**The Epistle**

**January 2023**

**St. Paul’s Anglican Church**

Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin

Anglican Church in North America

**St. Paul’s Anglican Church Annual Meeting**

**St. Paul’s School Chapel**

**Sunday January 29**

**Immediately After the 10:30AM Service**

At the Annual Meeting, the leadership of the church presents the vision and the budget for the upcoming calendar year. It is also when members of the church are elected to serve on the Vestry (Church Board) and as delegates to Diocesan Convention.

This year at St. Paul’s will be extremely important as we build our future and complete the construction of our new church home. We invite all of our members and friends of the church to join us for this meeting so that you might be better informed about the vision and ministry of St. Paul’s Anglican Church.

Sandwiches, salad, desserts, and other refreshments will be served before the Annual Meeting begins.

 At the meeting, we will present the following topics:

* Election of Vestry Class of 2026 and Delegates to 2023 Diocesan Convention
* Review of the 2022 Budget and Presentation of the 2023 Budget
* Church Vision for 2023
* New Church building update
* Supplemental Capital Campaign to finish strong in the building of our new church campus
* Year of Jubilee series of events (a year of events and plans leading up to moving into the new church campus and beyond.)
* Search for a new Music Director

**Election of Vestry Persons and Delegates to the Annual Convention of the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin**

**Nominations for Vestry Class of 2026**

*(Each year four members of St. Paul’s are elected to serve a three-year term)*

Betty Blackmon

Lydia Castaneda

Mark Morales Sr.

Rosemary Reeder

**Nominations for Delegates to the 2023 Annual Convention of the Anglican Diocese**

**of San Joaquin**

*(Four to be elected)*

Betty Blackmon, Jim Doe

Janet Robinson, Kim Robinson

*Nominations for Vestry and Delegates to Diocesan Convention will also be accepted from the floor*

*at the annual meeting.*

**Qualifications for Vestry and Delegates to the Annual Convention of the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin**

* A Confirmed Communicant in good standing of St. Paul’s Anglican Church
* A giver of record
* A regular attendee of corporate worship
* 18 years of age or older
* A person whose life and faith conform to the doctrines and teachings of the Anglican Church in North America as outlined in the ACNA Catechism *“To Be A Christian.”*

**St. Paul’s Anglican Church**

2918 W. Main Street

Visalia, CA 93291

559-732-4821

Open: M-Th 8:00-4:00

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

**Communion Service**

Sundays at 10:30 am

**Church Email Address**

anglicans@spvisalia.com

**On the Internet**

www.spvisalia.com

facebook.com/spvisalia

**Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. Robert J.D. Longbottom, Rector

rector@spvisalia.com

John Iseman, Pastoral Associate for

Family Ministries

family@spvisalia.com

Antoinette Horsting, Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@spvisalia.com

Ellen Daniels, Music Director

assistant@spvisalia.com

The Very Rev. Richard I. James (Retired)

**Members of the Vestry**

**Class of 2023**

Steve Carstens, Amy Gunn

Kevin Robinson, Judy Bryant

**Class of 2024**

Darlene Hallberg, Wendy Johns

Ed Robinson, Kashy Rowland-Smith

**Class of 2025**

Franco Bernardi, Kris Bratton

Dave Francis, Manny Lucero

**Delegates to Diocesan Convention**

Betty Blackmon, Jim Doe

Kim Robinson, Janet Robinson

***Building The Future***

**Campaign Thank You Reception**

**With Writing of Scriptures and Prayers**

**On the Framework of**

**the New Church Campus**

On Sunday, February 12, churches throughout the Anglican Church in North America will be celebrating World Mission Sunday. This is a day in which we celebrate the Church’s mission to:

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in* *the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)*

On this Sunday, St. Paul’s will be hosting a reception after the worship service where we will celebrate the work of our mission and thank all those who have given so generously of their time, talent, and treasure to the *Building the Future* Campaign. At the reception, all present will be invited to write prayers, scriptures, and their names on the wood framework that will be built into the walls of our new church home. In writing these scriptures and prayers, we will rededicate ourselves to God’s mission in our community and to the ends of the earth. If you are unable to attend the reception, the wood framework will be available in the office the following week and at the church service on Sunday, February 19.

Our Celebrant for the World Mission Sunday service will be our rector Fr. Robert Longbottom and our preacher for the service will be our retired rector Fr. Richard James. Our church staff and vestry will host this special reception and take time to thank you and to thank God for all he has done in and through you.

We hope that all of our members and friends will come and join us on this special day and in the life of our church as we walk with God who is the one who *Builds Our Future*.

In Christ,

Fr. Rob Longbottom+

Fr. Richard James+

**January and February opportunities**

**Family Discipleship Training**

**Sundays, January 8-February 12**

**Fellowship from 9:15AM-9:30AM**

**Content 9:30AM-10AM**

Forming children into faithful followers of Jesus into adulthood doesn’t just happen. In fact, many parents and grandparents are looking for help and training in their efforts to instill a lifelong love for Jesus in their children.

Both Fr. Rob and Pastor John will be leading this class and over six weeks we will be working through the book *Family Discipleship: Leading Your Home Through Time, Moments, & Milestones* by Mat Chandler and Adam Griffin.

This class is for more than just parents and grandparents. It is for anyone who desires young people to develop a lifelong relationship with Jesus within the life of the church.

**Bell Choir Rehearsals beginning again**

**Every Wednesday beginning January 25th, 6pm**

The bells are back from refurbishment and Bell choir is rehearsing again. This is a wonderful time to consider join the bell choir. If you are interested in learning about bell choir and being a part of a fun group please consider joining the choir. No experience is necessary as the current members will help you learn. For more information about the bell choir please call the church office contact our music director Ellen Daniels at assistant@spvisalia.com.

**Grief Support Group**

**Tuesday, February 14, 11AM-1 PM**

This group will meet on Tuesday, February 14, from 11 AM -1 PM, at the home of Kashy Rowland-Smith. Many have received love and support through this group in very difficult times.

All members of St. Paul’s Anglican Church are welcome to attend, and lunch is provided. (RSVPs will be helpful for lunch purposes.) For those interested in attending or wanting more information, please call Kashy at (559) 909-3305.

**Looking Forward to Lent**

**Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharists, February 22**

12PM Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes at the Church office

7PM Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes with choir and music at St. Paul’s School Chapel

**Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent, 6PM**

**St. Paul’s School Chapel**

It is our Lenten spiritual practice at St. Paul’s Anglican Church to share in the liturgy of the Stations of the cross every Friday at 6PM throughout Lent. All are welcome to join us.

**Sunday Morning Prayer Table**

Our prayer table continues to be a place to receive motivational materials, Biblical messages, and so much more. These materials continue to change with our seasons in the church and there is always something new avaliable and being offered.

We now have a section specifically for children and young people and encourage all kids to come and see what is avalaible.

Donations always accepted at the table, but never required.

***We want to pray for you***

The prayer table also has a prayer box to place personal prayer requests. They are then reviewed by Fr. Rob and/or Pastor John and prayers are offered up on your behalf.

***Would you be willing to help serve at the Prayer Table on Sunday Mornings?***

The new prayer ministry currently consists of Judy Bryant and a couple of others. If you would like to assist with this ministry and help provide these resources, Judy would love to talk with you. Please talk with Judy at Church or call the church office for more information.

Prayerfully, Judy Bryant

**Volunteering at St. Paul’s School**

We enjoy a very special relationship with St. Paul’s School and there are many opportunities for members of St. Paul’s Anglican Church to volunteer at the school. Areas of particular help needed are

* Reading buddies
* Snack Shack volunteers
* Playground monitors

Please call the church office and speak with Fr. Rob or Pastor John if you are interested in volunteering.

**St. Paul’s has a New App and a New Way to Stay Engaged and Connected**

Dear St. Paul’s Church Family,

I am pleased to announce that St. Paul’s Anglican Church has its very own app! Yes, that is right – you can go to your Apple or Google App Store and download our church app. Simply search for “St. Paul’s Anglican Church” and you will find it. You might be wondering why you should download the app and what features it might have - here is a list of just a few of the app functions which you may find beneficial.

On the app you can:

* Watch worship live streams
* Watch sermon and worship recordings
* Check the church calendar
* Learn about upcoming events and retreats – including event registration
* Get plugged in with our outreach ministry – including signing up for outreach events
* Engage in “E-Giving”
* Connect with church staff and each other
* Submit a formal prayer request
* Read the Bible
* And more!

I encourage you all to download the app and give it a try as it is a great one-stop shop for us all to stay connected.

Additionally, we have a new website. The website is connected to our app so the information and design will be well integrated between the two platforms. In the meantime, our current website is still up-to-date and functional.

For those of you who are not fans of technology – no worries, our newsletters, calendars, and traditional forms of communication will continue uninterrupted!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Iseman

**Outreach Opportunities in January**

***Service Opportunity for January 2023***

**Visalia Emergency Aid Groceries to Go**

Where: 217 NE 3rd Avenue, Visalia

Saturday, January 21

Meet at VEAC @ 8:30AM

VEAC.org

To sign up please call the church office

***Giving Opportunity for January 2023***

**Collection for the Children of the Central Valley**

Time to clean out those closets (and maybe your neighbors’ closets, too.) Looking for winter clothing in good condition to donate to VEAC for distribution. All winter gear is needed: coats, boots, sweaters, pants, socks, hats, scarfs, and gloves.

Bring all winter clothing items to church or the office and we will deliver them to VEAC on

January 20.

***Looking forward to February***

Give of your time for companion animals

**Steps for Pets at Valley Oak SPCA**

9800 Camp Drive, Visalia

Sunday, February 26 after Coffee hour

Meet at SPCA @ 1pm

**Month long collection for Valley Oak SPCA**

We will take our donation on Sunday, February 26th

Vospca.org

***Needs***

Dry and Wet Puppy Food-Purina One Puppy or Iams. Cat Food-Nutra-nugget Costco, Dog and Puppy toys, Human Baby Bottles, Puppy Pee Pads, Heating Pads, Blankets, Towels, and Pet Beds

**Thank-You**

To the People of St. Paul’s Anglican Church:

A very special thank-you to St. Paul’s! Your kindness and generosity was a blessing to the families sponsored by The Angel Tree outreach and the Thanksgiving offering. St. Jude’s Ministry will continue to be a bridge to those in need. Many Blessings and Godspeed. Fr. Jim Rouse+