

The Abundant Lite

July 30, 2015

For Sunday August 2nd

A Message from Canon Victoria

Bread of Life

This is the second of five Sunday readings from the Gospel of John, and, in particular, from what is referred to as the 'Bread of Life' discourse. As Fr. Kowalski made reference in his sermon last Sunday, the gospel is very different from three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. John's gospel is full of symbolism and contrast and the 'Bread' discourse is more about the Eucharist than anything else; it is, if you will, the theological premise of the Eucharist. Someone writing, particularly about the sixth Chapter, has said, 'it is a carb heavy diet.'

Thinking about bread, all sorts of images come to mind: crusty French loaves, croissants, hearty whole wheat, gluten free, rye and sourdough. And yet Jesus reminds us elsewhere, 'man does not live by bread alone.' In our gospel this week, Jesus said to the disciples and those who came out to see him, 'I am the bread of life. Whosoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'^aJohn 6:35) This verse is reminiscent of that book title of the sixties, "You Are What You Eat." It is also a reflection of the incarnation, God becoming one of us in Jesus, Incarnates est. It is at the very core of who we are as Anglicans. Jesus invites us not only to come and see, but also 'to taste and see the goodness of the Lord,' as the spiritual, based on Psalm 33 and 34, says it.

The invitation is issued week after week to come to the table to be fed and nourished, to feast on the banquet prepared for us, and to present ourselves a living sacrifice to then be the Body of Christ, the Church in the world. How do you show the importance to you of being the Body of Christ, the Church, as you leave the table after having been nourished and fed?

Featured Scripture

John 6:24-35

The next day, when the people who remained after the feeding of the five thousand saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

New Ways to Manage Your Support

Beginning in August, donations to St. Paul in the Desert can be made online through PayPal. In the Column to the right of this newsletter, there is a button labeled "DONATE ONLINE" (See photo insert). Follow the instructions and make your donation using either your PayPal account if you have one or a credit card if you don't.* You can make a single donation, or set up recurrent donations on a monthly basis. You can also manage your pledge using the "MY PLEDGE CARD" button.

*Note: At the point of checkout with PayPal there is an opportunity to designate where your donation will be applied. Click on the line "Where donation should be applied." This will open a text box where you can indicate the fund (pledge, flowers, Well in the Desert, etc.) where your donation will be recorded. You may also enter names of those you wish to memorialize with your donation (such as for altar flowers).

Help Others Beat the Heat

Help Others Beat the Heat - St. Paul's is sponsoring a ministry this summer to help our brothers and sisters in need find relief from the heat.

Through the Social Justice Team, St. Paul's will purchase and distribute free bus passes to clients of Well in the Desert, and others, so they can have access to the cooling center, showers, bingo and crafts workshops. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to Church of St. Paul in the Desert, with "bus passes/Social Justice" in the memo line. Or, place cash in an envelope identified in the same way.

Faith Formation

"Sunday Mornings at 9:15 AM

Episcopal Café returns in The Chapel"

8/2 Migration - Choosing Freedom over Xenophobia.

Led by Br. John Charles Westaway.

8/9 One cannot have too large a party - Jesus turns things over.

Led by Audrey Spencer.

8/16 The enemy today looks like you and me.

Led by Br. John Charles Westaway.

8/23 When you say you 'don't see race,' you're ignoring racism, not helping to solve it!

Led by Craig Ewing

8/30 If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Led by Louisa Young-Caffrey.

"Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Library"

THERE WILL BE NO TUESDAY NIGHT SESSIONS

DURING JULY AND AUGUST

Baked Goods Donations for

ROY'S DESERT RESOURCE CENTER

St. Paul's ongoing outreach to the homeless at Roy's Desert Resource Center needs donations of cookies, cakes and other baked treats for our Monday

night dessert service at the North Palm Springs facility. Homemade items are especially popular and appreciated. You can bring donations with you to church and leave them with an usher before the service. For more information, contact Chris Kelly – (760) 406-2978. Thanks for your help.

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!

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 [\[1\]here](#).

Announcements

Need to Print a Copy of

The Abundant Lite?

[\[2\]](#)Click here to receive a Printer Friendly (text only) version[\[3\]](#).

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.

Copies of . . .

A CHURCH GROWS

IN THE DESERT,

Rev. Robert Semes' history of the first 75 years of St. Paul in the Desert, are available at the Church Office during regular business hours. Rev. Semes is an accomplished historian and his richly illustrated book chronicles the life and times of the people and events that shaped the Church we are today. Cost of the book is \$20.00.

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 August 12th, at 10:15am. The Presiding Priest always welcomes assistance from parishioners.

COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATION

Today's coffee hour following the 8:00 am service is hosted by John & Lucinda Hampson in memory of Jeff & Nancy. There are several Sunday hospitality opportunities available through the end of the year. Please consider sponsoring a Coffee Hour after the 8:00 or 10:30 services with family or friends. Sign-up binders are on the large table on the right as you enter the Parish Hall.

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.

[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.

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://www.facebook.com/EpiscopaliansAgainstGunViolence>
2. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Abundant-Lite-July-23-2015.pdf>
3. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Abundant-Lite-July-23-2015.pdf>
4. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPZ5eUrNF24>
5. <http://scg-wakeupcall.blogspot.com/2010/10/blessing-for-those-who-are-bullied.html>