



The Epistle

Newsletter of St. Paul's Church
A Parish in the Diocese of San Joaquin
The Anglican Church in North America

January, 2013

The Significance of Calendars

With all of the attention recently focused on the ancient Mayan calendar and its supposed prediction of the end of the world, I thought it might be worthwhile to think carefully about the significance of calendars.

While the Mayan calendar is not particularly significant to us, it does share a significance with all other calendars in that all of them represent an attempt to bring order into the world.

Our modern planning calendars are an elaborate extension of ancient calendars, and are intended to help us deal with the complexity of our lives.

But calendars have a significance beyond our need to bring order and orderliness to our world. Calendars reveal something about how we see the world in which we live. They also reveal something about the way we would like the world to be.

For example, if our calendars are bright and cheerful, or educational or informative, they say something about our positive attitude toward life.

But there is a theological consideration as well. Consider, if you will, that most planning calendars are now designed with Monday instead of Sunday as the first day of the week. Indeed, we tend to refer to Saturday and Sunday as the *weekend*, yet from a Christian perspective, Sunday is not the weekend, but the *first* day of the week.

In the Book of Revelation, and ever since it was written, Sunday is *the Lord's Day* because it is the day on which Jesus rose from the dead, and therefore a special day for Christian worship.

By worshiping on Sunday morning we are offering to God the "first fruits" of the week that is to come. We give the first to God, and he blesses it – and the rest as well. So it is that the Church steadfastly continues to have its primary worship on Sundays.

Calendars that begin on Monday may be helpful from an academic or business point of view, but from a Christian perspective they are inadequate.

From personal experience I know how hard it can be to find the "right" planning calendar, but I don't use a calendar that begins with Monday, because I am not willing to give up the Church's concept of time. In fact, my planning calendar is a special calendar that begins in December, not January, as the Church year begins four Sundays before Christmas!

While not many people need to follow the Church calendar as closely as a priest does, there is still good reason for all Christians to keep Sunday as the first day of the week. It serves as a reminder that Jesus is Lord of all, including all of our days, weeks, months and years.

With this in mind, as we begin a new year, with new calendars, I hope and pray that all of us will offer the first day of the week to the Lord through worship and Christian fellowship.

And I hope and pray that both the structure of our calendars and the events and activities we place on them will reflect the eternal Lordship of Jesus Christ.

St. Paul's Church
120 North Hall Street
Visalia, California 93291

Church Office: 559-732-4821
Rivera Hall: 559-732-4822
Internet: spvisalia.com
facebook.com/spvisalia

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Communion Services

Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 AM
Wednesdays at 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM

Clergy and Staff

The Very Rev. Richard I. James, Rector
The Rev. Paul Gibbons, Curate
The Venerable Donald Seeks, Assisting
Elaine McKinney, Parish Secretary
Antoinette Horsting, Bookkeeper
Melvin Morris, Sexton
William Johnson, Organist
Churchill Cooke, Music Director
Cindy Sanders, Bell Choir Director
Susan Robinson, Nursery Attendant

**Members of the Vestry
2013**

Larry Akey, Mark Cave, Sue Nyberg,
Sue Piper, Ed Robinson

2014

Kris Bratton, Don Ford, Suzette Peters

2015

Franco Bernardi, Greg Romanazzi

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Franco Bernardi, Betty Blackmon,
Amy Gunn, Wendy Johns,
Sue Piper, Chet Smeds,
Kim Robinson

Coffee Hour Schedule for January

8:00 AM	10:30 AM
6 Darryl Smithey Rick Shaw Janet Smithey	Kashy Rowland-Smith Aron & Nancy Gularte
13 Linda Fountaine Mel Morris Cathy Guadagni	Elaine Hord Jim & Becky Doe
20 Chris & Catalina Soto	Cyril & Sue Thompson Dale & Joan Wiley
27 Louise & Don Ford Medical Mission Brunch	Medical Mission Brunch

New volunteers are always welcome – and needed! Questions or changes may be addressed to Cathy Guadagni.



Ministry Opportunity Available

A very valuable ministry at St. Paul's is that of greeting all who enter the church for worship. Additional greeters are now needed, especially for the 8:00 service.

Volunteers are asked to call Judy Engleka, or to call the church office at 732-4821.

**Mission Team to Host Brunch
on Sunday, January 27**

Prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27, a brunch will be served, beginning at 11:30 AM.

This brunch is being hosted by the Sequoia Deanery's Medical Mission team members as a way of raising funds for the 2013 mission trip. Cost is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children under twelve.

Annual Congregational Meeting Will be Sunday, January 27

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's Church will be held in Rivera Hall on Sunday, January 27, at 12:30 PM.

Immediately prior to the meeting, the Sequoia Deanery Medical Mission Team will host a fundraiser brunch. Cost will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children.

During the Annual Meeting, parishioners will be provided financial reports from 2012 and the 2013 budget. In addition, there will also be an opportunity for reports from the various groups within the church regarding the work they have done in the past year or are planning to do this year and beyond.

Also, at the Annual Meeting parishioners will elect four people to the Vestry – two for two-year terms, and two for three-year terms. In addition, there will be an election for Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention, who serve one-year terms.

A full report from the Nominations Committee will be sent to members of the parish during the middle of January. Additional nominations may be made by parishioners at the meeting, provided that the person being nominated is eligible to serve and has agreed to do so, if elected.

Anyone with questions about the meeting, or about his or her eligibility to be nominated or to vote, should speak with Fr. James prior to the meeting.

*The ultimate measure of a man is not
where he stands in moments of comfort,
but where he stands at times of
challenge and controversy.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Anglican Church Women

Board Meeting

The January meeting of the ACW Board will be at 10:00 on Monday, January 14. All women of the parish are welcome to attend.

St. Mary-Agnes' Guild will meet at 10:00 AM in the Guild Room on Monday, January 21. Questions may be addressed to Wendy Johns.

St. Anne's Guild will meet at 11:45 in the Guild Room, on Monday, January 21. Guild leader is Maggie King.

February Luncheon

The next ACW's monthly luncheon will be at 11:45 on Monday, February 4, in Rivera Hall.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

The Daughters of the Holy Cross are meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 10, in the Guild Room. All women interested in this ministry of prayer and service are invited to attend. For more information please call leader Betty Blackmon.



Grief Recovery Group

The next meeting of the Grief Recovery Group will be at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 15. The group will gather at the home of Kashy Rowland-Smith, 2743 W. Harvard Avenue, Visalia. Those suffering from a loss are invited to attend.

For more information, interested persons should call Kashy Rowland-Smith or Betty Peters.

Christian Education

Sunday School Classes

Classes for children, youth and adults are held each Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:15.

The adult class, which is held in Rivera Hall is studying the 39 Articles of Religion using *The Bishop's Notes* by Bishop Eric Menees.

Wednesday Night Classes

Classes for children, youth and adults are held each Wednesday evening at 7:00.

The adult class, which meets in the Guild Room will begin a new study on Wednesday, January 9. Led by Fr. James, the group will be doing a study based on John Ortberg's book "Who is This Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus." All are welcome.

Wednesday Nights Out

The Wednesday Nights Out program will resume January 9, with the following schedule:

- 5:30 ☞ Informal Holy Communion in Rivera Hall (Child care provided)
- 6:15 ☞ Family-style dining in Rivera Hall (No charge, but donations accepted)
- 7:00 ☞ Adult class * (child care provided)
 - ☞ Bell choir rehearsal
 - ☞ Activities and classes for children & youth
- 8:00 ☞ Choir rehearsal

* The adult class, which is led by Fr. James, is held from 7:00 to 7:45, in the Guild Room. A description of the class may be found in the article at the top of this page.

Parishioners are invited to participate in any or all of the Wednesday evening activities.

From the Parish Records

Deaths

Richard Matthews
Judy Wilds – Larry Wilds' wife

Thank You!

To All of St. Paul's Family:

Thank you for support during my wife's illness and death. It has been a great help.

Larry Wilds



The clergy and staff would like to thank everyone who sent Christmas cards or dropped off gifts and goodies in the church office.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness at Christmas and throughout the whole year.

The Clergy and Staff
of St. Paul's Parish



Automated External Defibrillator

Thanks to the hard work of parishioner Lorraine McElroy, the church now has an automated external defibrillator *and* people who are trained to use it properly in the case of cardiac arrest caused by ventricular fibrillation.

More commonly called an AED, the church's automated external defibrillator is located in the northwest corner of the Guild Room.

Thank you Lorraine!

Friendship and Fellowship Group

St. Paul's is having an informal gathering for adults on Saturday, January 26, beginning at 6:30 PM

The gathering will be at the home of Larry Akey and Deacon Francie Levy, 1510 W. Myrtle Avenue, Visalia.

This gathering is for long-time members and newcomers alike. And visitors and guests are welcome, too!

Those who attend are invited to bring an appetizer to share with others and their favorite beverage for themselves. Coffee and dessert will be provided.



St. Paul's on Facebook

You can now find St. Paul's Anglican Church on Facebook!

This is a great way to stay informed on the current events of the church and to connect with all your church friends. You do not need a facebook page to see the Church's page. Visit us online at <http://www.facebook.com/spvisalia>.

New Foyer Groups Being Formed

Foyer Groups are an enjoyable and easy way to get together on a regular basis for socializing, to enjoy one another's company, to strengthen a sense of community, to meet in a home environment, and to get to know people on a more personal level.

Foyers groups provide a way to develop new friendships, deepen old ones, and can make a Christian community feel smaller, closer and more inviting.

There is no agenda or plan at a foyer group gathering – just casual fellowship and a simple meal. Each group is made up of individuals and couples who are parish members or newcomers. A person hosting the group provides the main entrée, and the foyer group members bring the rest of the meal. Each month, the group is hosted by a different member of the group.

All adults are invited to join. Please sign up in the Parish Hall.

Anyone with questions about this great opportunity for fellowship should contact Jim or Noreen Siebenaler, Merle or Judy Engleka, Barbara Melton or Pat Hodde.



Biblical Wisdom About Friendship

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter:
he that has found one has found a treasure.
There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend,
and no scales can measure his excellence.

A faithful friends is an elixir of life;
and those who fear the Lord will find him.
Whoever fears the Lord directs his friendship aright,
for as he is, so is his neighbor also.

Ecclesiasticus 6:14-17

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120 North Hall Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Address Correction Requested

Youth Group Miniature Golf Set for Friday, January 11

St. Paul's youth (and their friends) in grades 6-12 are invited to an evening of miniature golf at Adventure Park on Friday, January 11.

Everyone will meet at the church at 6:00 and caravan to the park. Cost is \$7, plus money for refreshments.



Diocesan ACW Offering “A Day of Reflection” on Saturday, January 12

St. Paul's Church is the site for a special event – A Day of Reflection – being offered by the Anglican Church Women of the Diocese of San Joaquin. This special event will be held from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, January 12.

Using the teaching and example of a number of female saints of the Christian Church, Archdeacon Frances Levy will lead a series of devotions on the topic of contemplative prayer.

Refreshments will be provided, but participants should bring their own lunch as well as a pen or pencil and some paper.

Bishop Menees's Annual Visitation will be Sunday, January 20

The Rt. Rev. Eric Menees, Bishop of San Joaquin, will be at St. Paul's Church on Sunday, January 20, for his annual visitation to the parish.

In addition to preaching the Gospel and celebrating the Eucharist during the services, during the adult Sunday school class the bishop will be available for a question and answer forum.

Confirmation

As part of the bishop's visitation, confirmation will be held during the 10:30 service on January 20. Those desiring to be confirmed should speak to one of the members of the clergy to make sure that all the requirements have been met.

Baptism

Those interested in being baptized, or having a child to be baptized, are urged to speak with the Rector as soon as possible as there are two special occasions for baptism during the coming month.

The first occasion is the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, which is always the first Sunday after the Epiphany. This year, that is Sunday, January 13.

The second special occasion is when the bishop comes for his annual visitation, which this year will be Sunday, January 20.