

The Abundant Lite

October 23, 2014

For Sunday October 26, 2014

From The Rector

It All Depends.

Have you ever asked a question, hoping for a direct answer, only to be told that "it depends?" The answer is not clear and hangs on certain variables. It often frustrates me, but I have learned that there are lots of answers that are not clear, direct, or obvious.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus has silenced one group of questioners and responds to another. We might see this as the kind of "gotcha" questions that populate interviews today. There have been other questions that were designed to trip him up or to mock his presumed beliefs. However, the latest question - Which is the greatest commandment? - was pretty common. The answer was common also.

Jesus responds with what Episcopalians are used to calling "the Summary of the Law." "Love God first, and your neighbor as yourself." I want to focus on the end of Jesus' response that the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments. It all depends.

With this summary, Jesus ties holiness and justice together. Jesus connects his teaching to the stream of "true religion" that runs through the Jewish and Christian traditions. Everything depends on adopting appropriate behaviors towards God, neighbor, and self. Faithful living all ties together, and it depends on the relationships we build with God, self, and neighbor.

Jesus does not lay out all the details. He lays out a guideline to use in our lives. He is not attacking anyone, but reminding all that the faithful worship of God is intimately connected with caring for ourselves and others. It is a balance that God has initiated and tipped towards justice.

Jesus does not define what the right relationship with God is, except to agree that it is primary and that it is connected to other people. This combination comes up often in the Scriptures and we recite versions of it

together in our Mission Statements. Everything depends on this connection.

Week by week we practice being a people who put God first, care for our neighbor, and stay connected with one another. We worship with a community that lives in this complex relationship - it all depends. Join us.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Altar Guild Training Session

All current and prospective Acolytes, Chalice Bearers, Worship Coordinators, and Altar Guild members are cordially invited to a training session on Saturday, November 1st at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. This will be a "refresher course" for current altar ministers and training for prospective servers. Brunch will be served. Reservations required. To save your space, please call the church office at 760.320.7488 ext. 0 and leave

your name and contact information.

Volunteers Needed for Palm Springs Pride

Volunteers Needed for
Palm Springs Pride
Festival & Parade

November 7, 8 & 9, 2014

Palm Springs Pride relies on hundreds of volunteers to make our unique festival and parade the success that they are year after year. Volunteering is all about making a difference. Palm Springs Pride is committed to involving volunteers across its operations from events to business support. When you volunteer with Palm Springs Pride, you'll be making not only a difference for the organization but also the wider community for which we serve.

Click [\[1\]](#) here to learn more about this year's Palm Springs Pride Festival & Parade.

Click [\[2\]](#) here to go directly to the Volunteer Application Form

NOTICE REGARDING PALM SPRINGS PRIDE WEEKEND

Due to the new Parade Route now starting on Tacheva Drive and the difficulty in reaching the church on Sunday morning our Principal Service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8th at 4:00 PM. The Rev. Susan Russell from All Saints Pasadena will be our guest preacher. There will not be a 10:30 AM service on Sunday November, 9th. There will be a said service with no music at 8:00 AM.

Demonstrate your Pride in our Diverse Spiritual Community and march with St. Paul's Pride Parade Contingent on Sunday, November 9th at 10 AM. All members of the Parish LGBTQ Community and their allies are welcome. Details to follow so watch this space! If interested, call the Parish Office, 760.320.7288 to leave your name and contact information.

Faith Formation

"Sundays at 9:15"

In The Library

Welcome to The Episcopal Café Discussion Group! Sessions will be held in the Chapel Room in the Parish Hall. These discussion/sharing sessions are based on online topics from Episcopal websites,

October

10/26 “The Rising Number of Homeless Gay Teens - Many from ‘Religious Families’” Facilitator- Alan Zimmerman

[3]Click to read

November

11/2 Ministries of Stewardship-Orientation & Intro

Facilitated by Craig Ewing

11/9 No Session - Pride Weekend

11/16 & 23 Church Hall. 2 sessions-the Ministries of St. Paul’s will make presentations on how stewardship is demonstrated. Facilitated by Craig Ewing

"Tuesdays at 7" In The Library

October

10/28 Part 2, The God Problem- Alternatives to Fundamentalism by Nigel Leaves. Almost everyone has their own view of what they mean by God. Some claim that they are “atheists” primarily because they do not believe in what they think is popularly referred to as “God.” Nigel Leaves’ book, The God Problem looks at the reasons behind the waning of the Christian faith because of its continuing insistence on a supernatural God. This book will be available for sale at each of the sessions for \$18. Put on your critical thinking hat and attend this four week discussion course led by Fr. Bob Semes.

November

Spirituality for the 2nd Half of Life-The Best is Yet to Come!

Led by Rev. Canon David Caffrey

11/4 Introduction - Journeying through the stages of life.

(Fun for all ages!)

11/11 Making the Transition & Issues of Spiritual Direction.

11/18 The Seven Life Tasks that must be Negotiated.

11/25 Signpost of healthy & mature spirituality.

Volunteers Needed - Roy's Desert Resource Center!

St. Paul's is expanding its outreach to the men, women and children of Roy's Desert Resource Center, one of the Coachella Valley's largest transitional living facilities for the homeless. New volunteers are needed to assist in our continuing Monday night dessert service to Roy's residents as are baked goods, used clothing and donations to our Roy's "S.O.S" fund. We are also looking for new volunteers willing to assist residents as they visit the on-site "God's Closet" used clothing repository. We encourage everyone with a little time to spare to join us in this opportunity for service and fellowship. For more information, please contact Chris Kelly at 760.406.2978. We would love to hear from you!

Our Partnership

with

Katherine Finchy

Elementary School

. . . continues through our donations of classroom supplies. Please take a blue classroom supply wish list, available from the ushers, [4](or view and print), to use when you go shopping. Please place your donations in the basket marked "Katherine Finchy Elementary" located in the Narthex. You may also bring your purchased supplies to the Church Office during business

hours. If you are unable to shop, but would like to help financially, please make your check out to “St. Paul in the Desert” and write “Katherine Finchy” on the memo line.

A WELCOMING, EMPOWERING, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Our mission statement calls us to be “a welcoming, empowering and supportive community.” We are currently forming a new ministry at St Paul’s to support that mission. Volunteers are needed from all three services to donate approximately 90 minutes of their time per month. That time is split into 3-30 minute segments: 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the service you attend, once per month, to support the Welcoming Table located in the Narthex and another 30 minutes a month assisting with name badge organization. If you are able to lend a hand, please contact Mike Funke at 760.-409.0986 or mike.funke@yahoo.com!

Help us live our mission statement!

Announcements

Need to Print a Copy of

The Abundant Lite?

[5][Click here to receive a Printer Friendly \(text only\) version](#)[6].

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Please observe that the office is not open for walk-ins on Mondays. If you call, please leave a message. In case of emergencies, a priest will return your call.

IN REMEMBRANCE

A celebration of the life of Karen Reynolds will be held on Friday, October 24th at 11:00 AM.

A celebration of the life of Bev Zwack will be held on Friday, November 7th at 1:00 PM.

'Baroque Brilliants'

Concert

Sunday, Oct. 26th at 4:00 PM.

The Music Department hosts a concert of "Baroque Brilliants" (works by 17th and 18th Dutch and German masters) presented by eminent Dutch violinist, Jaap Schröder and harpsichordist Margaret Irwin-Brandon, playing on period instruments. A \$20 donation is requested at the door. Contact Nathan Ensign at 760-320-7488 Ext. 225 for more info.

Our Next Monthly Taizè Service will be held Thursday, November 6th at 7:00 pm.

In a setting of icons, candles and low light, and, using short songs repeated again and again with a few words to express a basic reality of faith, this service of prayer and meditation becomes a way of listening to God. All are invited. To learn more, contact Nathan Ensign at: 760-320-7488 Ext. 225. We are also looking for a few volunteers to assist in setting up for the service.

The Order of the

Daughters of the King

...will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, October 28th at 1:15 PM in the Condo. We welcome and encourage all women attending St. Paul's to join us. We are a prayer & service ministry. For questions, please call Val Ferguson @ 760.671. 5372.

Piano Fund Update:

To date, the Church has received 64 donations totaling \$14,765.

HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE

FOR

LOCAL CARE FACILITIES

Holy Communion at Windsor Court, 201 South Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, is hosted by the Nursing Home Ministry on the second Wednesday of the month, next, on November 12, at 10:15am. The Presiding Priest always welcomes assistance from parishioners.

COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATION

Ray & Cheryl Kelley will host coffee hour following the 10:30 service.

Please consider signing up to host a Coffee Hour in 2014. A binder at the entrance to the Parish Hall indicates available Sundays throughout the year. There are several Sundays available through the end of the year. If you have questions, call Ray or Cheryl Kelley at 760.778.1725.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to join our circle on Wednesday's from 10am -1pm in Hogarth Hall. Whether you wish to learn to knit or crochet or are an expert needleworker, we welcome you. Needles, hooks and yarn are provided. Please drop in to create and enjoy our prayerfully made creations.

Bullying Behavior Not Welcome Here

At St. Paul in the Desert we 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.

[7]"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.

[8]"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.

Episcopalians Against Gun Violence

. . . is an ad-hoc group of bishops, clergy and lay people disseminating information about Episcopalians who are working, collectively and individually, to curb gun violence. For further information, click [9]here.

At the Church

of St. Paul

in the Desert

. . . we welcome all worshipers to a place free of violence, bullying, and abuse. Physical, verbal or emotional violence against others or against oneself is not acceptable because of our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. Please let Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself be your guide.

REPORT MISCONDUCT

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, our diocese trains people in the prevention of misconduct and encourages all to report misconduct. All reported incidents are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced misconduct of any kind, please contact the John Seitman, at jseitman@pacbell.net or 858-793-4426.

References

1. <http://pspride.org/>
2. <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=2045272437>
3. http://www.episcopalcafe.com/lead/news_reports/the_rising_number_of_homeless.html
4. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Finchy-Supply-list.pdf>
5. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/The-Abundant-Lite-October-16-2014.pdf>
6. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/The-Abundant-Lite-5-8-2014.pdf>
7. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPZ5eUrNF24>
8. <http://scg-wakeupcall.blogspot.com/2010/10/blessing-for-those-who-are-bullied.html>
9. <http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopaliansAgainstGunViolence>