Fair. Please thank Grace or any of the other past chairs who have through their hard work preserved the historic nature of St. Paul's. Thank you to the Historic Trust: Fred Railsback, Bill Markley, Tom Aldinger, Manny Lopes without their prudent guidance and hard work none of this would be possible.

COMMISSIONS

Christian Formation

Christian Education (Adult Forum)

Submitted by Judy Furlong

Adult Forum has presented several special programs over the year, including A Trip to Israel with Chris Arnold, Visiting Santa Croce with Judy Furlong, a great program on World Religions, in which participants researched and presented capsules on a variety of world religions, from Animism to Zoroastrianism. Kerygma: Discovering the Bible began another series in September, which will continue throughout the year. Wednesday morning Scripture study is going strong, under the leadership of Rev. Jeanne and support from Rev. John Bogart, Steve Yurosoko, and Judy Furlong. The Sunday morning study group meets occasionally as time allows under the direction of the rector.

We will continue to seek out interesting subjects for adult study in the coming year. Programs in discussion include another visit from Dr. John Kater, CDSP, to discuss Episcopal Church History, Steve Yurosoko's presentation on his mission to Honduras, and a further investigation of Islam. Stay tuned!

Congregational Commission for Ministry

Submitted by Judy Furlong, CCOM Chair

The Congregational Commission on the Ministry (formerly called the Parish Commission) has been active in 2010, following our mandate to help prepare and support those who seek ministries - either ordained or lay - in our parish.

During the first part of 2010, we worked closely with our Field Education Student, Kathy Macek, as she finished up her final semester at CDSP and with us. Kathy is now residing in northern Oregon. We had our final, "catch-up" meeting with Chris Arnold last fall, as he prepared for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate. We celebrated this event with Chris and Celeste at Trinity Cathedral in June and sent Chris on his way to the Diocese of Kentucky, where he was ordained on December 20th. He is now living in Middlesboro, Kentucky. Our parish postulant, Stephen Yurosoko finished his first year at CDSP with flying colors and is now a "middler." He is doing his Field Education at St. Martin's, Davis. We miss having Steve with us, but the CCOM received a very positive evaluation of his work in Davis.

We are now in the process of discernment with Edie Westphal, who has indicated a desire to explore a call to ordained ministry. We are also working with Rev. Jeanne and the diocesan office to oversee the licensing of our lay ministers. Bob Hall received his Lay Preacher's License this past year, and we will be working with Edie Westphal as she organizes training for our Eucharistic Ministers to welcome new members and continue training with our veterans.

The work of the Commission is essential to the growth and successful work of our parish. It is through this commission that our parish is able to become engaged in the calling and training of all our ministers. We are lucky at St. Paul's to have a dedicated group of members who work tirelessly to keep the CCOM working smoothly.

Judy Furlong, CCOM Chair

Members: The Rev. John Bogart, Jennifer Jarvis, Fred Railsback Virginia Vater, Dr. Robin Silver, Dr. David White

Cursillo

No report submitted. For more information, contact Steve or Sue Yurosko.

Foyer Groups

Submitted by Debi Hall

Foyer is a social activity where small groups of people meet outside of church to share a meal or an activity. Foyer is a great way to meet new people. If you are interested in re-viving Foyer Groups at St. Paul's, please contact Debi Hall.

Small Groups

The purpose of small groups is to grow a deeper relationship with God. The groups meet on a regular basis, usually once a week or twice a month. Groups are encouraged to meet in a member's home. The format includes Bible study, sharing, and prayer. The Small group ministry is in great need of a coordinator; if you think you might be right for the job, please contact the church office at 745-0307.

Stephen Ministries

Submitted by Beth Gaines, Stephen Leader

Stephen Ministries at St. Paul's was initiated in 2008 to train volunteers to become Stephen Ministers to provide distinctively Christian care giving to persons going through a difficult time. During 2010 we initiated partnering with Stephen Leaders at Wayside United Methodist Church and Community Presbyterian Church in Vallejo to collaborate on continuing education and guest speakers. Together, the three churches will be offering a Stephen Series training in 2011 to train anyone interested in becoming a Stephen Minister.

Christian Outreach

Brotherhood of St. Andrew: A Ministry of Service for Men & Youth

No report submitted For information, contact Andrew Urban.

Communication Work Group

Submitted by JoAnn Souza

This new group was formed in November after the Mutual Ministry Review during which parish members discussed many aspects of how the church is functioning. The goal of the group is to consistently reach current and future members with information of St. Paul's programs and services through appropriate media. Members include Lee Anne Bundesen, JoAnn Souza, Judy Furlong, Debbie Varson, Mary Frances Kelly Poh, Jeff Jarvis, and chair Robin Silver. If you have any suggestions, please contact a member of the group.

Community Meal

Submitted by Debi Hall

St. Paul's is in its 13th year preparing and serving a hot meal to anyone who walks through our doors on Wednesdays. We continue to serve 125-160 on a regular basis every Wednesday. This past year we have seen many more people volunteer to help with the program. Heritage Presbyterian Church continues to cook one Wednesday a month. The Kiwanis Club cooks every fifth Wednesday, led by Donna Baldwin. We served over 6,200 meals this year to our neighbors in need! We do this entirely from donations and help from The Community Action Council and the Contra Costa/Solano County Food Bank.

Our St. Paul's volunteers continue to be a great blessing to the program. We couldn't prepare and serve this meal every week without them! Maggie Smith continues in the Head Cook role, with a faithful group of women to help her. Our men folk, headed up by Bob McIntosh set up the room, serve, clean-up and guide our visiting volunteers through the ropes. And besides our own wonderful helpers, volunteers came from the middle school, high school, St. Dominic's grade school, Touro University and the community at large, often just showing up wanting to help.

Please keep the Community Meal in your prayers as we strive to improve the program, raise the funds necessary to complete the kitchen project, and continue to serve those in need in our community.

Fair Trade Coffee Project

Submitted by Cyndi Hardy, Judy White, and Beth Gaines

This was the 5th year for the Fair-Trade Coffee Project at St. Paul's. After partnering with Heritage Presbyterian for the past few years, we are now on our own operating this outreach program purchasing products directly from the Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee Co-op.

The Fair Trade Coffee Project was started by the Presbyterian Church in the USA. The Fair Trade Mission is to share the bounty of the coffee trade (tea, cocoa and chocolate too!) with those who grow the crops, helping them to build a better future for themselves and their communities. Through fair trade, farmers earn a fairer share of income, have access to services that are otherwise unavailable to them, and gain long-term trading partners that they can trust. They are then able to invest in their own communities—in education, health care, and agricultural improvements.

There has been an increase in fair-trade prices this fall. We want you to know that funds collected from the sale of these products benefit not only the fair-trade farmers but St. Paul's outreach programs as well. This is a self-supporting project that does not tap into church funds.

In 2010, we purchased products for a total cost of \$1,458.35 and sold them for a total of \$1,629.67. This created a minor profit for St. Paul's coffers of \$171.32! And we still have some inventory.

We are selling Fair Trade products at least twice a month during Coffee Hours. You can also place an order by contacting Cyndi Hardy or Judy White.

We wish to recognize and thank Mary Lou Bogart, Robin Silver, and JoAnne Craig for their coordination of and dedication to this project over the past few years.

Fifth Sunday Food Drive

Submitted by Edna Aldinger, Coordinator

For many years, the worship community at St. Paul's has taken the opportunity to collect non-perishable food items for the Benicia Community Action Council. Food is collected on months of the year with fifth Sundays. Last year St. Paul's contributed 400 pounds of food and non-perishable items from each of the five food drives. The 2011 Fifth Sunday Food Drives will be in January, May, July and October. Look for the brown grocery bags at the back of the church on the fourth Sunday of these months.

Friday Activities for Kids/Elementary School Program

Submitted by Lee Anne Bundesen

Friday Activities for Kids began in the spring of 2009 as a fun way to engage children in a faith environment during the school year. Our intent is to provide fun activities here at church, provide the opportunity for new friendships and allow families to become familiar with St. Paul's.

This Elementary School program has been quite successful. Although activities are set up for grades 1-5, we welcome pre-school and kindergarteners who come with an adult to make sure they understand the activity and are enjoying themselves. This year, we have engaged our "graduates" who are now in Middle School as well as our 5th Graders as Counselors. They've been enormously helpful. So far, this program is fully self-supporting.

Vital Statistics

Registrations: 27
Attendance: 218 Average of 11.5 kids per 19 elementary sessions in 2009
Outreach: 16 8 registered non-members; 8 guests

2010 Sessions have included:

Tours: Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek, Loma Vista Farms in Vallejo, Benicia Fire Station, Suisun Valley Pumpkin Patch & Maze

Activities

Making Friends – Every session, Game Day
Church – Birthday Party for Jesus and Caroling
Arts & Crafts – Visit from Benicia Ballet, Jewelry making for Mother's Day, Making knotted blankets for the dogs and cats at the Benicia/Vallejo Humane Society
Science – Learning about electricity, Butterfly metamorphoses
Holiday – Decorating sugar skulls for Day of the Dead, Totally Turkey Thanksgiving games, Walnut Creek on Ice
Other – Soccer Day, Explore!, Indian food and art

THANKS to all the people who have volunteered to make this ambitious project successful. Many have offered their talents and expertise to lead sessions and to oversee the safety and participation of the children. This program is blessed by the generous spirit of everyone who participates, including our amazing kids!

Health Ministries

This ministry is in need of a coordinator. If you are interested, please contact The Rev. Jeanne Forte.

Kairos

No report submitted. For more information, contact Steve Yurosko.

Kids' Vacation Academy (KVA)

Submitted by JoAnn Souza

Since it began four years ago, KVA continues to be a successful summer program, with 60+ campers and almost as many youth and adult volunteers participating. We welcome children from St. Paul's and the community at large for a week filled with crafts, songs, and play. Plans are underway for our fifth season, to be held the week of June 20. This year's theme is based on the movie "Finding Nemo." We're always looking for youth staff and adult volunteers, whether you've been involved in the past or not. We'll be holding regular meetings beginning Jan. 25. Contact the church office if you want to join in the fun.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Submitted by Charlie Kilbourne

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors bring the word of God, news of parish activities, a discussion of the sermon and the opportunity to celebrate the Holy Eucharist to individuals unable to attend services. During 2010, three licensed LEVs fulfilled these duties.

Party of Parties

Submitted by Caleigh Furlong

This year marked the 3rd Annual Party of Parties, a fundraising event for St. Paul's general fund. The kick-off event in March was a "Come as You Were in 1977" and featured disco music and disco ball. Food was aplenty and folks came dressed as they were in 1977. Folks lined up to buy tickets to some great parties such as "A Dinner with Sherlock Holmes," "A New England Lobster Boil," "An Evening of Wine Tasting," "New Orleans Shrimp Boil" and the opportunity to "Dance through the Decades." This year the party raised \$9,880 and from the various pictures exhibited in the Parish Hall, it's clear that ALL of the parties were a huge success! The 4th Annual Party of Parties will kick off with a Big Band theme. Thank you to all those who donated time, talent and treasure to make this such an incredible success.

PIE Greeters

Submitted by Caleigh Furlong

The People Involved in Evangelism (PIE) Greeters are a group of parishioners who take turns calling on newcomers within a week of their first visit to St. Paul's. The greeters take an information packet and a pie, or some other baked good, homemade or purchased, for a very brief visit in which the newcomer is thanked for their interest in St. Paul's.

Our PIE greeters for 2011 are Mike Baldwin, Jennifer Jarvis, Ann Lindsay, Betty and Bob McIntosh, and Jane Samuelson. A total of 25 families were visited by our dedicated PIE greeters in 2010. The PIE ministry is a wonderful way for new and prospective members to be welcomed to St. Paul's. Contact Caleigh Furlong if you are interested in volunteering.

Ruthie Ministry

Submitted by Edna Aldinger

The Meals Ministry and the Cards Ministry are both part of the Health Ministries, and they have been a blessing to many of our parishioners. We offer encouragement and assistance among our own parish members.

About 12 members of the congregation rotate to prepare and deliver meals as they are needed. Betty McIntosh coordinated the team who sent out about 300 get well, sympathy, birthday, and anniversary cards.

These are ministries of caring and sharing. Thanks go to all our volunteers, and all parishioners are welcome to join the team.

Sierra Service Project

Submitted by Steve Rodekohr

2010 in Review

Our fundraising efforts this year focused on three events: The Brotherhood of St. Andrew Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in February, our annual Sierra Service Project “St. Patrick’s Day” corned beef and cabbage dinner, and serving at the Vallejo Yacht Club St. Patty’s Dinner, both in March. We raised over \$4,000 from these events. Thank you to the Brotherhood for their service to our youth! As always, I want to thank the youth campers, our counselors, and the parents for all of their hard work during the year!

We sent 20 youth and 4 adult counselors to the Indian Valley again this year and worked with the Round House Council. Indian Valley is located in the Northern Sierra at about 4,000 foot elevation. We stayed in the small town of Greenville at the Greenville United Methodist Church. We slept outside in tents or under the stars and showered in homemade hose-fed showers! We worked on the homes of a number of different Native Americans in the Greenville area. The campers did some roofing, deck rebuilding, flooring repair, and painting.

Goals for 2011

This year, we will be going as one group again, and we’ll heading to work for the Yurok Tribe and staying in the town of Klamath in Northern California. We did work for the Yurok three years ago and found it very beautiful and rewarding.

SSP will be having a number of fundraising events from now until July. Please support our youth. Without you, SSP would not be as successful as it is. If you wish to provide a private donation, you can make a check payable to: St. Paul’s SSP Program and place it in the SSP mailbox in the Rectory or mail it to the church office.

Thank you again, St. Paul’s, for your support! Anyone who would like to be a part of the Sierra Service Project may contact me.

Thank God It's a Fourth Friday

Submitted by Caleigh Furlong

TGIFF, or Thank God it's Fourth Friday, was a new social activity this year that came about from the 2009 Imagine Pledge Drive idea list. On the Fourth Friday of every month, St. Paul's hosts a "happy hour" of sorts—wine, munchies, and conversation—held downstairs in the Undercroft from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This is a great time to unwind from a busy week or month and meet some of the St. Paul's family. Mark your calendars and join us for the monthly TGIFF.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission meets quarterly at the request and under the guidance of the rector. All matters of worship are discussed, and various groups are made aware of the events in the life of our worship at St. Paul's. The commission includes representatives from the altar guild, flower guild, ushers, LEMs and lectors, acolytes and crucifers, music resources, Sunday school, adult forum, and the parish office.

Acolytes

Submitted by The Rev. Jeanne Forte

Many thanks for the dedication and work of the Acolyte teams of 2010. We have trained four new acolytes. Two acolytes have grown/moved to be crucifers. We are thankful to have a new thurifer! Their presence in worship is a blessing to the entire community. Keep up the good work! The year was celebrated with a trip to view "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" in 3D where a good time was had by all.

If there are any young people from the age of 7 who would like to participate in this wonderful ministry, please contact the Church Office, or Rev. Jeanne. We would be happy to have you.

Altar Guild

No report submitted For information, contact Susie Bonstin.

Flower Guild

Submitted by Sandy Schipper, Coordinator

The Flower Guild is composed of people who are not professionally trained but who love flowers and enjoy working with them. We are blessed to have members who faithfully and beautifully honor their commitment to St. Paul's as they make arrangements one Sunday each month. The group also decorates the church for special season, such as Christmas and Easter.

Throughout this year, Edie Lockman and Maggie Smith, Lee Voorhees, Julia Ritter, Mittie Railsback and Debi Hall have faithfully been there for us. As Kathy Prosser and Maureen Troyer were unable to continue with the group, we were pleased to welcome Suzanne McDowell to fill the void. The group and St. Paul's are also blessed to have dedicated substitutes who step in when needed. Judy Furlong and Debbie Varson, as well as other church members, are always there to help when they are needed. We welcome others who are interested in this ministry to join us.

Church members may choose to sponsor flowers to commemorate a special occasion or memorial. A donation of \$50 is suggested. Guild members work with the sponsor family to honor any special requests. Funds for the Flower Guild are not included in St. Paul's budget, so donations from church members provide our sole support. A flower sponsor sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Intercessors

Submitted by Edie Holton Westphal

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors at St. Paul's are an integral part of the liturgy. Theirs is a special calling and their faithful service enhances the beauty of our worship services. In addition to being present to serve on Sunday, they give of their time and talents by researching and writing the prayers of the people, as well as practicing the readings in order to be prepared on Sunday morning. These ministries are a gift to the congregation and to those who participate in them. We currently have 24 active Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and 21 Lectors.

Those who serve in these ministries commit to service, prayer, and to attending training/review sessions annually as well as a Lay Ministry Worship at least once every three years to maintain their license. Several people have indicated an interest to serve in these ministries and will be trained to do so in January 2011.

We look forward to welcoming new LEMs and Lectors in 2011 and give heartfelt thanks to those who continue to faithfully serve in these ministries.

Morning Prayer

Submitted by The Rev. Canon John Bogart, Convener

Six faithful parishioners keep Morning Prayer going, Monday through Friday, at 9:00 a.m., in the church. They are: Edna Aldinger, John Bogart, Mittie and Fred Railsback, Sue Libby and Kitty Griffin. We pray not only the service in the Prayer Book, and listen to the Scripture readings, but we also add our personal prayers. Many people, especially the ill, are being remembered regularly.

We welcome all who would like to join us. St. Paul's is a lively parish because of all the prayers which are continually being prayed.

Music Ministries

Contemporary Music Ministry

Submitted by Mark Sackett

This past year the Contemporary Music Ministry continued its focus on prayer, praise and worship. All members of the ministry support the priority of leading by teaching and leading by example. We pray together every Sunday, often while singing. While our numbers did not necessarily grow, they changed in scope. We began incorporating youth into the service over the course of the past couple of years. We continue to keep the younger generation involved in making music at St. Paul's, which helps keep us all focused on the future of the church.

While last year our focus was on having a 'Youth Praise Band', we are now focused on incorporating the younger people into the main contemporary service. We have younger members playing and singing regularly as part of the ministry. They gather with us and pray with us before the service.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to say how proud I am to worship with this wonderful group of people. They are focused and clear on their purpose and dedicated to their mission of leading the congregation in sung prayer. We have had a number of terrific leaders emerge from this ministry. I recently describe one of them as an evangelist. I'm hoping that word shows up more and more in our annual reports!

Traditional Music Ministry

No report submitted. For information, contact Glenn Walp.

Office Angels

Submitted by JoAnn Souza

Purpose of the Ministry

The Office Angels ministry allows the parish administrator to make more efficient use of her time by providing volunteers who help with routine office tasks on a weekly and monthly basis.

2010 in Review

The Office Angels provide invaluable assistance to the Parish Administrator. They help fill in when she is out of the office, fold the weekly bulletins, and assist with other tasks throughout the year. Last year we said goodbye to Kathy Prosser as she and her family moved away. In the fall we welcomed Jeanne Brown, a former Episcopal church secretary from Long Island. She joins Ginny Altice, Betty McIntosh and Kay Barnard, who each help one Friday a month. Thanks also to Winnie Johnson and Bob McIntosh for helping when needed. Appreciation is also given to Sara Underwood for her excellent design and layout of the *Epistle*. If you would like to volunteer, contact the church office.

Ushers

Submitted by Steve Rodekoher, Director

Purpose of the Ministry

Ushering is a ministry of hospitality. Ushers are those friendly and welcoming people who greet those of us who worship at St. Paul's. The Ushers provide a service sheet so that all may take part in the Liturgy, as well as making sure all are comfortably seated. Quietly, the Ushers work to avoid distractions, and play a key role in the Offertory and Eucharist.

2010 in Review

The ministry currently has 39 parishioners performing ushering duties on a regular basis. We have 5 reserve Ushers who can be called upon if needed.

All ushers have received a one-hour training session, and have been provided a Guideline for St. Paul's Ushers. Thanks to the dedication of those in this ministry, 2010 ran very smoothly.

The Usher Ministry continues to operate with a zero budget. Supplies have been provided through private donation.

I would like to thank Jon and Kelly Kearns for their service and welcome Edna Aldinger, Melody and Robert Avant, Sara and Mike Bierman and Yann Jouvenot and David Sells to our ministry!

2011 Goals

As with any ministry, the Usher Ministry is always seeking those to serve. This is a very important and easy ministry to be involved with here at St. Paul's. Your obligation is about one service (of your choice) every other month. Ushers for both services are needed. If you're interested, please contact me.

Vergers

Submitted by Fred Railsback

The Vergers are a group of dedicated men who are responsible for the safety and security of our historic buildings. During the week the Vergers lock and alarm all buildings nightly. While doing this, they monitor the buildings to make sure the lights, heaters, coffee pots, sound systems, etc. are turned off, all doors and windows are locked, and everything is in good order. On Sunday mornings they turn on the lights, unlock the doors, turn on the sound system, and make coffee.

Many thanks to Tom Aldinger, Joe Brien, Bob Hall, Tom Mader, Bill Markley, Neal Mulholand, and Fred Railsback for their long standing duty and to newcomer Robert Avant. We could use a couple more brave, intrepid gentlemen to help in this cause. You never know what kind of spirit you may encounter in the dark of night! Only the brave need apply.

Youth and Children's Services

Church School

Submitted by Chris Mader

Church School meets on Sunday at 10am in the undercroft. The teachers use The “Seasons of the Spirit” curriculum which is designed to educate through age-appropriate lessons. The curriculum is being used in classes for children ages 3-5 and 6-11. Each week, the classes focus on a New Testament or Old Testament passage chosen from the lectionary readings for that Sunday. When the young people attend Sunday worship, they are already familiar with one of the lessons and themes for the week. This allows them to engage more fully in the service and, since their parents hear the same reading, promotes family discussion afterwards. The program provides many resources to the teachers who use the posters, ideas for art projects and activities, skits, CDs, sheet music and other materials to teach the themes of the week.

The children are learning about our community of faith. The focus of the lessons includes learning that God’s love helps us to grow, prayer is a way of being with God, God is with us when we feel sad and afraid and God wants us to help others who are sad, afraid or in trouble. The focus of other lessons includes learning that Jesus teaches us how to live a life of faith and compassion. The children actively learn how to make a difference in other people’s lives by collecting funds for Heifer International. This organization has “projects around the world that help families achieve self reliance through the gift of livestock and training.”

We are fortunate to have a group of devoted volunteers who teach, learn and enjoy time with the children of St. Paul’s.