



THE APOSTLE

*St. Paul's is an inclusive community
seeking to know, to live,
and to share the joy and love of Christ.*

April 2013



PRODIGAL *daughter*

A sermon by The Rev. Donna Elder-Holifield

Some refer to the Parable of the Prodigal Son as "the pearl of the parables" and as "the masterpiece of the parables." It is regarded as an incomparable expression of the patience and generosity with which human love bears with and triumphs over willfulness and folly. I particularly love this Parable for the beautiful examples of events and characters that invite us into the story, turn us around and send us right

out again to love and serve the Lord.

Because most of us know the story very well, I would like to invite you into a new way of experiencing the Parable. The first sentence is simple and clear: "A certain man had two sons." Let's read, "A certain mother had two daughters." The prodigal daughter wants it all and now. What she does is described in the wonderful language of the King James Translation. The prodigal wasted her "substance in riotous living," a civil and gracious phrase for unmentionable things. Then, when she realizes her true state - when she comes to herself, as the text reads - she says the other memorable line, perhaps one of the most glorious lines in the New Testament, "I will arise and go to my "mother." I have come to my senses.

Most of us identify with the older sibling. We are responsible; we are dutiful; we do the job. In the Parable, the older one even looks after the estate, guides the servants, takes care of the books, looks after her aging and perhaps difficult mother. So she does respond with normal annoyance. After all, she was always there to be relied upon. She did her sister's work while the younger left home to lead a life of debauchery and wasted all her money. The older sister has a right to complain. But when she responds with annoyance at the favor shown the younger sister, she does not get the fatted calf, she gets a sermon and a lecture; such a raw deal.

Whichever sibling we identify with, the Parable is about a certain parent who had two children with whom she shared her love, unconditional love. Not, I will love you if you do this, or I will love you if you do not do that. BUT, because of who you are and because of who I am, I must love you. The parent may not approve of their ways, but she loves her children. She loves them so much that she accepts them just as they are. All this takes some doing, because actually, neither child is particularly agreeable

The prodigal is willful, foolish, self-centered, self pitying and indulgent. She comes home only when he has nowhere else to go. The older sister is petty, spiteful, jealous, self-righteous and lacking in imagination. I think that we should pity the poor parent who has to live with all this. Perhaps, the parent should have run away and left the place to the two children to fight it out. The parent did not do that because the story is about her.

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Prodigal Daughter (Continued from pg. 1)

Another story that I also wanted to share is one about a beautiful painting in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France. It is a painting of the Prodigal one kneeling before the parent asking forgiveness. Henri Nouwen, a Catholic theologian, tells the story about sitting in front of that painting, meditating, reflecting, praying, identifying with the feeling of the parent's hands on his shoulders, sensing the love, the comfort, the forgiveness. Then, one day, during Lent, he returned once again to look at the painting, reflect and pray. This time, he wrote, his focus changed he said that he saw himself as the bearer of unconditional love... He saw himself as the bearer of unconditional love. He saw himself as the one capable of running down the road to meet someone without judgment, the one capable of saying welcome home - welcome to my heart.

Picture yourself in the story, running down the road, kicking the dust up as your feet hit the road, arms outstretched, embracing the prodigal, embracing yourself. Welcome home. Welcome to the heart of God.

Worship Services

Sunday - Meditative Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Choral Eucharist 10:00 a.m.
San Pablo Eucharist 12:00 pm.

Clergy

The Rev. James V. Ezell
Rector

The Rev. Arnold Hedlund
Assisting Priest

Deacon

The Rev. Donna Elder-Holifield

Choir Director

Janette Ford

Organist

William Ray

The Apostle

The Newsletter of
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Web Site: www.stpauls-salinas.org

Published monthly.

Deadline for submission
is the 15th of the month.

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Treasurer - Arnold Hedlund

Vestry Clerk - Cathi Beery

Kathy Blount

Howard Coe

Donna Elder-Holifield

Jonathan Romeyn

William Thompson

Marshall Treleven



Wine & Food Tasting Fund Raiser

Friday May 3, 2013

St. Paul's Parish Hall

Hosted by:

Bob & Cathy Beery and

Charlie & Suzie Way

Featuring Wines from Hahn Family Winery

\$50 per person (over 21 please)

Please invite your friends or anyone interested in learning more about pairing wine with food, enjoying the company of friendly people, and supporting the ministry of St. Paul's. This will be a truly fun filled evening! Call Bob if you want more information (905-9354) or the Parish office for tickets (424-7331).

Saint Paul's and San Pablo—We are One in Christ

Loving God,

We ask your blessing upon the congregations of San Pablo and Saint Paul's as we journey together. Let your Holy Spirit guide and direct us so that bonds of affection and love may grow between us. Bring us into union as one family in Christ, one congregation united in mission and ministry serving one another, the Salinas Valley and the world in your name. Amen

The second meeting of the Saint Paul / San Pablo commission was held on Thursday, April 4. In the coming months we will be communicating to both congregations and seeking the input and ideas of all who have something to contribute. St. Paul's members serving on the commission are: Dave Mora (convener), Mary Orrison, Cecilia Sanchez, Marilyn Dorman, Bob Beery, Otis Lloyd, Fr. Jim Ezell. Members of San Pablo: Javier Mejia, Maria Amezquita, Jesus and Maria Franco, Arturo Perez, Fr. Mario Macias. The following is a summary by Marilyn Dorman of a meeting our commission had with two other parishes undergoing the same process as we are.

“God is opening a door for us”

The committee formed to discuss and lead the merger of St. Paul and San Pablo has met twice to discuss our concerns and direction. In addition, we have attended a diocesan meeting to learn about the experiences of other congregations/missions who are further down this path than we are. The diocesan session provided us with invaluable insight to assist us in formulating our direction and in determining some of the steps to achieving our goal. The congregations of St. Joseph (Milpitas) and Holy Child (San Jose) shared their experiences and wisdom in merging so far. Those thoughts include:

It is important to build trust between the people of the two congregations. This will not happen unless time is spent in getting to know each other, sharing our concerns, and listening to each other. This was the foundation of what they hoped to achieve and a most necessary step. Social events were used to facilitate the ultimate goal of building trust. The process will take time and should not be hurried.

Each congregation had concerns about the merger and what it would mean to their worship and community. It took time and patience to ensure all the issues were verbalized and then more time to address them.

They needed to learn how to talk to each other about concerns. In open and honest ways honoring all of their feelings about the concerns. Cultural differences needed to be acknowledged, understood and celebrated.

Talking about the specifics of a merger is not a first step, the building of trust is.

The desire of both St Joseph's and Holy Child was to build one church with two distinct communities (cultures).

The structure of their merger committee was based on equal representation of both congregations, with monthly meetings, rotation of leadership between the congregations, mutual invitation (after speaking they welcome the other congregation to speak and thank the listeners after speaking), the merger committee was the seed of the future vestry.

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“God is opening a door for us” (cont.)

They respect each other and are there for each other. At first they would pass between services and wave or say “hello” but now they hug and talk between services.

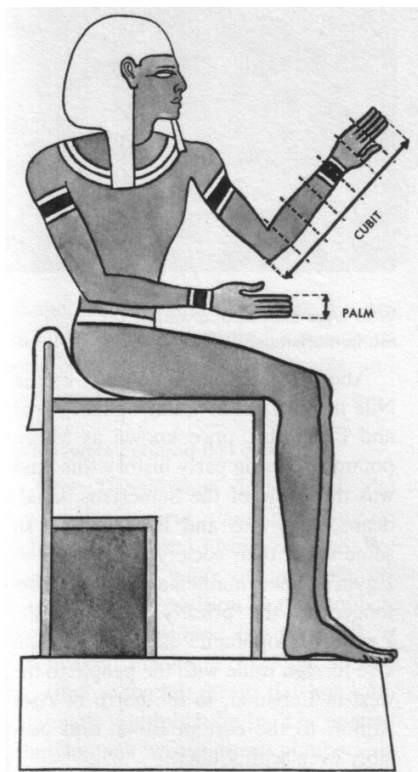
They found that the merger has built upon their faith. To develop a fuller relationship with God each congregation had a piece of the puzzle which put together helped the members of the two congregations spiritually grow and understand God further.

They built joint ministry in the community which helped them in becoming a “complete” church, utilizing the strengths of each congregation.

They used as their model a marriage with a lifelong commitment to work on having a loving relationship, common ideals, communication, with mutual honor and respect.

Yes, *God is opening a door for us*. We have an opportunity in the merger of our congregations to begin to build peace in Salinas and to grow spiritually by getting to know each other. Here is our chance to as Anglos and Hispanics to build a strong relationship and not just walk parallel paths that do not intersect. The time spent at the diocesan meeting made me think of wonderful possibilities that we could achieve and reminded me of the song, “let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me”.

Marilyn Dorman, commission member



SPRING CONFERENCE

May 18, 2013

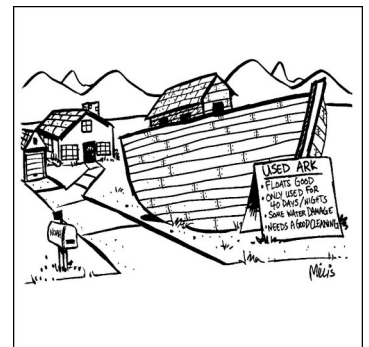
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

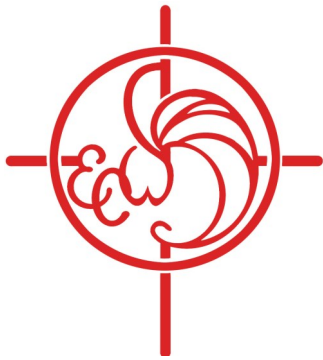
9:00 - 3:00 pm

**Dr. Joel Hoffman, Hebrew and Biblical scholar will lead us in a discussion of
how to be better communicators of our faith**

in this year of

“Cubits: Found in Translation.”





A reminder that the ECW meets 11am every first Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall Lounge, followed by lunch at 12pm All women in the church are invited!

ECW Prayer

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, source of all knowledge and truth, be present with each of us meeting together as the Women of the Episcopal Church. Grant us open minds, compassionate hearts, honest words and gentle ways. Give us the grace to know your will, the courage to accept it and the strength to accomplish it. May we not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Bless us with your peace today and all the days to come, and may we ever pray, "Thy will be done". We live in your presence and pray in your Holy Name. Amen



The next Men's Fellowship Dinner will be Friday, April 12.

We will be having a BBQ at the Rectory starting at 6pm

Bring your own refreshment and money to reimburse the chefs, Danny and Otis.

All St. Paul and San Pablo men are welcome!

RSVP - Fr. Jim (512-7412)

The Women's Book Club and dinner will next meet on Tuesday May 7 in the Parish Hall Lounge at 6:00pm.

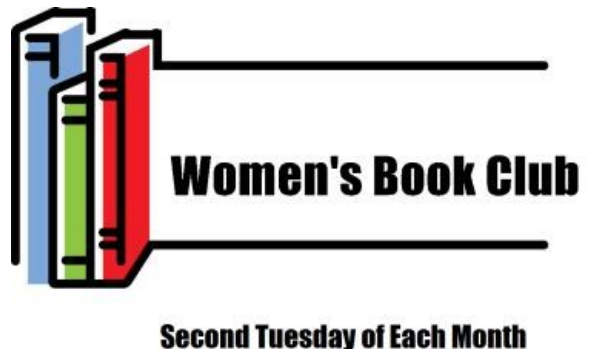
This month's book is:

The Traitor's Wife

By

Kathleen Kent

Hosts: Diana Thelander & Marilyn Dorman





St. Paul's Teams with Transportation Non-Profit to Provide Rides for Seniors

Independent Transportation Network Monterey County is a non-profit organization that provides rides to Senior and Visually-Handicapped individuals through a network of volunteer drivers. St. Paul's has established a Ride Services Program with ITN, for members to receive rides, free of charge, to and from church and church-sponsored activities any day of the week. Members can also use the service for any other purpose they desire, but those rides would be paid for by the rider. There is a Ride Scholarship Program for low-income participants.

In order for our transportation program to serve as many people as possible, we also need Volunteer Drivers to provide the rides our members need. There are a number of benefits for Drivers, including mileage reimbursement or earned ride credits for their own use, or for a friend or family member to use.

For more information, please contact ITN *Monterey County* at 831-240-0850 or Deborah Ingram, Senior Services Director for Episcopal Senior Communities at 831-424-0911.

SEN RS

Lunch & Bingo!

Thursday, April 25, 2013

In the Parish Hall, 12 Noon to 2pm

(Meeting the 4th Thursday of every month)

(\$5.00 suggested donation)

m ther's DAY Brunch

SAVE THE DATE!!

St. Paul's Mother's Day Bruch & Outreach Raffle

Sunday May 12, 2013

10:30 am

One English Worship Service at 9am



St. Paul's Resurrection Chapel Columbarium

St. Paul's has a beautiful Columbarium. It is located in the small Resurrection Chapel at the front of the Church. Thanks to the original Columbarium Management Committee, the artwork and location give our St. Paul's family and friends an option for a final resting place. When you go into the Chapel for a moment of prayer and reflection, look at some of the names that have gone before us and pray for them also.

The Mortuaries and St. Paul's work together to put ashes in the Columbarium. An engraved plate indicates who is buried there. Fortunately, there are still empty spaces in the Columbarium. The price is only \$800.00 per space. If you and your family are interested in a beautiful Columbarium space, please call Lucy Murguia in the Church Office, 831-424-7331



**Pantry
Needs**

**FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS AND THE
HUNGRY
DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Our Food Panty continues to feed over 50 people a week and the needs are continuing to grow. Each week on Friday we distribute 22 bags of groceries in addition to fresh produce and refrigerated items as available. Every Tuesday parishioners from St. Paul's prepare and serve cooked lunches for 120 + individuals and families at First United Methodist Church. We also have pledged \$300 a month to First United Methodist and Dorothy's Kitchen to feed hungry people in Salinas. These ministries depend upon your contributions on the 3rd Sunday of each month through the special offering envelope found in the bulletin and donations from the collection can which is placed at the entrance to the church every week and at the Sr. Produce Market on Wednesday mornings. Please give generously, these ministries help hungry people survive.



WEEKLY FREE FRIDAY NOON TIME PIPE ORGAN RECITAL



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**1071 PAJARO STREET
SALINAS, CA 93901**

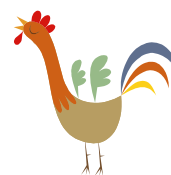
**BRING AND ENJOY
YOUR OWN LUNCH**

(831) 424-7331





ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA



Senior's Produce Market

Please join us at our WEEKLY
AT-COST produce market just for senior citizens!



Seasonal Produce, Great
Prices, FREE Refreshments

from

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
1071 Pajaro Street, Salinas



Presented by St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Episcopal Senior
Communities



Weekday Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings
11:00am
in the Chapel



April Birthdays

Jessica Chernetsky 4/9
Joyce Coe 4/19
Arnold Hedlund 4/23
Andy McKay 4/29



April Anniversaries

Sam & Amy Duda 4/5
Ray & Cathy Blount 4/18
Ken & Lorna Fisher 4/25



SCRIP PROGRAM

Merchant	%	Denomination
Applebee's	(8%)	\$25/\$50
Amazon. com	(4%)	\$25/\$100
Burger King	(4%)	\$10
Carl's Jr.	(5%)	\$10
Chili's	(11%)	\$25
Cold Stone	(8%)	\$10
CVS Pharmacy	(6%)	\$25
Gap/Old Navy	(14%)	\$25
Home Depot	(4%)	\$25
Jack in the Box	(4%)	\$10
JC Penney	(5%)	\$25
KFC	(8%)	\$5
Kohl's	(4%)	\$25
Macy's	(10%)	\$25
Office Depot	(4%)	\$25
Office Max	(5%)	\$25
Olive Garden	(9%)	\$25
Outback	(8%)	\$25
Panera Bread	(9%)	\$25
Pet Smart	(4%)	\$25
Red Lobster	(9%)	\$25
Safeway	(4%)	\$25
Save Mart	(2%)	\$25
See's	(20%)	\$16.50
Smart & Final	(3%)	\$25
Star Market	(5%)	\$25/\$100
Starbucks Coffee	(7%)	\$25
Subway	(3%)	\$10
Target	(2%)	\$25
Wal-Mart	(2%)	\$25
Wendy's	(4%)	\$10

Interested in a particular store not on this list? Let us know, we make special orders.

Scrip is available in the church office and in the Parish Hall after Sunday service.

Questions:

call Sally Parker 663-2519

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



MONDAY—THURSDAY

8:00am—12 noon

1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Closed Friday

Open

8:00am—10:00am

For food distribution
ONLY



April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2 Feed the Homeless 8:30am - 12:30pm Book Club 6pm in the Lounge	3 Sr. Market 9:30 - 10:30am Bible Study 11am	4 St. Paul /San Pablo Commission 7pm	5 Food Pantry 8am Staff Meeting 10am Tai Chi - 10:00am Organ Concert 12pm	6
7 Eucharist 8am & 10am San Pablo - Noon Choir 8:30am Worship Com. 11:30am. Outreach 6:30 - lounge	8 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 12pm	9 Feed the Homeless 8:30am - 12:30pm ECW - 11am	10 Sr. Market 9:30 - 10:30am Bible Study 11am	11	12 Food Pantry 8am Staff Meeting 10am Tai Chi - 10:30am Organ Concert 12pm Men's Fellowship Dinner 6pm at Rectory	13
14 Eucharist 8am & 10am San Pablo - Noon Choir 8:30am	15	16 Feed the Homeless 8:30am - 12:30pm	17 Sr. Market 9:30 - 10:30am Bible Study 11am	18	19 Food Pantry 8am Staff 10am Tai Chi - 10:30am Organ Concert 12-1pm	20 Bell Choir 9:30am
21 8am & 10am San Pablo - Noon Choir 8:30am	22	23 Feed the Homeless 8:30am - 12:30pm	24 Sr. Market 9:30 Bible Study 11am	25 Sr. Luncheon & Bingo 12-2pm Vestry - 6pm	26 Staff - 10am Tai Chi - 10:30am Organ Concert 12-1pm	27
28 8am & 10am San Pablo - Noon Choir 8:30am Villa Serra - 7pm	29	30 Feed the Homeless 8:30am - 12:30pm				

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH