

The Abundant Lite

May 21, 2015

For Sunday May 24th

From the Rector

The Sport of It

As we approach the Feast of Pentecost, I want to reflect on the most ancient of the Psalms. The portion of Psalm 104 we read celebrates God's Holy Spirit as part of the creation of the world, and more, as God's instrument in continually renewing and recreating all of life.

This psalm praises God who is intimately connected with all that God has made. In one verse it celebrates Leviathan, a mythic creature which God has made "for the sport of it." It is not often we get a picture of a delightfully playful creator. Too often, we focus on a distant judge who we have been taught keeps precise score for the purposes of judgement.

This weekend we celebrate the Spirit in the Feast of Pentecost, and we can be mindfully festive and playful just as, evidently, God is playful. The playfulness need not distract us from the awesomeness and majesty of God, but rather remind us that God is more. God invites us to play!

Playing, for me, means relaxing and taking myself less seriously. Like meditation, it is a tool that helps me to let go of some my structured expectations of God so that I am open to the Spirit creating a deeper dimension of openness to God's limitless expressions of joy in God's creation. The usual purposeful seriousness of our relationship with God does not always serve growth and new life. As C.S. Lewis wrote, perhaps we should be "surprised by joy."

Join with us in worship, being ready for surprises, as the creative and healing power of God's Spirit renews the the world.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

25

O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

26

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.

27

There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.

28

All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.

29

You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

30

You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.

31

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

32

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.

33

He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

34

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.

35

May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the LORD.

37

Bless the LORD, O my soul. *
Hallelujah!

Snapshot of the Episcopal Church

Over the last three years Fr. Andrew has been a part of the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church. It provided a report for the General Convention of the Church that will meet this summer in Salt Lake City, Read the whole report [1]here.

The Committee, in partnership with the Forward Movement, has offered a very short summary of the report. Read the summary [2]here.

Fr. Andrew is very proud of the report and the excellent work of the amazing members of the committee.

A History of St. Paul in the Desert

A CHURCH GROWS IN THE DESERT
by Robert Louis Semes

A history of the first 75 years of St. Paul in the Desert has just been published. Copies will be available at a table in the Parish Hall during the Coffee Hours and they will be available at the Front Office during office hours from Tuesdays through Fridays. The cost is \$20.00.

The author, the Rev. Robert Louis Semes, is an historian who has retired to Palm Springs. This is his third parish history to be published. He will be available to sign copies of his book at the Coffee Hour after the 10:30 service on May 31st.

UTO In Gathering at St. Paul's

The UTO is a ministry, started in 1871, where Episcopalians give thanks to God for special gifts. Blue cardboard boxes or envelopes are used for coins, bills or checks that are sent to the UTO offices in New York. The money that is collected then underwrites grants that are requested for ministries in the USA and overseas. One local example is a church in San Diego that was granted money for the purchase of a portable shower. It has been used by the homeless in their area and is now a part of the “Showers of Blessings” program at the Episcopal Church Center. Please think about your blessings and plan to bring an offering of thanksgiving to put in the special UTO baskets on Saturday May 23rd or Sunday, May 24th.

Faith Formation

"Sunday Mornings at 9:15 AM

Episcopal Café returns in The Chapel"

5/24 The Power of Pentecost

Facilitated by Br. John Charles

5/31 What Is Your Story?

Facilitated by Craig Ewing

6/7 Reclaiming Climate Change as a Moral Issue

Facilitated by Diane Stielstra

6/14 Can We Inconvenience Ourselves a Little?

Facilitated by Alan Zimmerman

6/ 21 Why Institutions Matter.

Facilitated by Jerry Lynch

6/28 Is the Holy Spirit the Snake in the Garden?

Facilitated by Craig Ewing

"Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Library"

5/26 A Zen Perspective on the Psalms.

Presented by Bro. John Charles Westaway

6/2 Writing the Sacred. A Psalm inspired path to appreciating and writing sacred poetry.

Led by guest presenter Ray McGinnis

6/9 Book of Common Prayer. Orientation/Offices.

Facilitated by Bro. John Charles

6/16 Book of Common Prayer: Sacraments Part I.

Facilitated by Rev. Canon David Caffrey

6/23 Book of Common Prayer: Sacraments Part II.

Facilitated by Rev. Canon Victoria Hatch

6/30 Book of Common Prayer: Creeds/Catechism/Documents.

Facilitated by Jerry Di Noto.

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.

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, [3](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.

Announcements

Need to Print a Copy of

The Abundant Lite?

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

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.

Taizé Worship

. . . service will be held on June 4th at 7 PM. This is a contemplative, candle-lit service of chanting, prayer and meditation. All are welcome to join us. Bring a candle and a friend! This will be our last Taizé service before summer break. Taizé services will resume on Tuesday, December 1st.

ST. PAUL'S CAMPERS

Several of St. Paul's camper members are planning for our annual Idyllwild summer outing on July 17 to 19. Can you join us up in the cool pine trees and fun atmosphere of the Idyllwild County Camp Ground? Adults, kids, even dogs, are welcome. Contact Bonnie Stroock to make a reservation 760-324-7949 or bestroock@aol.com.

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 June 10th, at 10:15am. The Presiding Priest always welcomes assistance from parishioners.

COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATION

Please consider hosting a Coffee Hour celebration. A binder at the entrance to the Parish Hall indicates available Sundays throughout 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.

[6]"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.

[7]"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.

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 [8]here.

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!

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. <https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/12702.pdf>
2. http://www.forwardmovement.org/Content/Site170/Basics/TheStateoftheCh_00000088026.pdf
3. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Finchy-Supply-list.pdf>
4. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/The-Abundant-Lite-May-14-2015.pdf>
5. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/The-Abundant-Lite-May-14-2015.pdf>
6. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPZ5eUrNF24>
7. <http://scg-wakeupcall.blogspot.com/2010/10/blessing-for-those-who-are-bullied.html>
8. <http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopaliansAgainstGunViolence>