



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Children's, Youth & Family Ministries

*That which we have heard and known,
and what our forebears have told us,
we will not hide from our children.*

*We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of God,
and the wonderful works God has done.*

Ur Psalm 78:3-4

August 24, 2014

Eleventh Sunday After
Pentecost

Vol. 6, Issue 36

From Mary Anthony

Today our lessons from the Lectionary are Isaiah 56:1,6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11:1-2a,29-32, and the gospel is Matthew 15:10-28.

During the summer there will be a Godly Play Story time for the younger children ages 3 to 7 or grades Pre-k - 2nd. Older children ages 8 and above will attend church with their parents. This week the children will hear The Story of Ruth. This is another core story about the People of God, Ruth, the great-grandmother of David, who worked hard, loved God and God's people. It connects the wilderness experience of the People of God and living in the promised land and King David. Mary Anthony is our Storyteller this week. Weather permitting the children will go outside following the story for outdoor activities.

Today is our Parent/Teacher Meeting, following our 10 am service. This meeting will be to discuss the upcoming school year calendar, sign up to teach, discuss Youth Group activities, and to discuss Vacation Bible School for next summer. I hope all of our parents can attend this planning meeting.

Looking ahead, Rally Sunday and Church School Registration will be Sunday, September 7 and Sunday School will start the following week on Sunday, September 14. Youth Group will begin September 10.

Collect for Sunday

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



☯ Sunday Schedule ☯

- 9:00am - Nursery opens
- 9:45am - Godly Play Choir (during the school year)
- 10:00am - Godly Play Class (Pre-K - 5th grade)
- 6th - 12th grades meet Wednesday evenings 6 - 9 pm
- 10:00am - Holy Eucharist
*Children join their parents in
Church at the Peace*
- 11:45am - Youth Choir (during the school year)

Nursery (Infants to age 3)

Unless otherwise noted, the Nursery is open from 9:00 am until the end of the **10am** service. Please sign your child in and out, and remain in the building in case of an emergency. Our Nursery Attendant is **Cara Mickens**. Please come meet Cara.

Summer time Primary - (Ages 3 - 7)

The Godly Play classroom is located in Canterbury House, just inside the door on your left. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. The ideal Godly Play session has four parts-Opening, Hearing the Word of God, Sharing the Feast, and Leaving the Space. Led by **Storytellers Mary Anthony, Kathleen Chase, Heather Coyle, Linda Garman, Carol Goslee, Kim Hennigan, Melinda Rucinski, Tracy French, and Michelle Meade** on a rotating basis. Visit them in the classrooms. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of some great children and have fun doing it, contact Mary Anthony about assisting on a rotating basis in the Godly Play class. See the sign-up calendar on the Christian Education Bulletin Board.

Summer time Intermediate (Ages 8 - 11)

During the summer months children ages 8 and above will attend church with their parents. This is a great way for the older children to learn the different parts of the service.

Middle School & High School (6th - 12th Grade)

The Middle and High School Sunday School Class are on hiatus during the summer. The youth attend church with their parents.

Youth Group (6th Grade & Up)

The Youth Group meets are on hiatus during the summer. The youth go on a Mission Trip every year during the summer for a week.

Children's Ministry Committee

Fr. Eric Funston, Mary Anthony, Heather Coyle Rosana Powell, Kim and Sean Hennigan and Melinda & Steve Rucinski.

For Parents

THE BLESSING OF A B MINUS Treasure Your Homely, Holy Teen

Dr. Wendy Mogul, PhD. writes; ""The Jewish holiday of Sukkot commemorates the Israelites' long hard trip through the desert after leaving Egypt. To prepare for the festivities each family heads out to the backyard or apartment balcony and builds a sukkah, a rickety hut resembling the makeshift desert shelters of the Israelites. In a nightly ritual, each person waves around a long, graceful cluster of palm, laurel, and myrtle fronds while cradling a funny-looking, thick-skinned, bumpy, yellow citrus fruit called an etrog.

If you want a real spiritual lesson during Sukkot,, think of the etrog as your teenager. The etrog is misshapen and expensive, but one of the pleasures of Sukkot is the love you show it. Even the word itself, *etrog*, is Aramaic for "delight." Each family takes great care in selecting the proper etrog, which can cost between ten and one thousand dollars, (It's true. Ask a rabbi.) Then you bring your etrog home, swaddled in fluffy batting in a simple white cardboard box. During the weeklong holiday, the family performs a ritual in the sukkah, saying prayers to thank God for the miracle of the Exodus, the gathering of the family, and the cycle of festivals. My favorite moment is when the family opens the box holding the etrog. Everyone looks and says, "Oh, it's beautiful!" You speak the words while battling a strong sense of cognitive dissonance, since you just spent forty dollars on a lemon, but also with genuine love for a religious tradition that gets you out of the house and involved in such serious, holy silliness.

Every etrog is homely, and every etrog is cherished and elevated and given a starring role for a whole week, every year, every place in the world where Jews celebrate their holidays. You don't need to wave palm fronds at your teen. But there is value in cherishing her not just for who she was as an infant or for what she will one day become, but for what she is now, in all her lumpy, bumpy glory.

As a spiritual exercise, try to cultivate appreciation for your teen---not just for what you find easy to love about her, but for what you don't. What are the most upsetting signs of her rejection of you, of her clannishness with her friends, of her immaturity? Her taste in music might be a good place to begin. Remember when you had to read daunting classics in high school or college but found, to your surprise, that after fifty pages you were inhabiting the author's world and delighting in it, that you had found the rhythm and beauty?""

To be continued next week!!!

From "The Blessing of a B Minus" by Wendy Mogul, PhD.

In Church School this week:

Each week, the children's and youth Sunday School classes focus on a passage from Scripture. These follow the same Revised Common Lectionary that provides readings for Sunday services. We use a curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit, to tailor a lesson for each class that is interactive, fun and age appropriate. This section features the Scripture learned that week in Sunday School, along with some questions to ask about during the week.

Focus Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

[When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

~From the Lectionary Page

What's it all about?

Jesus has warned his disciples about religious leaders who can foretell the weather but "cannot interpret the signs of the times" (v. 3); they influence others, leading them astray. The only sign of the new era will be his resurrection ("sign of Jonah", v. 4). Beyond the reach of Herod Antipas' spies, he is free to talk. He asks his disciples: who do people say that I am? Herod thinks that he is "John the Baptist" (v. 14); "Elijah" was expected to return at the end of time; "Jeremiah" foretold rejection and suffering. Jesus is seen as a prophet, a spokesman for God. When Jesus asks the disciples the same question (v. 15), Peter has a vital insight, which "my Father" (v. 17), not humans ("flesh and blood"), has revealed to him.

Vv. 18-19 are particularly thorny, for they are overloaded with the issue of papal authority; I seek to avoid this issue. It is clear that:

if Jesus spoke in Aramaic, "Peter" and "rock" are both cephas; in Greek, the words are petros and petra, so there may be word-play; Jesus switches from "Simon" (v. 17, the formal name) to "Peter" (v. 18, his nickname); "Hades" was the place of the dead, so the "church" will survive Jesus' death; in the Greek, "you" is singular throughout vv. 18-19; and "bind" (v. 19) and "loose" are rabbinic terms for forbid and permit in a juridical sense; in 18:18-19 these powers are conferred on any two of the apostles. The "rock" (v. 18) may be

Peter's insight of Jesus as Christ ("Messiah", v. 16); that God does reveal to church leaders; Peter; or the disciples (if Jesus paused after the second clause of v. 18).

Jesus gives Peter "the keys" (v. 19), the ability to unlock the mysteries of the Kingdom; they may also be a symbol of authority over the Church. In v. 20, Jesus "sternly" orders the disciples to keep the insight quiet, lest people grasp it in a political way.

~From Revised Common Lectionary Chris Haslam 1996-2014

Questions:

- ? What does Jesus warn his disciples about ?
? What does Jesus ask his disciples about who he is ?

Prayer:

O God, you blessed Abraham and Sarah, and made them a great nation. Keep us in remembrance of the rock from which we are hewn, that the waste places of our lives may blossom to your glory. Amen.

~From The Revised Common Lectionary

Meditation

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *
that great is the glory of the LORD.

Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
*
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my
enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *
O LORD, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

~Psalm 138

Happy Birthday...

Juliana Powell (08/28)
Reese Calkins (08/28)



Planning Ahead

Saturday, August 23

- Youth Volunteers helping at Neighborhood Garage Sale 9 am – 1 pm, in Bell Tower

Sunday, August 24

- Nursery opens at 9:30 am
- Godly Play Story time and activities, Grades Pre-k – 2nd, 10 am
- Children and youth Grades 3rd and up attend church with their parents
- Parent/Teacher Meeting following 10 am Service

Sunday, September 7 – Rally Sunday

- Nursery opens at 9:00 am
- Godly Play Story time and activities, Grades Pre-k – 2nd, 10 am
- Children and youth Grades 3rd and up attend church with their parents
- Sunday School Registration today
- Visit and learn about organizations at St. Paul's to join this year
- Make your own Sundaes during coffee hour today.

Sunday, September 14

- 2014 – 2015 Sunday School year starts today

Contact Information

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Acolyte Reminders!

August 24: Dylan Powell

August 31: Kirsten Lisi

Please remember to get a sub by the Wednesday before you are to serve if you are unable to make your commitment, and then let the office know no later than that Wednesday before.