

The Abundant Life

February 26, 2015

For Sunday March 1st

From The Rector

Good Intentions Are Not Enough

As we move into Lent, our reading in Mark moves from focusing on Jesus' authority and power to raising the reality of his coming death. Our passage this week, as last week, has Jesus being tempted by Satan. In chapter 1, Satan tests Jesus in the wilderness and Mark gives no details. This week's passage is in chapter 8, and Peter's words are rebuked as coming from Satan. Jesus will not hear of continuing as they have been, but speaks for the first time of his journey to suffering, death, and then new life – events well beyond the experience or understanding of the disciples.

Peter/Satan “tempts” him to deny such a path, to rethink what God has called him to be and do. Several commentators (thanks, Brian Stofregan) note that Peter is giving his understanding of what is “good” for Jesus. He takes Jesus aside and counsels him on sticking to his talking points, much like a campaign manager who wants to redirect a candidate who goes “off message.”

We are tempted like Jesus, to limit his message as being only a powerful encouragement to continue being what we are and do now. Jesus is supposed to be a contained beacon of hope and action. Jesus responds to this temptation of maintaining the status quo at all costs, by zeroing in on the price of standing for change. It will cost Jesus humiliation, suffering and death, but it will lead to new life.

It will cost his disciples, you and me, conflict, breaking some relationships, being misunderstood, judged, and even hated. It will cost us letting go of easy answers that require change. Or it may not. Good people, also you and me, who do not consider that there is anything other than what we are being and doing, may be tempted to cling to the status quo. In Mark 8, it is the establishment mentality of “good people” who are tempting Jesus, those who adhere to “human things,” however good.

Jesus' temptation in this lesson, and our critical temptation, is to settle

for being “good” as we are now. This perseverance on our part is commendable, but not enough for “divine things” that are needed to reconcile the world and all people to God.

Going beyond the status quo is as demanding as taking up a real personal cross. Week by week, we acknowledge our best “good,” but we also practice living into “divine things.” We overcome the temptation to be satisfied as we are now. We live into relationships that we have not chosen, make changes that shake us up, and take another step with Jesus that leads to, and is, new life.

Join us.

Featured Scripture

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

A Death in the Parish

Peter Salometo died February 23rd at the Veteran's Hospital in Loma Linda.

May he rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him. Amen.

His service will be on Friday, March 27th at 11 am. It will not be Holy Communion.

Accepting God's Gift of Faith:

The Experience of Confirmation

Are You ...

- * worshiping with our community and are ready to take the next step into becoming an Episcopalian?
- * already an Episcopalian and have been inactive and want to reconnect?
- * confirmed in another denomination and want to be received into the Episcopal Church?

Then our Confirmation Program is for you! The program will consist of at least eight weekly sessions starting on Sunday, March 15, 2015 from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. These sessions will prepare one for Baptism/Confirmation/Reception by Bishop Mathas on May 17, 2015. This journey will lead participants through their own spiritual life story as well as through the history, theology and worship of the Episcopal Church. It is an opportunity to spiritually grow in and through the community of faith at St. Paul's. Please convey your interest in attending by calling the Office at 760.320.7488.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

I will be making a pilgrimage to the

Holy Land, November 6 – 16, 2015.

The Pilgrimage will be organized by the Rev. Earle King of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Grand Island, NY. This will be Fr. King's sixth pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our families have been friends since 1982 and I continue to work with Fr. King as a part of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

There are several spaces available to join this pilgrimage. A \$300 non-refundable deposit is required by the end of January to reserve a place.

See Fr. Green's Flyer [1]here. Full Details [2]here. Contact Fr. Earl King at 716-773-3335 or at [3]padreking@aol.com

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,

Toward an Earthly Spirituality - Guest presenter Rev. Dean Lueking: a five week Lenten series from biblical King David that speaks uniquely to our time.

3/1 David and Saul: Work (I Samuel 16:14-23);
David and Goliath: Imagination (I Samuel 17)
3/8 David and Jonathan: Friendship;
David and Doeg: Sanctuary (I Samuel 21-22)
3/15 David and Generosity: (I Samuel 30);
David and Sovereign Grace (2 Samuel 7)
3/22 David and Bathsheba: Sin (2 Samuel 11-12);
David and Absalom; Suffering (2 Sam. 16-18)

"Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Church"

Taizé Services

Taizé Prayer Services will be moving to Tuesday evenings throughout Lent, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 at 7:00 PM in the church.

(NOTE: There will be no sessions on Palm Sunday 3/29, Tuesday of Holy Week 3/31 and Easter 4/5)

Our Homeless Brothers and Sisters

Still Need Your Help

Our goal now is to resume monthly deliveries of new underwear and socks to Roy's residents – a gift that is both urgently needed and much appreciated. Please help feed the hungry and clothe the naked with a financial contribution this month. Simply drop your check, payable to "St. Paul in the Desert," in the collection plate or hand it to an usher with a notation on the "memo" line that it is for the "Roy's Fund." For more information contact Chris Kelly at 760-406-2978. Both the Roy's team and

residents are truly grateful for your support.

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.

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.

[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.

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!

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.

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 [\[6\]here](#).

Announcements

Need to Print a Copy of

The Abundant Lite?

[\[7\]Click here to receive a Printer Friendly \(text only\) version](#)[\[8\]](#).

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm with a lunch break from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

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.

The Order of the

Daughters of King

We are hosting our Annual Tea in the Parish Hall Parlor on Saturday, March 7, from 2:30-4:00 pm. This is a very lovely event, so please plan on attending! Following we will be attending the Saturday 4 pm church service. Any questions, contact Val Ferguson @ 760-671-5372.

Taizé

Prayer Services

for Lent

. . . led by Nathan Ensign, will be held on Tuesday evenings throughout Lent at 7:00 PM in the church: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24.

(NOTE: There will be no sessions on Palm Sunday 3/29, Tuesday of Holy Week 3/31 and Easter 4/5)

The next parish Vestry meeting will be held in the Library on Thursday, March 26th at 6:00PM.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Patti Minton-Sivcovich on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 11:00 AM here at the Church of St Paul in the Desert.

Update 2-26-15

Concert

Sunday, March 22nd

Due to the recent death of violinist Jaap Schröder's wife, he has cancelled his Spring concert dates. In lieu of the violin/harpsichord duo, Meg Irwin-Brandon will present a solo harpsichord recital in memory of Agnès and in honor of Jaap's 90th year on Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. A suggested donation of \$15 is requested and a reception will follow to greet the artist and one another. Contact Nathan Ensign at 760.320.7488, ext. 225 for more information.

The Family and

Children's Ministry

. . . will have a field trip to the Coachella Valley Reserve right after the 10:30 service on March 8. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more details, see Ted Barajas at the 10:30 Coffee Hour.

BLESSING BAGS

. . . (small bags with personal hygiene essentials) will be distributed to the need in our Community. Please join us during coffee hour after both services on Sunday, March 1st to help fill the bags with blessings. Donations of TRAVEL SIZE toiletries, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs or sun block are still welcome. If you prefer to contribute by check, please make them payable to St. Paul's with "Blessing Bags" in the memo line. Thank you!

Available in the Parish Hall

Living Well through Lent 2015, a publication from the Living Compass Faith & Wellness Ministry, provides daily readings and suggestions for reflection and action, inviting you to engage fully in your Lenten journey. Pick yours up today!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(FORMERLY "GODLY PLAY")

NEEDS --> YOU

We are looking for volunteers to be Story Tellers and/or Doorkeepers (observers) for our Sunday School program during the 10:30 service. This is an opportunity to teach children through biblical readings and activities selected by the Sunday School Team from an Episcopal curriculum. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, please contact Ted Barjas at 760.902.1014.

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 March 11, at 10:15am. The Presiding Priest always welcomes assistance from parishioners.

COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATION

Coffee hour following the 8:00 AM service is hosted by Rosanna Langley and the coffee hour following the 10:30 AM service will be hosted by the Children and Family Ministry. Please consider volunteering as a Coffee Hour host in 2015.

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.

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, [9](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.

References

1. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Pilgrimage-2015-Flier.pdf>
2. <http://www.stmartinsgi.org/>
3. <mailto:padreking@aol.com>
4. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPZ5eUrNF24>
5. <http://scg-wakeupcall.blogspot.com/2010/10/blessing-for-those-who-are-bullied.html>
6. <http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopaliansAgainstGunViolence>
7. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/The-Abundant-Lite-February-19-2015.pdf>
8. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/The-Abundant-Lite-February-19-2015.pdf>
9. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Finchy-Supply-list.pdf>