



# THE EPISTLE

NOVEMBER 2011

*Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, there is a place for you here.*

## A NOTE OF THANKS FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

We are nearing the end of our Every Member Canvass. Your vestry will begin working on the 2012 budget very soon. I am confident that St. Paul's, with all of your generosity and commitment, will continue to grow and flourish and be a beacon for our extended community. As you could tell from the testimonials during the last few weeks, St. Paul's is important and special to a great many people. We must continue to provide a welcoming, safe, and loving Christian environment for all.

As you read this note, we will be about two weeks from the return of our own Reverend Jeanne!! It seems like only yesterday that your vestry was agonizing over and planning all the details of how we would function in the absence of our leader. Well...it has gone very well. You should all give yourselves a giant pat on the back. I am so proud of--and in awe of--our wonderful group of clergy, lay leaders, choir directors and choirs, volunteers in all areas, etc. I am especially thankful to all of our wonderful parishioners who have been so diligent in attending!! After all, if there is no one in the congregation, what good would any of this do?

I have, essentially, thanked just about everyone, but at the risk of leaving someone out, I want to single out a few who have been absolutely critical during Rev. Jeanne's sabbatical. First is our Parish Administrator, JoAnn. You have led me through the minefield without the loss of any of my appendages. Judy Furlong, you have been my anchor. We have been duly and comfortably led by our own Rev. Bo-

gart, Rev. Clader, and Rev. Holder. The Vestry has been stupendous. Art Schipper and Carole Johnson have kept us solvent and me out of jail. All Lay Leaders have done their usual, incredible jobs. Bob Hall has capably handled matters in the Diocese. Tom and Chris Mader have worn so many hats and are always available. I must stop here because I am going to begin saving for a trip to Hawaii for all of you, so please put May 30, 2037 on your calendars !

*PLEASE* remember to put the 20th of November on your calendars. That is the Sunday we welcome back Rev. Jeanne with a special 10 am service followed by a potluck meal. Let's all turn out!

In your service,  
Fred Railsback



**The Epistle is the  
monthly newsletter of  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

**STAFF**

**The Very Rev. Jeanne Forte**  
Rector

[TheRevJeanne@stpaulsbenicia.org](mailto:TheRevJeanne@stpaulsbenicia.org)

**The Rev. Canon John Bogart**  
Associate Priest

**The Rev. Dr. Linda Clader**  
Associate Priest

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**VESTRY**

Fred Railsback  
*Senior Warden*

Bill Smiglewski  
*Junior Warden*

Anne Seed  
*Clerk*

Lee Anne Bundesen

Allison Connor

Sue Embree Davis

Chris Mader

Steve Rodekohr

John Wright, Jr.

The Very Rev. Jeanne Forte

Meetings are also  
regularly attended by:  
Art Schipper  
Treasurer

# Advent—A Time of Preparation

This year, Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 27. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." Advent begins the church year, starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation for Christmas since at least the last half of the 6th century. Advent is a time for self-examination and asking for forgiveness as the church is preparing for Christ's Second Coming even as it prepares for Christmas. This is why the color of the season is purple (or sometimes blue), which is used for marking Lent, the season of self-examination preceding Easter. The third week in Advent is set aside as more celebratory than the others. Rose is the color of this week rather than purple to mark the week, which is why a rose candle is used in Advent wreaths.

## An Advent Calendar

Another way to mark the days in Advent is to use an Advent calendar. These calendars usually have a door to open each night to reveal a picture or an object (such as a small toy or candy). The days of Advent vary each year, so store-bought Advent calendars usually have 24 doors, one for each day in December leading up to Christmas. Opening an Advent calendar may follow the Advent Wreath service to more closely tie the service itself to the countdown of days.

## The Advent Wreath

The circle of the wreath and the evergreens that make it up both signify God's endless mercy and undying love. Three purple candles and one rose-colored (pink) candle are evenly spaced around the wreath. There is one larger white candle in the center of the wreath. The wreath can be as simple as four candle holders with greenery laid around them to form a circle. However, some traditions attach meanings to using different greens, each signifying another aspect of the season. These include:

Ivy—to remind us of the human spirit clinging to God's strength.

Cedar—to remind us of eternal life available to all through Christ.

Holly—to remind us of Jesus' crown of thorns.

Bay—to remind us of victory over sin and death.

Each week, an additional candle is lit. As the light grows brighter, we are reminded that the Light of the World will soon arrive in glory. The central white candle is to be larger (often thicker) than the four in the wreath. This relatively recent addition to the Advent wreath signifies the Light of Christ and is first lit on Christmas Eve and relit burned on Christmas Day.

## A Nativity Scene

A nativity scene (sometimes called a crèche), is yet another way to highlight the season of Advent. Instead of putting out the whole set at once, try building the scene slowly. Begin with the manger the first week. Add a few animals the second week. Then add Mary and Joseph on the third week. On Christmas Eve add the baby Jesus and any additional figures. The wise men and camels don't arrive until Epiphany (January 6). This increases the feeling of anticipation that is Advent.



Reprinted from the King of Peace Episcopal Church website.  
<http://www.kingofpeace.org/advent/advent.htm>

# 30-Hour Famine

## World Vision

About 20 of St. Paul's and other youth have embarked on a very important ministry. Our youth will be participating in the 30-Hour Famine on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Their efforts will benefit World Vision, a Christian relief organization dedicated to providing food, clothing, medical assistance, and training to impoverished nations, as well as relief here in the United States as well.

Why is this ministry so important? **Because this ministry will literally save the lives of thousands of children worldwide!** Think about that for a minute. Because of the efforts of our youth and your support, CHILDREN WILL NOT DIE. They will be given a chance to live and thrive and be productive. This ministry is that powerful!

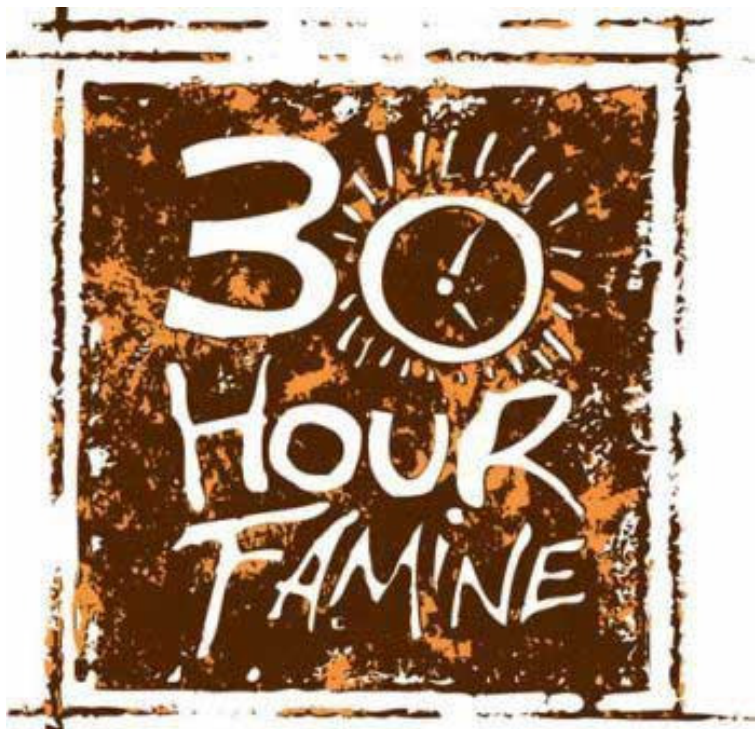
Our youth participants have begun their individual fundraising efforts. They will soon be asking you for your help. Just \$1 will care for a child for one day. \$30 will care for that same child for one month. You've seen it on TV. The cost of a cup of coffee will provide a life with a purpose and the ability to live for over 1 day.

The famine participants will feel hunger during the 30-Hour Famine. They will understand what it feels like to be hungry. They also understand that their hunger will end after 30 hours... something that millions of children around the world will not benefit from. Many will, however, with the help of World Vision.

Watch for service bulletin announcements for upcoming group fundraising efforts and support this ministry. Pray for our youth and adult participants.

For more information, please contact Steve Rodekohr at 747-6904 or at [stevenet@pacbell.net](mailto:stevenet@pacbell.net). You can also log onto the web at [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org) for more information.

On His Hook,  
Steve Rodekohr



## Third Annual Advent Tea



Our 3rd Annual Women's Advent Tea is fast approaching. We are changing the day this year to Sunday, Dec. 4th, from 2-4 pm. We are offering you the chance to "host" a table, by providing your own decorations and showing off your beautiful china/dishes. Also, to keep costs to a minimum, we will again be asking for donations of Tea type food items. If you would like to host a table, offer a food item, RSVP or have any questions at all, please call Johanna, 643-2901 or Debi, 747-9352.



Start your walk down First Street with a  
**Cup of Chili or Chili Dinner**

at **St. Paul's Parish Hall**

1st and J Street

**Dec. 2, 2011**

SERVING FROM 5 TO 7 PM

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**Cup of Chili TO GO**

OR

**Chili, salad and  
cornbread DINNER**

**Adults \$7**

**Children \$5**

Tickets will soon be on sale after church  
services.

Sponsored by

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



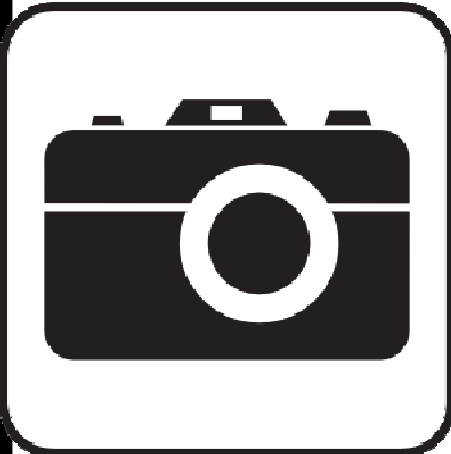
## Child Safe Training Online

If you are working with the children of St. Paul's and have not already had training, you are required to take a Child Safe course sponsored by the Diocese. The course may now be taken online by entering [www.norcalepiscopal.org/safechurch](http://www.norcalepiscopal.org/safechurch) and clicking on online training on child abuse. There is a nominal cost of \$5.

For questions and other arrangements to take the course, contact Chris Mader [maderclt@aol.com](mailto:maderclt@aol.com) or the parish office.



## Photos Requested



Have you taken photos of church-related activities in the past year or two? Examples include Party of Parties events, Friday Activities for Kids, Sierra Service Project, Blessing of the Animals. We'd appreciate adding them to our electronic files.

Also, don't forget to take photos at events. We may be able to include them on our Facebook page or when we redesign our website. Contact JoAnn in the church office if you have any questions or suggestions: [admin@stpaulsbenicia.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsbenicia.org) or call 745-0307.

Bob and I would like to send out love from us to all of you for the support and prayers you have given us in the last few months. Without it, we would be up the proverbial creek without a paddle. All the cards, calls, offers, THANK YOU. If I don't personally thank each of you just know that you are all in our prayers of thanksgiving.

—Debbie and Bob Varson

Thank  
You

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# NOVEMBER 2011

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## BIRTHDAYS

	Mary Klemm	11	Joe Brien	27	
	Milena Hoeven	13	Sara Bierman	30	
Bob Varson	3	Susie Bonstin	51	Judy Kent	30
Nathan Reid	5	Don Smith	14		
Alan Kwok	7	Timothy Connor	22		

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## ANNIVERSARIES

Emmett & Suzanne McDowell	5	Lee & Sandy Voorhees	25
Mark and Laura Peabody Park	14		

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## SPIRIT OF THE SEASON CONCERT

**Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4 pm**

Featuring the Well-Tempered Voices

Free-will offering at the door

Reception in the parish hall after the concert

## Camp Noel Porter Family

## Weekend

February 17-21, 2012

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Save the dates and plan to come!



[www.leehansen.com](http://www.leehansen.com)



## Pies and Gift Cards Needed

We're coming in to our busy season for the Community Meal. We will serve our traditional Thanksgiving Meal on Nov. 23 and our Christmas Meal on Dec. 21. If you would like to donate a pie for the Thanksgiving Meal, please bring it to the kitchen by Wednesday morning, Nov. 23.

We would also like to give out gift cards again this year at our Christmas meal; \$5 cards from Raley's, Safeway, or Rite Aid are always appreciated. Please remember those less fortunate when shopping for Christmas items. Questions? Call Debi Hall.

*From the Community Meal Kitchen Crew:*

*Thank you to the Angel who sewed and surprised us with a half a dozen new aprons. What a treat to find bright, clean aprons in the closet that fit all of us! They're very much appreciated!*



## Labels for St. Jude's Ranch for Children, a Ruthie Ministry

Collecting soup labels started with Ruth Alexander, a longtime member of St. Paul's. She collected labels for the ranch for many years. Her ministry was adopted by me, Nancy Jo Smith, years ago. I have been absent for a while and was unable to keep this endeavor vitalized. I want to lend my consistent help again because the ranch can obtain vans for their transportation to many enriching events such as: professional sports to see at the arena in Las Vegas, Church camp near Arizona, school extracurricular activities of interest, holiday activities, provided for by the Las Vegas

The ranch church is services. Many people from ranch to volunteer. Some are volunteer as part of a planned trip to visit the homes for the kids to live a

ideology. Many of the children overcome deep scars of trauma to go on to vocational training or college. Nearly all are able to be successfully employed after high school. Some go back to the environment from where they resided before living at the ranch. Let's collect these labels (UPC code coupon on label) for St. Jude's Ranch for Children. —Nancy Jo Smith

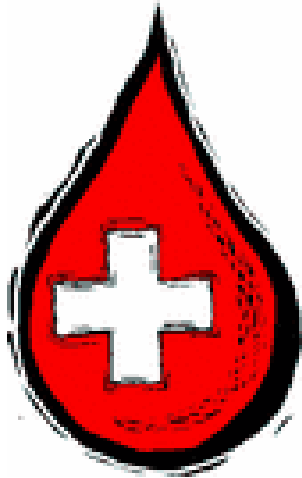


ties at the school, trips to local places etc. Many of these activities are pro-area community.

Episcopalian and uses the BCP for different walks of life come to the nuns or priests. Some stay and volunteer through the area. I highly recommend traveling to visit the ranch. They have many cottages or two-parent model of middle class

# BLOOD BANK DRIVE

THE NEXT BENICIA BLOOD BANK DRIVE WILL BE HELD ON NOV. 17TH



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
1055 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD  
FROM 1 – 7 PM.

THE NEED FOR BLOOD IS GREAT, AND  
DONATING A PINT OF BLOOD IS A COMPAS-  
SIONATE ACT FOR OUR FELLOW HUMANS.  
PLEASE DONATE IF YOU CAN. THANKS !!

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Benicia  
Congregation B'nai Israel, Vallejo  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Vallejo*

*First Presbyterian Church, Vallejo  
First United Methodist Church, Vallejo  
First Christian Church, Vallejo*



## *THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE*

*November 23, 2011, 7:00 pm*

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Benicia*

*A reception will be held in the Parrish Hall after the service.*

# November 2011 Lay Ministries Schedule

## NOVEMBER 6, 2011—21ST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:45AM	Lector	Frank Shoemaker
	LEM	Mary Frances Kelly Poh
	LEM/Inter.	Tom Mader
	Crucifer	Michelle Gaines
	Torch.	Jake Sackett, Giovanna Zampa
	Healing Prayers	Nancy Jenks
	Ushers	Jeanne & Mark Brown, Steve Rodekohr
11 AM	Lector	Maggie Smith
	LEM	David Sells
	LEM/Inter.	Mike Baldwin
	Ushers	Don & Maggie Smith
	Healing Prayers	Edie Westphal
	Altar Guild	Susie Bonstin, Katie Scott, Judy Furlong
	Flower Guild	Maggie Smith Edie Lockman
	Office Angel	Ginny Altice
	PIE Greeter	Jennifer Jarvis
	Verger	Fred Railsback

## NOVEMBER 20, 2011—LAST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

10 AM	Lector	Sara Bierman
	LEM	Dale Kilbourne
	LEM/Inter.	Charlie Kilbourne
	Crucifer	Matt Markley
	Torch.	Mara Guerin, Emily Sackett
	Ushers	TBA
	Altar Guild	Sandy Voorhees, Edie Lockman, Nancy Jenks, Martha McAfee
	Flower Guild	Lee Voorhees
	Office Angel	Betty McIntosh
	PIE Greeter	Jane Samuelson
	Verger	Bob Hall

## NOVEMBER 13, 2011—22ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:45 AM	Lector	Debi Hall
	LEM	Sue Yurosko
	LEM/Inter.	Jackie French
	Crucifer	Allan Kwok
	Torch.	Piper Dean, Patric Knoblich
	Ushers	Cyndi Hardy, Andrew Urban
	11 AM	Lector
	LEM	Michelle Ellett
	LEM/Inter.	Barbara Jewell
	Ushers	Sara & Mike Bierman
	Altar Guild	Chris Mader, Linda Tremain
	Flower Guild	Suzanne McDowell
	Office Angel	Jeanne Brown
	PIE Greeter	Mike Baldwin
	Verger	Bill Markley

## NOVEMBER 27, 2011—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:45 AM	Lector	Susie Bonstin
	LEM	Mittie Railsback
	LEM/Inter.	Fred Railsback
	Crucifer	Joseph Ellett
	Torch.	Aislynn Stotler, Mikayla Stotler
	Ushers	James Brown, Steve Rodekohr
11 AM	Lector	Anne Seed
	LEM	Jennifer Jarvis
	LEM/Inter.	Jeff Jarvis
	Ushers	Robert Avant, Steve Rodekohr
	Altar Guild	Kim Rodekohr, Cyndi Hardy
	Flower Guild	Julia Ritter
	Office Angel	Kay Barnard
	PIE Greeter	Jo Anne Craig, Jim Turner
	Verger	Joe Brien



# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>GROUP MEETINGS</b> AA: 7 am Mon- Sat; 6 am & 8 pm Sundays LifeRing: 7 pm Tuesdays Meditation: 6 pm Sundays NA: 8 pm Fridays		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9 am MP† 2-4 pm Friday Activities for Kids	<i>5</i> 2 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6 pm Party of Parties Colo- nial Dinner
<i>6</i> <b>Commitment Sunday</b> 8:45 Rite I HE† 9:30 am Nursery 11 am Service of the Word 11:15 am Children's Program 4-7 pm Private Recital and Reception	<i>7</i> 9 am MP†	<i>8</i> 9 am MP† 6 pm 30-Hr Famine Meet- ing	<i>9</i> 9 am MP† 10 am HE† 10:45 am Bible Study †1 pm Funeral 4:30-6 pm Meal	<i>10</i> 9 am MP† 7 pm Vestry Meeting	<i>11</i> <b>Veterans' Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> Diocesan Convention in Redding	<i>12</i> 7:30 am Brother- hood Meeting 11 am-4 pm Private Party Diocesan Convention in Redding
<i>13</i> <b>Pentecost 22</b> 8:45 Rite II HE† 9:30 am Nursery 11 am Contempo- rary HE† 11:15 am Chil- dren's Program	<i>14</i> 9 am MP†	<i>15</i> 9 am MP† Rev. Jeanne returns from Sabbatical	<i>16</i> 9 am MP† 10 am HE† 10:45 am Bible Study 4:30-6 pm Meal	<i>17</i> 9 am MP†	<i>18</i> 9 am MP† 2-4 pm Friday Activities for Kids 5-7 pm TGIFF	<i>19</i> 7:30 am Guys' Group Meeting
<i>20</i> <b>Last Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Nursery 10 am Joint Service HE† 11:30 am Recep- tion welcoming back Rev. Jeanne	<i>21</i> 9 am MP† 7 pm Worship Committee Meeting	<i>22</i> 9 am MP†	<i>23</i> 9 am MP† 10 am HE† 10:45 am Bible Study 4:30-6 pm Meal 7 PM Thanksgiv- ing Interfaith Service	<i>24</i> <b>Thanks- giving Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<i>25</i> <b>Office Closed</b>	<i>26</i> 1 pm Wedding†
<i>27</i> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 8:45 Rite II HE† 9:30 am Nursery 11 am Contempo- rary HE† 11:15 am Chil- dren's Program	<i>28</i> 9 am MP†	<i>29</i> 9 am MP†	<i>30</i> 9 am MP† 10 am HE† 10:45 am Bible Study 4:30-6 pm Meal	<b>UPCOMING IN DECEMBER</b> <b>Friday, Dec. 2 5-7 pm—Chili Dinner</b> <b>Sunday, Dec. 4 2-4 pm—Advent Tea</b> <b>Sunday, Dec. 11 4 pm—Holiday Concert</b>		

in  
at



## Car Needed

Do you or someone you know have a used car in good condition to sell? Parish member Andria Reid, a single mother of two, is in need of one. Please contact her at [Reid.4@att.net](mailto:Reid.4@att.net) or leave a message for her at the church office, 745-0307.

### **St. Paul's Vision Statement**

#### **Vision**

*We are the hands of Christ  
in the Heart of Benicia*

#### **Mission**

*We celebrate  
God's Presence  
as we  
Worship,  
Pray,  
Study, and  
Serve in the Community*

### **St. Paul's Worship Schedule**

#### ***Monday - Friday***

9 am—Morning Prayer

#### ***Wednesday***

10 am—Holy Eucharist

10:45 am—Bible Study

#### ***Sunday***

8:45 am—Choral Holy Eucharist II:  
Traditional Music

11 am—Contemporary Holy Eucharist:  
Praise Music

11:15 am—Children's Program

Nursery care is provided for infant and toddlers (0-4 yrs) from 9:30 am-12 pm