

# THE SCEPTRE

VOLUME 52, No. 8

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

OCTOBER 2012

*An inclusive parish of The Episcopal Church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition*

## FROM THE RECTOR

It is that time of year once again. October marks the season when churches all over the world start to talk about stewardship. Unstated but universally known is that what is really at issue is next year's budget. How do we raise the money needed to keep the church open and provide all the services that we have come to expect? Some may want to question why this is all put into the context of stewardship - why not just ask for money? And yet others, the majority I fear, simply turn off and write on the stewardship card "same as last year."



I will address the issue of funding the Church in another article in this issue, but here I do want to talk a little about stewardship.

In our current culture, it is hard to talk or think of ourselves as stewards. To steward is to act as caretaker on someone else's behalf: in our case, for God. We have become so used to the idea that the world and everything in it exists for our use and benefit, the idea that we should care for resources for the benefit of another seldom occurs to us. To be clear, it is not that when we think about stewardship, it does not make sense. Rather, it is more that we seldom, if ever, think about it. If we assume the world and its resources are there for us to use, and they are what sustains us, why should we consider ourselves guardians of them? Must we not use them for our own welfare? For example, humanity only recently began to accept the idea of sustainable use of resources when we became threatened by severe environmental changes (such as global warming) caused by our over- and misuse of the Earth's bounty. However, it is much harder to convince ourselves that this is the case with regard to

money. We have worked hard for the financial resources we hold, so we feel they are ours to do with as we please. Setting some aside for the Church is charity and a good thing, but it must come second to fulfilling our needs.

The real question posed by all of this is: what is our ultimate priority? Is it, as seems to be the trend, ME? Or is it something beyond myself, which for the Christian, is GOD? If the answer is ME, then we are on a road that leads to disappointment and loneliness, acquisition that ends in isolation and depression. If it is GOD, then we will be profligate in our giving to benefit those around us and to give glory to GOD.

There are all sorts of catch phrases that are used in "stewardship" campaigns and all sorts of ways of dressing up the Church's need for money to operate, but true stewardship is not about any of those. Stewardship is about our need to give away what we have so that we may receive what we really need: the love of God. God loves us all, just as we are, but we need to make room in our hearts for that love by giving up all those other loves that crowd God out. So this stewardship season, as you consider your pledge, do not think about giving to a need. The need always will be there and the Church will always need more. Instead, think about opening your heart by emptying your pockets. Then the love that God gives to you will have room to grow and flourish.

*Father Paul*

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photos: Marshal Cousins

### News from the Past

**Sept. 15, 1912:** Colonel Roosevelt left San Francisco last night satisfied that he had spent a "restful" Sabbath. The Colonel's day opened with breakfast in the main dining room of the Palace hotel. After breakfast, time was devoted to outlining speeches and a bit of dictation to one of his stenographers and then the start was made for church services at **the Church of the Advent** on Fell Street. Everybody, with the exception of a young man who arrived late, was aware that the Colonel was worshipping with them. There was room for only one more person by a little squeezing and the latecomer, the unconscious cynosure of all eyes, calmly took his seat alongside the former President, with the latter moving over to make room.

The Colonel took part in all the liturgy and his voice rang out strong in the singing. Then to lunch in Berkeley with the president of the University of California. On the return to the palace toward evening some more work on speeches and the dinner with invited guests including former Governor George Pardee. The Roosevelt car was part of the coast train leaving Third and Townsend at 10 o'clock with a committee of twenty. To all he had the same message as to how he had enjoyed the day. "Fine, fine, bully, bully. I never spent a quieter day."

- from the Archives of the San Francisco Chronicle

Thanks to Fr. Ricardo Avila



**SCHOLA ADVENTUS** SUNDAY OCT 21, 2012 4 PM



CHURCH OF THE ADVENT  
261 Fell St.  
between Gough and Franklin  
SF, CA 94102  
Civic Center BART, Van Ness MUNI  
Easy street parking

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<http://www.advent-sf.org/music-at-advent>

**Music This Month**

*Sharing God's gift of music with the wider community*

SCHOLA ADVENTUS sings every Sunday at 11 AM. Join us for this ministry of music that supports our worship by presenting the finest liturgical music in the context for which it was written.

- Jennifer Ashworth, Soprano
- David Alban, Alto / Tenor
- Lauren Carley, Alto
- Kevin Baum, Tenor
- Jim Monios, Bass



Dr Paul Ellison,  
Director of Music  
Photo: Marshal Cousins



Music at Church of the Advent is not only produced by professionals. We support two volunteer Gregorian Chant choirs, **Schola Cantorum** (men) and **Schola Femina** (women). Both offer excellent opportunities for learning to sing Gregorian Chant, an experience that is prayerful and uplifting as well as musical. If you can carry a tune and are willing to learn, contact Dr. Paul Ellison [music@advent-sf.org](mailto:music@advent-sf.org)

## Funding Church of the Advent

Since the earliest days of the Christian Church, money has been an issue. In the Acts of the Apostles, while we are told that the disciples held everything in common, the curious story of Ananias and Sapphira suggests that not all Christians were content to put their whole wealth into the common pot. As the Christian faith spread, many wealthy people equated financing the building and maintaining of Churches with a way to ensure a merciful judgment at the end of their life - and just maybe a way of ensuring entry into heaven. When earthly matters became more pressing to these financiers (such as wars, dowries, and building large houses) and the need for funding the Church became more urgent, the secular powers stepped in and assented to the raising of a tax. This tax, called the tithe, was ten percent of the produce of the land and was intended to ensure perpetual funding of the Church. The tithe in England only was abolished in 1936, and resulted in a staggering decrease in Church giving.

Funding Church of the Advent of Christ the King also has been a struggle from its very beginnings. There have been many times over its 155 years of ministry when Advent's leadership have thought of closing the Church because of falling numbers and lack of money. We are fortunate not to be in that state today, but only because of both the generosity of past members and the vigilant financial caretaking of our hard-working Endowment Committee. Running Advent today is an expensive business, not because we are particularly extravagant but simply because of the community we minister to. Many people give generously, but also many only give generously to fund their own favorite ministry of the Church - such as music or ministry to the poor. These designated gifts account for most of the invested income of the Church of the Advent. But music, ministry, buildings, etc. do not have a separate existence from that of the Church as a whole. Funding is always needed to pay the priest, the administrator, the electric and heating bills, as well as insurance, taxes, and administrative costs. Without these there would not be any ministry: no music, no outreach to the Episcopal Sanctuary, and our beautiful building would just be an empty shell.

Stewardship is all about our need to give, and I have written about that elsewhere, but we also are stewards of the Church. In our stewardship of both the building and the personnel who run it, we need to consider what we can do, both in our giving and in our volunteering, to make the Church and its ministries run and be sustainable for future generations of Christians.



### Keep the candles burning

Our parish sometimes spends over \$600 a month in candles, while taking in about a tenth of that, or just over \$60 a month, in donations. We all love the ritual of lighting candles to accompany our prayers. Please help to keep the candles burning by contributing to support this cost.

**The recommended donation is \$1.00 per candle.** Please contribute at least this amount if you are able.



### Silent days in Advent

Consider an individual, self-directed retreat during Advent. Silent time, with optional daily offerings, provides a meditative framework to experience the mystical, prepare for the coming of the Christ child, and refresh and renew yourself through the Holy Spirit. We invite you to participate in this special week for as many days as your time permits. The Society of St. Francis and friends will coordinate and staff the retreat and serve as leaders.

When: Friday, December 7 to Friday, December 14  
 Where: The Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg  
 Cost: Fees vary depending on the number nights (visit [www.bishopsranch.org](http://www.bishopsranch.org) for rates)



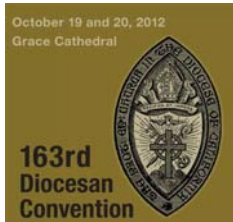
**Around the Diocese**

**Sunday, October 7, 2012  
7:45 am to 7 pm**

**The Feast of St. Francis & Blessing of the Animals**

On this Sunday Grace Cathedral replaces regular Sunday observance with the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi (feast day October 4) for whom the city of San Francisco is named. Francis is one of those few saints with almost universal recognition and appeal. With his associate, Clare, a spirit of simplicity, active care for the poorest of the poor, and an appreciation for the divine imprint in all creatures, he found new life in the 13th century church. Franciscan ideals continue to enliven and challenge us today.

On this feast day, we also bless domestic animals as a token of the love St. Francis showed for all created beings. Your pets are welcome at the services at 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., and at hospitality hour. For the safety and comfort of all, each must be on a leash or in a secure carrier, and please exercise your pet before entering the church.



The 163rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of California will be held at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco on October 19 and 20, 2012. The Convention will begin with Holy Eucharist at 7 p.m. on October 19. All people of the diocese are invited to the Eucharist. The business meeting will be begin at 9 a.m. on October 20. For information about the Convention, see [www.diocal.org/convention](http://www.diocal.org/convention).



**Tuesday, October 2, 7 p.m.**  
Concert at St. Columba's, 12835 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Inverness

**Wednesday, October 3, 7 p.m.**  
Concert at St. Mary the Virgin, 325 Union Street, San Francisco

**Thursday, October 4, 5:15 p.m.**  
Music as Strength for the Journey: *The Story of Haiti's Holy Trinity Music School* Includes Evensong (with the cathedral choir) followed by a preview of Owsley Brown's film about Holy Trinity Music School Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, San Francisco

**Friday, October 5, 7 p.m.**  
Concert at Trinity, 330 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park

**Saturday, October 6, 4 p.m.**  
Concert at St. John's, 14 Lagunitas Avenue, Ross

**Sunday, October 7, 10:30 a.m.**  
Holy Eucharist at St. Augustine's, 525 29th Street, Oakland

**Sunday, October 7, 4 p.m.**  
Concert at St. Mark's, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley



All performances are free of charge  
A free will offering will be graciously accepted

[www.diocal.org/musicforhaiti](http://www.diocal.org/musicforhaiti)



**Church Divinity School of the Pacific  
Fall Open House**

What's seminary like, anyway? Is it for you? You'll never know unless you go. Come visit CDSP to live, laugh, study, sing, and pray in a community of seekers from 24 states and five countries. Check out the neighborhood, which includes nine seminaries and UC Berkeley. Come experience our community. Try us on for size. Three days: in class, in chapel, in conversation. Meet the faculty. Meet students. Room and meals are on us.

When: Wed. November 7 through Fri, November 9  
Where: [Church Divinity School of the Pacific](http://www.cdsp.edu),  
Ridge Road, Berkeley  
Cost: Free  
RSVP: [seeCDSP@cdsp.edu](mailto:seeCDSP@cdsp.edu)

**LATIN MASS ❖ Saturday October 6 5:00pm****HIGH MASS / SUNG MASS  
SUNDAYS 11:00 AM****19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, October 7**

Celebrant: Paul Burrows  
Preacher: Rod Thompson

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, October 14**

Celebrant: Louis Newton  
Preacher: Paul Burrows

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, October 21**

Celebrant: : Paul Burrows  
Preacher: Rod Thompson

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, October 28**

Celebrant: Rod Thompson  
Preacher: Alex Martin

**Holy Hour - 5 PM Saturday Oct. 13, 20, 27****OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Oct... Stephen Shull (birthday)
- 6 Oct... Wayne Fry (birthday)
- 7 Oct... Vincent Jang (confirmation)
- 13 Oct...Jonathan Mortimer (baptism)
- 15 Oct...Cameron Fitzsimmons (birthday)
- 18 Oct...Light Devoy Harris (birthday)
- 18 Oct...Jude Hill SSF + (baptism)
- 19 Oct...Fred Hansen (confirmation)
- 19 Oct...Jim Swearingen + (birthday)
- 21 Oct...Mary + and Jim Hudak (marriage)
- 22 Oct...Ian McCloghrie (baptism)
- 23 Oct...Cort Cortez (birthday)
- 23 Oct...Michael Stroup (birthday)
- 25 Oct...Lee Francke (birthday)
- 25 Oct...Earl Shaddix (birthday)
- 26 Oct...Robert and Renee Schwartz (marriage)
- 28 Oct...Jack Fredricks + (birthday)
- 30 Oct...Bob Kramish (baptism)
- 30 Oct...Michael Stroup (baptism)
- 31 Oct...Mark Eriksson (birthday)
- 31 Oct...Tom Miller (reception)
- 31 Oct...Lauran Pifke + (birthday)

**- A Note from the Rector on the Weekday Schedule -**

In light of the responses we received regarding Evening Prayer, we will offer a public service of Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. on Monday and Friday starting in September. Thank you all for your thoughtful responses. I hope that some of you will be able to support Evening Prayer on Mondays and Fridays this Fall.

*Fr. Paul*

**WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**DAILY MASS** Monday 10:00am, Tuesday 6:30pm, Wednesday 7:30 am, Thursday 6:30pm,  
Friday 10:00am, and Saturday (and Federal holidays) 9:00am.

**EVENING PRAYER** Monday 6:00 PM, Friday 6:00 PM (excluding Federal holidays)

### Library Memorial – Ewing Cobb

Ewing Cobb was a longtime member of Church of the Advent. He was married to his wife Margaret here in 1950, and his funeral was held here in 2009. A sizable percentage of the books in the Pittman Library originated with him.

Therefore it is fitting to consider a memorial donation in honor of Ewing Cobb for the refurbishment of our library, and specifically for the purchase of two custom-size bookcases which are needed to complete the shelving of the books.

Once the shelves are in place, an appropriate plaque in memory of Ewing Cobb will be placed in the library.

Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted. You can donate using the PayPal link on the church website, via check in the alms basin (specify "library memorial" in the memo line), or speak to any member of the vestry.

### Father Geoffrey Glaser and Jeff Commings

are getting married  
at Church of the Advent  
on 3 November 2012.

They would like to extend an invitation  
to all members of Advent to attend  
and help celebrate this joyful occasion.

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AND NOW FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE ABIDE, THESE  
 THREE; AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.  
 I CORINTHIANS 13:13