
St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2011 Annual Report

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012

Notice is hereby given for the Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Paul's, Benicia on Sunday, January 29, 2012 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.

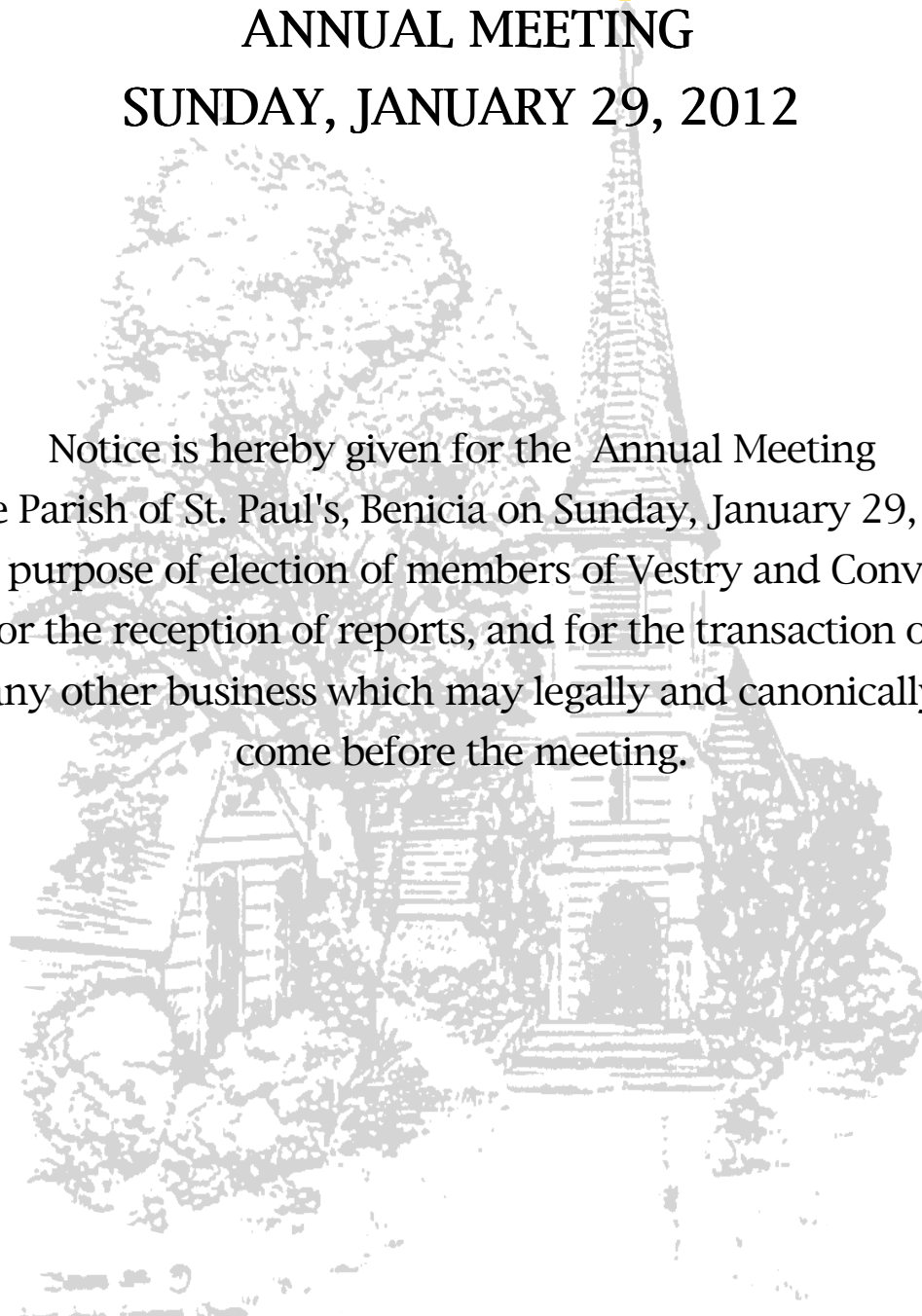


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STAFF

The Very 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 Arthur Holder, Ph.D.	Associate Priest
The Reverend Shep Jenks	Deacon
Steve Yurosko	Candidate for Ordination
Edie Westphal	Postulant
Glenn Walp	Traditional Music Director
Mark Sackett	Contemporary Music Director
JoAnn Souza	Parish Administrator
David Bundesen	Director, Planning Giving
Mary Ewart, Sarah Connor, Mary Ewart,	
Judy Kent, Andria Reid	Nursery Care Staff
Jacque Dennis-Jackson	Sexton

VESTRY

Current Vestry

Fred Railsback, Senior Warden	Term expires January 2013
Bill "Ski" Smiglewski, Junior Warden	Term expires January 2013
Anne Seed, Clerk	Term expires January 2012
Lee Anne Bundesen	Term expires January 2012
Allison Connor	Term expires January 2014
Sue Embree-Davis	Term expires January 2013
Chris Mader	Term expires January 2014
Steve Rodekohr	Term expires January 2014
John Wright, Jr.	Term expires January 2012

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 30, 2011

The Rev. Jeanne Forte opened the annual meeting with prayer. She followed by reading the memorials: baptisms, marriages, and deaths for 2011 and ended with prayer.

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

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

Robert Mott-Smith, Mary Frances Kelly-Poh and David Bundesen were appointed as tellers.

The Rev. Jeanne Forte presented the annual meeting minutes from January 31, 2010, which were approved by the parish as submitted.

Lee Anne Bundesen provided an explanation of the purpose of Vestry. Bill Smiglewski presented the nominees for Vestry: Steve Rodekohr, Chris Mader and Allison Connor. A call was made for additional nominees from the floor, but none were forthcoming. 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. Continuing members are: Lee Anne Bundesen, Sue Davis, Fred Railsback, Anne Seed, Bill Smiglewski and John Wright, Jr.

The existing Diocesan Convention Delegates were then presented and affirmed, Bob Hall, Jackie French, Anne Seed and Carole Johnson. Nominations for an additional lay delegate and five alternates were taken from the floor. A motion was made and approved to close nominations. Ballots were passed out for election. The tellers counted votes. The nominated Delegate receiving the most votes, Jeff Jarvis, was elected as Diocesan Convention Delegate. Judy Furlong, Lee Anne Bundesen, Caleigh Furlong, Jana Johnson and Debbie Varson were elected as Alternate Diocesan Convention Delegates.

Lee Anne Bundesen presented the year-end financial report (which is included in the 2010 Annual Report Addendum), Treasurer's Report and Financial Summaries. The year ended with a surplus of money and 97% of pledged commitments received. Lee Anne explained the status of the reserve accounts, including use of the Kaeli DeWeese Memorial Fund for youth education and the Dr. James Lloyd Breck Minister Student Trust Fund for Seminarian Steven Yurosko. Thanks were given to Caleigh Furlong for organizing the Party of Parties 2010, which raised about \$10,000. A balanced budget was presented for 2011, and the Budget was passed out for review and discussion.

Caleigh Furlong presented the date of March 26th for the kick-off of the Party of Parties 2011, and an overview of the fabulous parties of 2010. She invited everyone to host a party and to attend in 2011.

New ministries for the year included: Support our Troops, Kerygma and Mutual Ministry Review. Rev. Jeanne discussed the importance of the Mutual Ministry Review and the on-going work of the formed Committees. The Review will be held every year. David Sells presented the new stewardship program - Grateful, Glad & Giving.

Rev. Jeanne invited everyone to the Memorial Service for Edith Grove. Lee Anne Bundesen invited everyone to the many upcoming events including: a Community Meal benefit Concert, Bishop Barry Beisner's visit, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Kids' Vacation Academy. Robin Silver was thanked for funding the new Library.

The Rev. Jeanne Forte presented the Rector's Annual Report, which can be found on page 6 in the 2011 Annual Report. The legacy of St. Paul's is replete with gifts and we will continue to share these with the community. St. Paul's is a beacon of direction in Benicia, reflected in the spire of St. Paul's. The doors remain open and welcoming.

Rev. Jeanne then discussed her upcoming sabbatical in 2011. It will be a time for personal renewal and study working toward her dreams for developing Peace within the community and the world. She then presented upcoming important dates and events for this year.

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, Jeff Jarvis, Caleigh Furlong and Linda Tremain. Bill Smiglewski was thanked for being Junior Warden and Lee Anne Bundesen was given special recognition for her work as Senior Warden in 2009 and 2010. Fred Railsback was announced as the Senior Warden for 2011.

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

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I give thanks to God for the life and mission of this congregation. I am privileged to be your Rector at this time, in this place.

We come to the Eucharistic table Sunday by Sunday to make sense of our world, to find meaning in our lives. Time after time we hear the story, by faithfulness of the command to take bread and wine in the memory of the One who died and rose again, we find communion with the God of us all, and we are emboldened by the Holy Spirit to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world today. As Our Lord did, we are sent out into the world to proclaim the Gospel, to heal woundedness in our lives and in the world around us. And often, day by day, we are encouraged to find spaces of solitude where we re-connect in prayer with the "ground of our being," to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

Diana Butler Bass, a well-respected author of church development, writes about mainline Protestant churches, and how congregations need to change to meet the needs of a changing world. In her new book *The Practicing Congregations: Imagining a New Old Church* she points to a renewed trend in mainline churches. She speaks of congregations of the 21st century:

"... religious communities focus on meaning-making by gathering up the past and re-presenting it through both story and action in ways that help people connect with God, one another and the world outside the doors of the church buildings. It encompasses both pattern and practice."¹

What Bass highlights for me (and on reflection of our last year) is that we at St. Paul's need to be intentional about what we already do well: worship, mission, and spirituality. Both are essential to a life of discipleship. Our worship shapes us by the story – by The Word, and in our actions of praise and thanksgiving, of eating and drinking, of being connected with God-in-Christ, and therefore with one another as the Body of Christ. Our relationship with one another is affirmed in our common faith, and our relationship with the world is shaped by the Gospel imperative. We are called to love one another as we are loved, to serve one another as Christ has served us. We are called to be the voice of the marginalized, to feed the hungry and to be implements of God's justice and mercy.

One of the greatest gifts of my sabbatical was the re-discovery of what I once knew so well: To be disciples and to do God's work, demands that we be connected with God on a daily basis. Intentional spiritual life enables us to grow in our ministry, both as individuals and as a community of faith. Our story makes no sense if we do not school ourselves in God's Word. Our praise and thanksgivings must be part of the fabric of our daily lives. Our spiritual lives are not possible without opening ourselves to the movement of the Holy Spirit in prayer.

St. Paul's has been blessed with so many who offer themselves for the service of worship. A great debt of thanks is owed to our Associate ministers John +, Linda +, and Arthur +. Music shapes the "feeling," the mood of our worship and I am grateful for the quality of music offered by our leaders Glenn Walp and Mark Sackett, as I am for our Contemporary music team and our loyal choir members. The young instrumentalists who grace us at Christmas and Easter make the 'heart sing.' Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, the Altar and Flower Guilds are all essential to the experience of worship. Thank you for your wonderful work.

¹Diana Butler Bass, *The Practicing Congregation*, p.4

We continue work in our mission and outreach, to our communities, the broader church and the world. We have visited the sick and prayed with and taken communion to many. We have cooked, driven and attended to the physical needs of so many of our family. In Benicia St. Paul's continues to enhance the lives of people who gather at our weekly Community meal for physical, emotional and spiritual sustenance. For this, Debi Hall has been a dedicated, wonderful leader. We continue to be yoked in mission with the Community Action Council, who is supported with proceeds from The Peddler's Fair, and our donations. We have been, and will continue to be (in the next few weeks) involved in the Episcopal Church's "Rebuild Haiti" initiative. Young people are blessed by St. Paul's support of the Sierra Service Project and our new support of Challenge Day, an initiative in our local High Schools educating students about peer relationships and the potential harm of "bullying." St. Paul's support of all diocesan endeavors has been a gift to The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California: Bob Hall is the Vice President of Diocesan Council. David Bundesen has assumed the chair of the Episcopal Foundation. I serve as the Dean of The Wingfield Deanery. You gift the diocese with my time on the Church Support Committee (serving congregations in crisis) and on the Congregational Vitalization Committee (resource-building for congregational growth).

Through various programs we support and nourish the spiritual journey of all members of St. Paul's. Our new Sunday School format is underway, thanks to the efforts of the dedicated volunteers, especially Chris Mader. The Nursery staff is beloved of parents and children alike. Friday Activities for Kids continues into its third year, a popular Friday afternoon program for Elementary School children. Kid's Vacation Academy was a wonderful success, both here in Benicia and in two other locations in our diocese. As previously mentioned, SSP and Challenge Day continues to transform lives of both our young people and adult counselors. We are blessed with Bible Study programs, Kerygma (thank you Judy Furlong). One of our least known ministries of this parish is the Intercessory Prayer Group, an email connection, who will pray for the needs of the congregation. They know that prayer makes a difference, and that the Holy Spirit is an instrument of healing in our world today. Please support this ministry and speak to Cyndi Hardy about joining.

We are a dynamic and creative community. We have done well but there are many more challenges ahead in 2012. Look around you, there are new faces. The shape of our community is changing. We must grow and change with it. And as we change, demands are made on how we communicate and connect with one another. Each of us must be engaged to form and re-form community. Last year there were significant improvements in the ways in which we have communicated electronically. Electronic Epistles, contact through email 'blasts' are but the beginning of what will, in 2012 be a leap forward. Be on the lookout for a new web site with enhanced communication capabilities in the next few months. Thanks go to Lee Anne Bundesen and her hard-working Communications team.

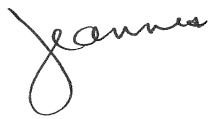
However, electronic and print communication will never replace face-to-face contact. St. Paul's is a community that knows how to gather around food, drink and conversation. Party of Parties had a successful year, and will continue this year as well. Our many celebrations foster communication. From our English "teas", our Family picnic, the Brotherhood of St. Andrews' many fund-raising

feasts, we deepen our connections begun at the altar of St. Paul's. Coffee Hour seems like such an incidental event, yet it is an essential place where we get to know each others' names and begin conversations.

Building a practicing Christian Community requires time and commitment. I would challenge you all this year to commit yourself to one or more areas in the life of this community in which you offer your gifts, your time, and your commitment. If everyone pitches in, miracles are accomplished. I am excited and full of expectations for this year. Jesus is coming! Get busy!

In the meantime, thanks Fred, Ski, Vestry, JoAnn, Bible Study sisters, parents, teachers all, children and those of my sisters and brothers who have yet to come into our doors!

Gratefully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JoAnn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the center of the page.

Nominees for Vestry

Three-Year Terms

Jackie French

Jackie has been a long-time member of St. Paul's. She and her husband Gary have raised their children within these walls. She now looks forward to bringing in the next generation of French children. She is a veteran Vestry member, LEM, and Lector, and serves as a Lay Delegate to the Diocesan Convention.

David Sells

Yann and I started coming to St. Paul in 2009 when upon our first visit we discovered what an amazing community this parish is. We not only found a home for our family, we found a fellowship that was so welcoming that we new this was our home. Last year our children were baptized at St. Paul's and now have a place to grow in faith and love.

Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to serve this community as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Usher and Member of the Grateful, Glad and Giving committee. While taking part in each of these ministries, I have grown in my own faith and as a member of this parish. If selected as a member of the Vestry, I look forward to serving not only the community of St. Paul's, but also the larger community as a whole.

Eddie Westphal

Being an active member at St. Paul's is a source of joy and blessing in my life. When describing our church to people I tell them that St. Paul's is an example of what it means to be the Body of Christ in the community. I have served on the Worship Commission for two years as Coordinator for the Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors, led out in adult education, and I occasionally preach.

I am a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, a Board Certified Chaplain, and a Postulant for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Northern California. I have worked as a staff chaplain at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland for four years. I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to further serving the members of St. Paul's

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Senior Warden's Report

Submitted by Fred Railsback

Looking back on 2011, I am once again awed and thankful for what St. Paul's has done, is doing, and will do. We are, indeed, blessed. We have a combination that is hard to beat; a strong group of lay leaders, led by a gifted priest, supported by awesome staff and associate priests. In this more and more fragmented world, we look forward to a stable spiritual home. Our congregation responds positively to new challenges and opportunities, as they arise, with the confidence and enthusiasm that can only come from a firm foundation of faith. We are, indeed, the Hands of Christ in the Heart of Benicia.

Last year had many highlights. The one that jumps out for me was Reverend Jeanne's sabbatical and the coverage and continuation of our programs during her absence. I think that while we were missing her leadership, we grew in self confidence. Our whole parish took on some added responsibilities and are the stronger for it. We look forward to some new experiences as a result of the reinvigoration (is that a good word?) of Rev. Jeanne.

I am thankful for you who work with our children and youth. I will not attempt to name all those involved for fear of leaving someone out, but you all know who they are. THANK YOU for your work with those who are our future. Now, having said this, and pumping you all up, there are some things we should look at. I urge all of you that have any extra time and talent to look around and see where you can jump in. We have many great programs that could use some "new blood". All of our ministries would benefit from fresh eyes, new ideas, enthusiastic outlooks, and a little rocking-of-the-boat. Complacency doesn't age well. If we truly believe in what we do, we should be sharing with as many folks as we can. We are not here to rest on our laurels.

My thanks to everyone. As your Senior Warden, I was privileged to observe all of the great work done by our Reverend Jeanne, our support clergy and staff, and so many dedicated and talented folks on our vestry and in our congregation. You are all special, each in your own, unique way. I look forward to the coming year and the great things to come!
God bless.

Junior Warden's Report

Submitted by W.E. "Ski" Smiglewski

Brothers and Sisters of St. Paul's:

This marks the beginning of the end of my tenure as your Jr. Warden. At which a new door will open for one of you. A period of giving something different of oneself. A period of commitment to something greater than oneself. Doing God's business.

Does any one know what happened to July or August of 2011? June is somewhat of a blur with only an occasional snapshot of something happening but just can't put a finger on it. If this is how your year has gone, like me it's time to step back and take a breath. Reevaluate one's priorities as they say now days.

I recall a story in Luke. During one of Jesus' travels he happens upon the house of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary greets Jesus and washes his feet and sits and listens to him preach while Martha is going nuts trying to clean and prepare food, getting wine etc. and finally Jesus says to her, "Martha, Martha chill out. You're busy about too much stuff and Mary has chosen the better portion and she shall not be deprived of it." From time to time stop and take a breath. Listen to what's important. Make quiet your soul.

2012 will probably be no different than 2011 inasmuch as there is always something needing attention or repair. We also see our "imagine if" becoming reality, such as the library and freshening up of the Hall and restrooms. The renovation of the kitchen will continue and I hope we succeed in redoing the electrical wiring in the rectory.

Thank you Steve Rodekoher for all your help and also Tom Mader when I couldn't get to it. Plenty going on at St. Paul's. Noise of tools, smells of saw dust, cleaning, building, outreaching, kids laughing as it should be, and that's a beautiful noise. God's peace.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Summaries/2011 Budget

Submitted by Art Schipper

The Treasurer's Report is available as a separate handout.

St. Paul's Historic Trust

Submitted by Fred Railsback

The mission of St. Paul's Historic Trust, founded in 1970, is to support the preservation and maintenance of the three historic buildings of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, California Historical Landmark No. 862. The Trust is comprised of seven members; Tom Aldinger, Bob Hall, Bill Markley, Reverend Jeanne Forte, Peddler's Fair Chair Mittie Railsback, community representative Manual Lopes, and senior warden Fred Railsback. Trust meetings are held quarterly and are open to the parish.

The bulk of the funds raised by the Trust comes from the annual Peddler's Fair, whose information is found in its own report. Other funds come from donations (many thanks), and interest on investments. All funds, with the exception of 10% of the net profit of the annual Peddler's Fair, are spent on the upkeep of the buildings. The 10% of net profit goes back into the community in the form of grants to local nonprofits. Please remember the Trust in your estate planning!

Peddler's Fair

Submitted by Linda Tremain, Chair, Mittie Railsback and Chris Mader – Co-Chairs

The Benicia Peddler's Fair Committee, and St. Paul's Historic Trust, would like to extend a hearty thank you to everyone who came out and participated in the 48th Annual Benicia Peddler's Fair on August 13, 2011.

Approximately 30,000 Benicians and visitors enjoyed the antiques, crafts, and eclectic collection of items and food from about 300 booths on a beautiful, sunny day on First Street. The Fair was a great success! We could not have such a successful event without all of our loyal volunteers.

The profits from the Fair, over \$25,000, help in the preservation and maintenance of our historic buildings, with the exception of 10% of the proceeds, which are donated back to local non-profit organizations.

Thank you St. Paul's for all of your support. We will be back with the 49th Annual Benicia Peddler's Fair on August 11, 2012! Hope to see you there!

COMMISSIONS

Christian Formation

Bible Study—

Wednesday Morning Group

Submitted by The Very Rev. Jeanne Forte

In 2011, a faithful group of women and a few gentlemen met for Bible Study following the Wednesday Eucharist service. We completed our "romp through the scriptures" and are now engaged in studying women in scripture. This search often engages us with other sources, not found in the canon of the bible itself. We have had many spirited conversations. Opinions are shared freely, and our group is lively and challenging. All are welcome.

Guys' Group

Submitted by Emmett McDowell

We are a somewhat organized group of men which is open to any man associated with St Paul's. We meet on almost all Saturday mornings at 7:30 in the Parish Hall (an exception is the 2nd Saturday of the month when the Brotherhood of St. Andrew meets). We meet for a relational Bible study of the Gospel lesson for the next Sunday. Each of us brings two things to this study: our commonality and our uniqueness.

Many times Bible study is limited to historical events from the distant past. Our study attempts to draw upon the common experiences we all have had, and at the same time to share some of the unique experiences each individual brings to the group. In the process we gain a deeper bond of Christian love for one another and an appreciation for the timeless truths of the Bible.

We always have coffee, bagels, cream cheese and juice. Nothing fancy, but enough to get us awake and to keep us from starving. We maintain a covenant of confidentiality and have fun. If you have questions or need clarification, call Emmett McDowell at semcdowell@sbcglobal.net.

Christian Education (Kerygma Bible Study)

Submitted by Judy Furlong, Kerygma Leader

The Kerygma class has had a very interesting year. We are a small group consisting of Susie Bonstin, Bob and Debi Hall, Mary Frances Kelly Poh and John Wright. We have completed our study of the Old Testament and are now half-way through the New Testament. Our study has been enriched this year by a lecture series on both parts of the Bible provided by The Great Courses. We have had many interesting and lively discussions and will complete the course in the spring. A new Kerygma class will form in the fall.

Congregational Commission for Ministry

Respectfully submitted by Judy Furlong, CCOM Chair

This year has been a busy one for the CCOM, which is the commission charged with "shepherding" folks who seek ordained or lay ministry. Steve Yurosko, who has been a postulant and student at CDSP, was made a candidate for ordination this fall. This means that he will be graduating from CDSP with a Master of Divinity, and will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate in June. We are so proud of Steve! We know he will be a credit to St. Paul's and a real gift to the Church from our parish!

Edie Westphal completed the interview process to begin her journey to ordained ministry, was approved by the CCOM, the vestry and rector, then completed the rigorous interview process with the Diocese in October. She was approved for postulancy and is now beginning the studies she will need to become ordained. Since Edie already has a Master of Divinity from Fuller, she will have a shorter academic plan to complete.

The CCOM has also taken over the process of licensing for Lay Ministers. We now have applied for licenses for all our Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Preachers. This has been a fruitful year for the CCOM, whose members are The Rev. Canon John Bogart, Dr. Robin Silver, Virginia Vater, Fred Railsback, Jennifer Jarvis and Dr. David White.

Cursillo

Submitted by Steve Yurosko

You have asked about Cursillo. Maybe you've heard people talk about it and your curiosity piqued. Maybe you've heard about "the rooster" and "the colors" and you've wondered what they mean. Hopefully, you've seen joy and love in the faces of Cursillistas and you want to partake in the same experience. Whatever your reason, you want to know more! There is almost as many answers as there are people. To some it's a new breath of life, a dynamic new expression of the Holy Spirit. It is the experience of living for three days in a community of persons who are consciously trying to live as Christians.

Part of the purpose of a Cursillo weekend is to help us recognize Christ's action in our lives and the lives of others. The word "Cursillo" is Spanish for short course; the long name is Cursillo de Cristiandad, or a short course in Christian living, and is pronounced Kur-see-yo. For more information go to www.roostercrows.com, or contact Steven or Sue Yurosko, ssyurosko@sbcglobal.net

Grateful, Glad and Giving

Submitted by Lee Anne Bundesen

Grateful, Glad & Giving is a program that reminds us of the joy, love and hope provided by God for all of us. St. Paul's began the G3 Program in February of 2011 and has established a Gratitude theme each month with the use of posters, activities, gifts and "shared experiences." If you are interested in participating in this joyful program, contact Lee Anne Bundesen.

Planned Giving

Submitted by David Bundesen

The St. Paul's Planned Giving Commission got off to a great start in 2011. We held the first Life Planning Guide Workshop with over 30 attendees and the response was uniformly positive. This program, a new offering from The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California, is designed to take a fresh approach to an important subject, that of including the church in one's estate plan. The workshop covered a variety of subjects including: Personal Property Information and Distribution, People to Notify, Church Information, Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, Advance Health Care Directive, and Physician, Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment, Organ or Body Donation, End of Life Choices, Wills and Trusts, Planned Giving, Vine and Branch Society, Loving Letters just to name a few. If there is sufficient demand, we will be happy to present again in 2012.

You may have also noticed the ever present "one-liners" in the weekly bulletin that remind parishioners of the importance of a good estate plan. We included these for 42 Sunday bulletins. We are also proud to announce the following new members to the Vine and Branch Society: those that have included St. Paul's or any Diocesan institute in their estate planning. They are: Jeanne Forte, Robin Silver, Mike and Donna Baldwin, Virginia and Walter Vater, Fred and Mittie Railsback, and David and Lee Anne Bundesen

If you have included St. Paul's in your estate planning, please contact me at plannedgiving@stpaulsbenicia.org to join the Vine and Branch Society and become included in next year's list as well as special invitations to our "Evening with the Bishop" to be held throughout the Diocese in 2012.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Submitted by Jeanne Brown

St. Paul's invites knitters and crocheters of all skill levels to serve God by knitting a gift in the form of a shawl to bring comfort and love to someone in need. The ministry was formed last year, and so far 15 shawls have been completed by the 10 members.

The group meets at St. Paul's on the first Saturday of the month. Knitting may also be done at home, if preferred. Shawl patterns, yarn and instructions are provided. If you do not knit or crochet but are interested in helping with this ministry, prayers are always encouraged, or you may make a donation toward the purchase of yarn.

This ministry is a very loving and rewarding undertaking, not only for the recipients, but for the knitters and crocheters, who are fulfilled by bringing warmth and comfort to those in need.

Stephen Ministries

Submitted by Beth Gaines, Stephen Leader

Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one Christian care to people going through difficult times in their lives. In 2011 Stephen Ministries at St. Paul's continued its partnership with Community Presbyterian, Wayside United Methodist, and Benicia Community Congregational United Church in Christ. Together, we offered the Stephen Series and trained six Stephen Ministers, two of whom will be St. Paul's Stephen Ministers.

During 2011 we had two Stephen Ministers providing Christian care to two care receivers. In partnership with the three churches referenced above, we participated in continuing education and benefited greatly from a variety of presentation styles and subjects, including guest speakers Dr. Jon Stanger from UC Davis and Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Pastor Dr. Felicisimo Pao from Wayside United Methodist.

We look forward in 2012 to continuing our growth and providing compassionate Christian care to people inside and outside the congregation, including those experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, terminal illness, loneliness, spiritual crisis, hospitalization, relocation, and other life difficulties.

Christian Outreach

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

Submitted by Arthur Schipper

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is a missionary and evangelism ministry of the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. In fact, it is the oldest evangelistic ministry of the Episcopal Church. Our goal is to bring men and boys to Jesus Christ. Our Disciplines are PRAYER, STUDY and SERVICE. Our membership is open to all men in the parish, including those of High School age. We have meetings once a month in the Parish Hall, on the second Saturday. Meetings consist of a hearty breakfast prepared by one or more of the brothers, a program of current interest in Benicia or a short study of the upcoming Gospel.

All of our activities involve outreach into the Parish, the wider community of Benicia, and the world. In 2011 we hosted the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, which raised money for the Sierra Service Project. We provided the hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks for the Parish Picnic. We purchased supplies for the breakfast for the Tula/Benicia Sister City group.

Over the past 8 years we have provided financial support for a young man in India through Children's International. When things need to be done around the Parish or folks need help, the Brotherhood members are often the first called upon. To accomplish these activities, we hold one or more fund raising activities each year. The most recent was the Chili Dinner on the First Friday in December. The net of the funds raised are entirely used to support outreach activities.

Our membership, 20 to 25 faithful members 10 years ago, has dwindled to about 10. We would like to grow again. We hope, as you read about the Brotherhood and its mission, that you will join with us in bringing men and boys into a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. We believe salvation can be found only by a public acceptance of Jesus as the Son of God, risen from the dead and Lord in your life; the authority of the Holy Scriptures; the power of the Holy Spirit; and the fellowship of believers.

Communications Committee

Submitted by Robin Silver, Chair

The Communication Committee arose from the 2010 Ministry Review. The goal of the committee was to improve communication within/outside of the church.

Some of the accomplishments to date include:

1. New microphone for minister for services
2. Upgrade on church sign at entrance to property
3. Posting of monthly church schedule at entrance to church
4. Choosing new site to upgrade church's website.
5. Improved Facebook usage.

The main goal for 2012 will be to complete the new church website, have it go live, and then spend the rest of the year getting the new website optimized and used regularly. The committee will then continue to pursue other forms of communication, including Facebook, newspapers, etc.

Community Meal

Submitted by Debi Hall

St. Paul's is in its 14th 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. Heritage Presbyterian Church continues to cook one Wednesday a month, and the Kiwanis Club cooks every fifth Wednesday, led by Donna and Mike Baldwin. We served over 6,300 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 and Joe Zatina, 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 Girl Scouts, St. Dominic's grade school, Touro University and the community at large.

We continue to update our kitchen as funds allow. This year we purchased two new rolling tables (with Ski Smiglewski's and Larry Heltsley's help), remodeled the Parish Hall (with the help of an anonymous donor and the Vestry) and both bathrooms, including re-facing the cabinets, new counters, light fixtures, paint and décor items to spruce things up. Kim Rodekoher was a huge help in choosing the paint, light fixtures and the wall décor.

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 and Beth Gaines

This was the sixth year for the Fair Trade Coffee Project at St. Paul's. It was our first entire year on our own after breaking our ties with Heritage Presbyterian Church in 2010. This is an 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 who they can trust. They are then able to invest in their own communities--in education, health care, and agricultural improvements.

There have been several increases in fair trade prices this last year, and many of our favorite brews are no longer being offered. However, we are pleased to report that many of our faves are still available including those delicious Organic Chocolate bars! 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 2011 we purchased products for a total cost of \$2,122.45 and sold them for a total of \$2,034.40. This created a minor profit for St. Paul's coffers of \$88.05! And we still have some inventory as well as a slight profit left over on last years books.

We are selling Fair Trade products at least twice a month during Coffee Hours. You can also place an order by contacting Cyndi Hardy cyndhardy@aol.com or Judy White at judywhite810@yahoo.com

We wish to recruit "new blood" into the Fair Trade Coffee Project. It would be especially helpful if we could get an additional 11 am parishioner to assist Beth Gaines with sales after this later service. Please contact Cyndi or Judy if you have an hour you could devote after the later service for this fun and worthwhile ministry only one to two Sundays a month.

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. On average, St. Paul's contributes 300 pounds of food from each of the food drives. The 2012 Fifth Sunday Food Drives will be in January, April, July, September, and December. Look for brown grocery bags at the back of the church on the fourth Sundays of those months.

Friday Activities for Kids

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. We also encourage Middle Schoolers to attend and have several who participate as Counselors. They've been enormously helpful. So far, this program is fully self-supporting.

Vital Statistics for the current School Year (Sept. – Dec. 2011)

2011-12 Registrations: 23

2011-12 Attendance: 90 Average: 11+ per 8 sessions this school year

2011-12 Outreach: 15 10 registered non-members; 5 guests

2011-12 Sessions have included...

Field Trips: Ben Franklin Exhibit at Benicia Library, Ice Skating in Walnut Creek

Activities: Making FA4K T-shirts, Mad Hatter Day & Mask Making, Pumpkin Carving & Decorating, Science Day, Making a Nativity Scene and Puppet Day.

There's much more to come in the rest of this school year.

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!

Kairos Prison Ministry

Submitted by Steve Yurosko

The people of Kairos are called by God to share the love of Christ with those impacted by incarceration. Kairos encourages believers from a variety of Christian traditions to be volunteers in this Christ-filled ministry. Kairos programs offer to prison residents, their families, and those who work with them, the opportunity to receive God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ, and to grow in their faith and servant hood in Christian community.

We stand on the common ground of the following elements of faith: 1) The Bible is God's authoritative and inspired word for our faith and our lives; 2) In the Trinity of the Father, son and Holy Spirit; 3) In the deity, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; 4) Friendship with God is a free gift, for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life; 5) The love of Jesus Christ motivates His followers to provide food for the hungry, drink to the thirsty, welcome to the stranger, clothes for the naked, and visits to the sick and those in prison; 6) In sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ with all incarcerated individuals, their families and to those who work with them inside and outside the correctional institution. (<http://www.kairosprisonministry.org>) This is not a ministry for everyone. However, if you are interested please contact Steven Yurosko, ssyurosko@sbcglobal.net.

Kids' Vacation Academy (KVA)

Submitted by The Very Rev. Jeanne Forte

KVA '11 was a great success! 2011 was our fifth, fun-filled year of this great program. From June 13 to 17:

44 campers

+ 19 counselors can we put the 2011 logo here?

+ 30 staff and support

+ one great community of faith to back-stop the wonderful and spirit filled week seeking God and being found by a loving community in the adventure "Finding Nemo."

This year, a group of counselors and staff took KVA on the road and supported St. Mary's, Napa in their first KVA. It was very well received. St. Mary's, Elk Grove also used our resources for their own Vacation Bible School. Several other congregations have expressed interest in the KVA template. Imagine a contingent of youth and adults, travelling from Holy Cross, Castro Valley five years ago, with trucks full of supplies and a ton of energy as well as the blessing of the Holy Spirit. And now it is St. Paul's turn. What a joy it is to pass on this wonderful opportunity to others!

Thanks to the scores of volunteers who painted, supervised, built, cooked, decorated, folded, reproduced pages, and assisted in countless ways. Thanks again for the support of the Kaeli DeWeese legacy for scholarships. We look forward to your continued support this year as our children find out that "You've got a friend in me!" and they learn to hang-out with all their pals from "Toy Story." **Save the date: June 11-15, 2012. Registration opens March 1 (scholarships available).**

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

No report submitted. For more information, contact Charlie Kilbourne.

PIE Greeters

Submitted by JoAnn Souza

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 other baked good, homemade or purchased, for a very brief visit in which the newcomer is thanked for their interest in St. Paul's. A total of 12 families were visited by our dedicated PIE greeters in 2011.

PIE greeters are Mike Baldwin, Jennifer Jarvis, Jane Samuelson, and new volunteers JoAnne Craig and Jim Turner. Thank you to Caleigh Furlong for coordinating this ministry last year. Contact the office if you'd like to join this welcoming ministry.

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 Rodekoeh – SSP Coordinator

2011 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 \$4000 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 Yurok Reservation this year. The Yurok Reservation is located in Northern California about 50 south of the Oregon border and 80 miles inland from the coast. We stayed in the reservation fire house. We all slept inside the open bay fire or outside under the stars and showered in home-made hose-fed showers! The campers built a salmon smoke house, decking, disabled access ramps and did some painting. A very special cultural experience was experienced by our group. The Yurok Tribe allowed us to observe several tribal dances for renewal at a gathering site near the Klamath River. This has rarely been seen by anyone outside the Yurok nation. This was an experience we will remember forever.

Goals for 2012

Once again, our group will be serving in the SSP Urban Project in South Central Los Angeles. We last served there in 2007, and it was a very different and rewarding experience.

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. Thank you again, St. Paul's, for your support! Anyone who would like to be a part of the Sierra Service Project may email me at stevenet@pacbell.net.

Silver Library

Submitted by Lee Anne Bundesen

Thanks to Rev. Jeanne Forte for the vision, Robin Silver for the possibility, and the many who donated time, energy and books, the new Silver Library was completed and officially dedicated in 2011. Please come in and browse, fill out a Library User form and make use of the inspirational, insightful and instructional materials that this new library provides.

Thank God It's a Fourth Friday (TGIFF)

Submitted by JoAnn Souza

TGIFF, or Thank God It's Fourth Friday, finished its second year of bringing members together for a monthly social gathering. On the Fourth Friday of every month, St. Paul's hosts a "happy hour" of sorts—wine, snacks, and conversation—held downstairs in the Undercroft from 5-7 pm. This is a great time to unwind from a busy week or month and meet some of the St. Paul's family. Thanks to Caleigh Furlong for coordinating this ministry. Contact the church office if you would like to host one of the Fridays.

Worship

Acolytes

Submitted by The Very Rev. Jeanne Forte

In 2011, 9 Acolytes (taper bearers), 5 Crucifers (leaders of Worship and Acolytes), and 2 Thurifers (youth who are responsible for incense used on our Feast Days, and who like playing with fire!) have graced our sanctuary. Their dedication has been a testimony that our young people have so much to offer our worship service. Children ages 8 and over, as well as very enthusiastic 7-year-olds, are welcome to join the Acolyte group. There are occasional training sessions, as well as fun activities. Our Christmas bowling party was a success! The youngest acolytes came out on top. A special thanks to Tom Mader who has faithfully managed the schedule.

Altar Guild

No report submitted; contact Susie Bonstin for more information.

Children's Sunday Program

Submitted by Chris Mader

Sunday mornings have changed for the children of St. Paul's! The Children's Sunday Program is now offered during the 11 am service for children in pre-school through 5th grade. The children attend the opening of the 11 am service, listen to the children's message, and then follow an adult leader to the undercroft. Between 11:15 and 11:45 am, they participate in activities based on that Sunday's scripture readings and the message they have heard.

The activities have included skits, decorating Advent pillowcases, studying scripture, making sidewalk drawings and sharing experiences with other children. The children return to the service about 11:45 to share Communion with their families. The goal of this program is to share the love of God in Christ and to impart values that young people can incorporate into their own lives! Thank you to Sarah Connor, Mary Ewart, Andria Reid, and Maddie Stewart, who regularly inspire the children of St. Paul's. Also, thank you to other members of the congregation who have shared a Sunday with our children!

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 flower arrangements one Sunday each month. In addition, we have dedicated substitutes and others who step in when needed. We welcome others who are interested in this ministry. Please contact Sandy Schipper if you would like 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 flower requests. Funds for the Flower Guild are not included in St. Paul's budget, so donations from church members provide our sole support. A 2012 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 26 active Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and 25 Lectors.

Those who serve in these ministries commit to service, prayer, and to attending training/review sessions annually as well as a Lay Ministry Workshop at least once every three years to maintain their license. We look forward to welcoming new LEMs and Lectors in 2012 and give heartfelt thanks to those who continue to faithfully serve in these ministries.

Morning Prayer

Submitted by The Rev. John L. Bogart, Convenor

Morning Prayer is still being prayed Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. One of our leaders, Sue Libby, has moved back to Alabama, so that leaves just four of us to keep this program going. We are Edna Aldinger, Mittie Railsback, Kitty Griffin and John Bogart. This work means a lot to us, and we would be happy to have others join us.

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 continue to support young people taking part in our music ministry.

The ministry agreed that this year we would begin to take part in outreach. Though our initial goal was (and is) to sing to people who can't or don't make it to church. Hospitals and senior centers are an obvious choice. However, due to seasonal opportunity, we began what we hope is an annual Christmas Caroling ministry. We put word out that we were going caroling and brought in a new member of our choir from the community.

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, and we've even taken steps towards evangelism.

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.

2011 in Review

The Office Angels continue to provide invaluable assistance to the Parish Administrator and Rector. They help fill in for the parish administrator when she is out of the office, fold Sunday bulletins, and assist with other mass mailings throughout the year. This year, we welcomed Jeanne Brown, a former Episcopal church secretary, and Mary Frances Kelly Poh, as Office Angels. They join Kay Barnard, Betty McIntosh and Ginny Altice, who prepare the weekly Sunday bulletins. Appreciation is also given to Sara Bierman for her continued efforts as newsletter editor.

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.

2011 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, 2011 ran very smoothly.

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

I would like to welcome James Brown, Donna Patey, Jean and Mark Brown, JoAnne Craig and Jim Turner and Bob and Ellen Whitehead to our ministry and also welcome back Linda Tremain!

2012 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, email me at steve-net@pacbell.net.

Vergers

Submitted by Fred Railsback

The Vergers of St. Paul's follow an ages old tradition of being responsible for the well-being of our three historic buildings. Neither rain, wind, or fear of the boogey man keep these gentlemen from making sure our facilities are secured and alarmed for the night. Our trusted Vergers: Tom Aldinger, Robert Avant, Joe Brien, Bob Hall, Tom Mader, Bill Markley, Neal Mulholand, and semi-trusted Fred Railsback, also show up on Sunday mornings, unlocking doors, turning on the heat, lights, and audio systems, and most importantly, making strong, hot coffee.

If any of our masculine, non-verging congregants would be interested in joining this group of fearless men, please call me. It takes a special type of person to skulk around these old, spirit-filled buildings on a cold, windy night, but you just might qualify!

Worship Committee

Submitted by The Very Rev. Jeanne Forte

As liturgical seasons change, our Worship Committee meets at the request and under the guidance of the rector. In 2011, this committee has ensured the smooth ordering of all matters relating to our worship services. A wonderful year has just passed, with successful, well-planned services during the Rector's sabbatical. Included in this group last year are: the Altar guild, Flower guild, Ushers, LEMs and Lectors, Acolytes and Crucifers, Music leaders, Sunday School, Nursery, Adult Forum and office staff. Thanks to the host of volunteers for their efforts

