

The Abundant Lite

October 6, 2011
Sunday,
October 9th

For

From The Rector

Stronger Together

Sometimes the writers of the books of the Bible let us behind the scenes. In this week's selection from Philippians, St. Paul is giving us just such a glimpse.

Euodia and Syntyche have different minds and this is causing a problem. I have heard their disagreement sometimes described as "early congregational drama," demeaning the disagreement and dismissing women at the same time. I don't think that is Paul's intention. I think he is using the example of a well known disagreement to serve God's mission in the world.

In the Episcopal Church we believe that our mission is nothing less than "restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." (Book of Common Prayer p. 855)

The important idea seems to be that the disagreement between these two faithful

workers is hurting the work of the faith community. Time and again Paul urges the folks to whom he writes to be focused on Christ and work together. His letters usually list a team of co-workers upon whom Paul has come to depend. Here he invites them to imitate the community-building behaviors they have observed in him.

Paul teaches that we are stronger together. Whether we are standing up for the rights of people pushed to the margins or supporting a fellow member who is suffering loss, we are stronger together. We can come together and be strong for God's Mission when our focus is on Jesus. We can be together in worship, prayer, study, and service, and still have plenty of room to claim our unique place in the community of faith - even to disagree for the good of the community.

Join us this week as we practice God's work of reconciliation.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm
in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Bishop's Annual Visit

The Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes - Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego will preside and preach at The Church of St. Paul on October 9th at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. An offering envelope is provided in the the bulletin. The offering is allocated to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund for support of emergencies and non-budgeted ministries that arise in the Diocese during the course of the year.

Faith Building

Adult Faith Building - "Sundays at 9:15"

This week's "Sunday's at 9:15" is a meeting with Bishop Mathes. Come to hear him speak of his vision for the Diocese.

Adult Faith Building - "Sundays at 9:15"

Next Sunday, The Rev. Canon Victoria Hatch begins a series (October 16, 23, and 30) on Understanding the Hebrew Scriptures. This course will be an overview of what we traditionally call the "Old Testament" and lay the foundation for future study. We'll look at [1] the Torah (or Pentateuch); [2] the Former Prophets (or what we call the Historical Books); [3] the Latter Prophets

(Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Book of the Twelve); and [4] the Poetic Books and Wisdom Literature. Be sure to bring a Bible and a friend!

Adult Faith Building - "Sundays at 9:15"

We Are The Church Together.” But what does that mean for us in our day and in this place? That’s a good question, especially during this month, as we focus on thankful living and thanksgiving. The Rev. Canon Victoria Hatch will lead us in several Scriptural studies which may help us to better understand our use

of time, our skills and, yes, our money. Join us, at 9:15am, in The Library, on November 6, 13 and 20, as, together, we explore what it means to be the Church. Be sure to bring your Bible.

No "Sundays at 9:15 on November 27th

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Adult Faith Building - "Thursdays at 7:00"

During October, we’re looking at “The Creeds of the Church” led by Jerry DiNoto. Historically, Christian creeds have included everything from brief affirmations to comprehensive statements. We will examine the historic creeds (The Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed), as well as contemporary confessions of faith. “Thursdays at 7” in the Library, October 13, 20 and 27. See you there!

November 3, 10 and 17 we return to “The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon” with Professor Bart D. Ehrman. Our focus will be on the four Gospels: “The Beginning of the Gospel Traditions,” “The Earliest Gospels” and “The Other Gospels.” We’ll talk about their dating, identify the sources used by the Gospel writers, and their basic message. Join us, Thursday evenings, 7pm.

No 'Thursdays at 7:00 on Thanksgiving Day,

Nov. 24th

Roy's Desert Resource Center

Hap Blaisdell, strongly encourages volunteers to use the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall to help him manage the number of volunteers he has each week for Desert SOS. Hap needs a minimum of 6 volunteers at Roy’s each Monday night. If fewer than six volunteers sign up, the workload is too burdensome. Roy’s is also in need of more desserts, especially homemade or money to purchase store bought desserts. These desserts bring much joy to the clients at Roy’s who ask

for so little.

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Just ONE Extra Item!

In your grocery cart is what we ask of our parishioners to get in the habit of purchasing for the Desert SOS Dessert Ministry of St. Paul in the Desert.

While

accomplishing your weekly grocery shopping, buy ONE extra item. This ONE extra item would assist us in providing dessert for the children, their parents, plus

the rest of the 90+ clients, of Roy's Desert Resource Center. Dessert (box of cookies, doughnuts, fruit, cheese or any other special treat) is provided every

Monday evening by St. Paul volunteer servers and providers. These same 8 parishioners, week after week, from their own pockets, make sure that the St. Paul's Dessert Ministry provides for these special people who look forward to this once a week treat, especially the children. Parishioners can bring items to church on the weekend or deliver desserts before 4:00 p.m. on Monday. Place the perishable desserts in the Parish Hall refrigerator (labeled clearly "SOS"). Contact Hap for more information at 760.323.5726.

Well In The Desert

Now Serves Lunch at St. Paul's on Wednesdays

The Well in the Desert has moved its meal service at St. Paul's from Fridays to

Wednesdays. In order to support the retail businesses in our neighborhood, we requested a change in the day of our meal service. Now a hot meal is served at St. Paul's from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Wednesday.

The Well needs volunteers to carry out their services and they need financial support to provide them. You can call (760) 327-8577 to volunteer. If you want

to contribute to the Well, just write "Well" in the memo portion of your check.

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Announcements

Need to Print a Copy of

The Abundant Lite?

[2]Click here to receive a Printer Friendly (text only) version.

A Holy Communion Service

. . . is scheduled for, Wednesday, October 12th at 10:00 a.m. at Windsor Court presided over by Rev. Dick Merrill. Fr. Dick welcomes assistance at Communion.

All Saints Day Remembrance

In remembrance of your loved ones on All Saints Day, please add their names to the list in the narthex to be included in a special bulletin of remembrance on Sunday, November 6th. Please remember to PRINT all names clearly or you may email your names to:

valerie.winters@stpaulsps.org. Names must be received by Tuesday, November 1st by 10:00 a.m.

All Parish Bar-B-Que

Saturday, October 15th at 11:30 a.m. is our All Parish Barbeque where we will reconnect with one another while enjoying Chef Andrew's world famous barbeque meats! Come join the fun and fellowship as we break bread together and share our stories from the summer. Tickets are FREE and will be distributed at Saturday and Sunday services. This is a not-to-be-missed gathering!

The Children's Choir

. . . continues on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. All children ages 4 and above are encouraged to participate in this dynamic musical ministry where they not only learn musical skills but also how to work together as a team. They will be singing about once a month for the 10:30 service. Call Nathan at 760-320-7488 ext. 225 for more details.

Brunch for All Saints

The Second Annual Brunch for All Saint's will be held on Sunday, November 6th at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. Tickets will be available October 16th for \$7.00 per person from Mike Carson, Jan Heller or at the parish office. Be sure to get your tickets early to guarantee space at the table for you and your loved one(s).

Bring framed photographs of departed loved ones. These photographs will grace your dining table on this day of remembrance.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

. . . begins meeting the first and third Wednesday of each month from 10 am to 1 pm in the Chapel of Hogarth Hall in October. Our peace-filled stitching circles provide the member a major sense of fulfillment and spiritual sustenance in creating prayer shawls to comfort someone in need or in celebration while fulfilling their creative side and building upon friendships with other parishioners. For more details contact Valerie Ferguson at 760.799.5927, Barbara Hawkins Villani at 760.322.3987, or Audrey Spencermorris at 760.835.5506.

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday,

October 8th at 10 a.m.

St. Paul's team is forming for the AIDS Walk for the Desert AIDS Project.

We want to have a team of 50 members walking on October 22nd. We want to raise \$20,000.00 to help people with HIV/AIDS.

You can help by walking with us, by raising support from sponsors and by giving.

You can join the team by following [\[3\]this link](#) or by signing up in the Parish Hall during the Coffee Hour.

AIDS is affecting more and more senior men and women, people who never thought it would be their problem.

We can help. Join the Team.

Saturday, Oct. 22nd

SAVE THE DATE

The Second Annual Brunch for All Saint's will be held on Sunday, November 6th at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. Tickets will be available in mid-October for \$7.00 per person.

Sign Up for Flowers,

Coffee Hour and

Desert SOS

To make it easier for parishioners to sign-up for Flowers, Coffee Hours, and the Dessert Ministry, we have integrated the sign-up sheets into a three-ring binder format. These sheets are in binders that are on the entrance table in the Parish Hall. Instead of writing parallel onto a bulletin board, you will now be able to write at table height. Please note that there are binders for the rest of 2011 and for 2012. If you have a special date that you want to commemorate, be sure to save it as soon as possible.

Coffee Hour

The 8:00 a.m. Coffee Hour host is Terry Heil and Bonnie Stroock, and the 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour host is Cheryl and Ray Kelley in celebration of Beverly Zwach's 90th birthday. Come enjoy the fellowship time with your fellow parishioners.

The 2011 coffee hour sign-up sheets are now in the three-ring binder on the entrance table to the Parish Hall. Find an empty slot and fill it with your name. For more information, call Ray Kelley at 760.778.1725..

The St. Paul Columbarium Niches are over 60% sold out. If you are interested in a specific niche, please do not wait to purchase it or reserve it. Deposits are required for all niche reservations. Please contact Jonathan Abernethy-Deppe, at 760.320.7488, ext. 224 for further information.

The Bishop's Appeal

The Bishop's Appeal supports the mission of the diocese through gifts that are used for support of our ongoing programs and ministries: congregational support and development, leadership development, pastoral care, ministry development, and Christian formation. 100% of your gift goes to supporting our ministries. To make a gift, go to the secure website at www.edsd.org or mail to: Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, 2728 Sixth Ave., San Diego, CA 92103.

Report Sexual Misconduct

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, please be reminded that our diocese values the tenet of our baptismal covenant to "respect the dignity of every human being." Part of the way we live into that is to train people in the prevention of sexual misconduct. Another part that

goes hand-in-hand with training is reporting incidences of sexual misconduct. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes, takes reports seriously and investigates them thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced sexual misconduct of any kind, please contact Bishop Mathes immediately: bishopmathes@edsd.org, 619-481-5450.

NEWCOMERS

Are you receiving the latest mailings and the Abundant Lite weekly newsletter? If not, then we probably don't have your correct mailing and/or email addresses. We want to make sure that you receive the invites to join us in a series of Newcomer events that we believe you will find to be informative and enjoyable. Please fill out the form in the pew pocket and place it in the plate, give it to an usher, or send your contact information by email to: valerie.winters@stpaulsps.org

Bullies Not Welcome Here

At St. Paul in the Desert we want to welcome all worshipers to a place that is free of violence and bullying.

Physical, verbal or emotional violence against others or against oneself is not acceptable.

[4]"It Gets Better" is a series of video messages to encourage Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender youth and let them know that they are loved as they are.

[5]"A Blessing for Those Who Are Bullied" was written by the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, a Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

It is not enough to say "NO" to bullies. It is important to stand up for people and to provide resources for those who have been the targets.

References

1. <http://www.wellinthedesert.org/>
2. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/The-Abundant-Lite-9-29-2011.pdf>
3. <http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/andrew-green/palmspringsaidswalk2011>
4. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPZ5eUrNF24>
5. <http://scg-wakeupcall.blogspot.com/2010/10/blessing-for-those-who-are-bullied.html>