

The Family Letter

The News of St. Paul's Church

ELEVENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST

AUGUST 12, 2007

INTERFAITH SHELTER

August 11 - 25

St. Paul's is part of the Interfaith Shelter Network and will host 10 - 12 guests in the temporary shelter program for two weeks this summer. Volunteers are needed to prepare meals, host during the supper hour and provide overnight security. Call the Parish Office.

HOMECOMING & MINISTRY CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 9 – 10:30 am

The 2007-2008 Program year will get off to a start with a special service of celebration on September 9, when the ministries of the parish will be celebrated. Education programs will begin the following week.

THE GATHERING

September 16 – 9:05 am - 10:00 am

This offering by the Children's Ministry Team will offer Bible stories, reflection and Holy Eucharist in a child-friendly liturgy for families.

ALL AMERICAN

BOYS CHORUS CONCERT

Saturday, September 22 – 7:00 pm

Plan on attending this exciting musical event! Call the Parish Office for tickets.

“Just add water,” appears not only on my daily oatmeal but on a lot of prepared, packaged foods. The wife of an outdoorsman friend was tempted by a joke catalog to buy him freeze-dried wine for his backpacking excursions. Just add water.

On our journey from Galilee, Judi and I were stunned when the bone-dry Palestinian desert exploded into green as we crested the hill and headed into Jericho. This is the result of irrigation from the Ein Sultan spring, which flows at thousands of gallons of water per hour. Again, just add water.

Dare we imagine our Southern California without our water?

The ancients correctly saw water as a fundamental building block of creation. In Genesis 1:1 God's creative spirit blows order into the primordial chaotic waters. The ancients also knew the destructive power of untamed water – the story of the Great Flood and storms at sea for Jonah and Paul. Human life survives longer without food (traditionally the 40 days of Lent) than without water (4 -15 days depending upon health).

And then there is the water of birth/baptism. We are surrounded by water as we sprout in our mothers' wombs. At birth, water precedes and preps the way for our entry into life. In Baptism we die to our old life to be begin the journey to new to life in God. In Baptism we commit to following Christ into a life characterized by worship, study, prayer, resisting evil, repentance, service, sharing, and championing justice, peace and human right/dignity.

This journey involves a lot more than, “Just add water.” But that's where it starts and the water means God will be making it with us..

And honestly, my daily oatmeal regularly includes a dash of Molly McButter and occasionally dried fruit and/or nuts. The basic recipe needs to be enriched.

Thanks be to God.

Celebration Community Compassion

AUGUST WORSHIP _____

Our worship in August will be a bit different, as has become our custom. This year, we will dovetail with the Thursday evening series on baptismal ethics and our worship will focus on baptism, and the imagery of water.

In order to make this a more participatory experiment, you are invited to stay after the 10:30 am liturgy every Sunday in August to have a light lunch and discuss your impressions of the service.

The word “liturgy” comes from Greek words meaning “the work of the people”. Help us to return to this original meaning by participating in lunch discussions of worship during August, and watch for more opportunities to learn about and discuss worship in the Episcopal tradition in upcoming Adult Education opportunities this fall.

“FROM GLORY TO GLORY” _____

If “liturgy that fully engages people transforms their lives,” I will never be the same after a liturgy class in Berkeley. Perhaps some of you heard Reese mention that I was able to slip away for a week and attend a class on worship and liturgy at the Episcopal Seminary.

The course and workshop was based on the experience of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco, which has proven to be a “laboratory” for liturgical innovation and exploration. We focused on the liturgical intentions of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, some basic principles that inform and shape parish worship, avoiding mere nostalgia and how to search for the core values for liturgy in a local context.

There is no way that St. Paul’s could ever successfully mimic St. Gregory’s, which has its own unique history. However, I came back ready to lead a little sociological observation and prayerful discernment of the values and theology we are presenting in our liturgy as well as the values and theology we *wish* to present. I am convinced that intentional reflection on our worship practices will lead us to an evangelical (in the best sense) and authentic liturgical expression for our time and place.

– Wayne Kempe

NEW LOOK FOR PARSONS PLACE _____

Parsons Place will sport a new look on late September. The emphasis will shift to be a religious and spirituality-themed book shop. The selection will include devotional, seasonal studies and support, women’s spirituality, youth, family, theology and Bible scholarship books. There will also be books for young children, youth and young adults.

The greeting cards will include some beautiful photo note cards by Simon Vien and cards by Joyce Jones, our Preschool Director.

We will also enlarge our religious item inventory.

Parsons Place is looking forward to an atmosphere that will help fulfill the St. Paul’s goal of “Enriching and Encouraging Journeys of Faith,” while at the same time continuing its support for the Bishop Krumm Scholarship.

FALL COVENANT CLASS _____

The Fall Covenant Class, a ten-week series for those wanting to find out more about the Episcopal Church will begin on Sunday, September 16, meeting for lunch and discussion after church services at 12:00 noon.

The class will introduce more about the Episcopal Church, the larger Anglican Communion and St. Paul’s history, theology, and practice. The class will also look at how Episcopalians approach Scripture and tradition. Those who complete this course may choose to be presented to one of our Bishops for Confirmation. Of course, those who just want to find out more about their faith are also welcome.

The course will be taught by Kay Sylvester.

DEANERY WOMEN’S RETREAT _____

A retreat for the women of Deanery 9 has been scheduled for Saturday, September 29 from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm at Emmanuel Church in Fullerton. The Rev. Canon Diane Jardine Bruce, one of the diocese’s most dynamic theologians, will lead the retreat.

Deanery 9 is made up of the Episcopal parishes in north Orange County. Emmanuel Episcopal Church is at 1145 W. Valencia Mesa Dr., Fullerton.

The only cost is \$10 for lunch.

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP _____

(There will be no meeting in August.)

September 23 – 2:00 pm

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

In the heyday of Franco’s fascism, fear plays a prominent role in the lives of all this book’s characters. Daniel Sempere’s father, a bookseller, takes the 10-year-old on a special and very secret mission to the Cemetery for Forgotten Books, from which he selects a volume. Literary and literate, this is a magical tale of love and loss, of obsession, and, best of all, of books.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS AT JULY 31, 2007

Income:	Month	Year to Date
Actual	\$ 34,111	\$ 234,642
Budgeted	\$ 37,507	\$ 259,350
Expenses:		
Actual	\$ 33,399	\$ 273,128
Budgeted	\$ 41,482	\$ 299,507

VBS 2007 SOARS _____

Vacation Bible School is always a high point of the summer at St. Paul's, and this year was no exception. Approximately 120 kids and 66 volunteers filled the campus for the week of July 30.

The theme this year was based on the sport of hot-air ballooning: "Soaring to New Heights with God." Every activity station and class had a name that reflected this theme. The classes this year were named after part of the solar system, and it was common to hear someone say "where are the Neptunians?"

Each day, the kids learned a new song, heard a different Bible story, worked on hot-air balloon crafts, and played games outside. Each day had a "Flight Plan," drawn from the Bible story of the day; kids learned to *Follow* God, *Trust* God, *Listen* to God, *Repent*, and *Serve*. They learned a prayer each day that matched the theme and learned to "sign" the prayers using ASL (American Sign Language).

For many years, VBS has collected money for various charitable outreach projects. This year, VBS leadership decided to avoid fund-raising and do something more direct. Families were asked to bring back-to-school items to give to the kids who are served by Catholic Worker in Santa Ana. They all responded generously, filling the wagons and baskets inside the church doors with school supplies. With the addition of some financial contributions, Rebecca Lowell was able to purchase about 30 backpacks to go along with the donated supplies.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who made VBS possible, with special mention of Meg Kelly, who did her usual superb job of organizing the entire week; Christi Kirzner, who took photos all week and produced a slide show that the parents saw on Friday, as well as putting together a photo board so the congregation could see it on Sunday; Rebecca Lowell, who organized the school-supply collection, shopped for backpacks, and delivered everything to Catholic Worker; room teachers, youth aides; Madge Miller, who taught new songs every day; and the folks who set up, served, and cleaned up snacks for all those people every day!

(If you'd like to see the slide show that Mrs. Kirzner put together, there's a DVD in the parish office. The photo board is also available.)

CHURCH SCHOOL NEEDS KIDS _____

We need three things to make Church School work this year: children, parents, and teachers.

Most of all, we need KIDS. Bring your kids every week. We don't expect kids to learn anything else in a piecemeal, catch-as-catch-can fashion; the basics of our faith and traditions are no different. Do you let your children decide whether or not they want to learn math, saying, "Oh, they'll pick it up as they go"? Do you let your children eat just the French Fries in a Happy Meal? Can children join a soccer team and never go to practice?

The answers to the above are obvious. What is apparently less obvious is the need for your children to learn about their faith. But the truth is that no one can learn faith on their own; faith is by nature a community activity. Traditions can only develop in community. Ethics can only be examined and tested in community. The sacraments can only be celebrated by a gathered community.

It seems that our busy lives encourage us to put faith, and the community of faith, on the back burner. The consequences of missing soccer practice are obvious, and so parents and kids work hard to fit practice and games into their lives. It may be less obvious that there are also consequences for missing church and Church School – but there are consequences nonetheless! Children, who are quite naturally spiritual, liturgical, and theological, fail to develop practices that help them to articulate their natural attraction to God. Without nourishment, parents find themselves unable to assist their children's faith development.

Kids – ALL kids – learn through repetition, practice, and the development of habits. They're also pretty astute at picking up parental attitudes: if the message they get from you is that church is something to do when they feel like it, they will never learn to make it a priority. If, on the other hand, they learn from you that it's important, they will treat it differently when they are old enough to make their own choices.

I watch people exercise, order low-fat foods and diet sodas, and make all sorts of choices based on an ideal they hold for their bodies and their health. It's important to take care of our bodies, but I'd invite you to imagine that your spirit, that internal, invisible, eternal part of you that connects instinctively to the Holy, needs care, too. And it needs a community to help it to develop muscle. Without continual fellowship, corporate prayer, teaching and learning, and uniting around Christ's table, we have only our own strength to draw upon – and we get tired, burned out, discouraged. Our relationship with the Holy needs development, challenge, nourishment, and tender care – and if this is true for you, how much more so is it true for our children?

As our fall program begins, please consider your need to be nourished and exercised spiritually – and especially consider your children's needs. If your faith has ever strengthened you, challenged you, helped you overcome hard times, then it's worth sharing with your children.

– Kay Sylvester

EACH WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

- Sunday **Holy Eucharist** – 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Church School – 10:20 am
St. Peter's Church of South India – 2:00 pm
Alanon – 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- Monday AA Meeting – 6:15 pm
Alanon – 7:30 pm
- Tuesday Staff Meeting – 9:30 am
Crafters – 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Teen Cafe (High School) – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday **Faith Club (Grades 6 - 8)** – 6:30 pm (On hiatus for August)
- Thursday Intercessory Prayer Group – 9:15 am
Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing – 12:00 Noon
AA Meeting – 6:15 pm
- Friday OA Meeting – Noon
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm
House of God (Korean 7th Day Adventist) – 8:00 pm
- Saturday Parents Al-Anon Meeting – 8:00 am
House of God (Korean 7th Day Adventist) – 10:00 am
Holy Eucharist – 5:00 pm
AA Speaker's Meeting – 7:00 pm

THIS MONTH AT ST. PAUL'S

- 8/1 **St. Paul's Vacation Bible School** – 9:00 - 12:00 noon
- 8/2 **St. Paul's Vacation Bible School** – 9:00 - 12:00 noon
SUMMER NIGHTS AT ST. PAUL'S – 6:15 pm
- 8/3 **St. Paul's Vacation Bible School** – 9:00 - 12:00 noon
Episcopal Night with the Dodgers – 6:45 pm
- 8/4 **Holy Eucharist** – 5:00 pm
Rector's Reception to Discuss Gay & Lesbian Ministry – 6:00 pm
- 8/5 **Holy Eucharist** – 8:00 am
The Family Gathering – 9:05 am
Holy Eucharist – 10:30 am
EFM Information Brunch – 12:00 noon
- 8/9 **SUMMER NIGHTS AT ST. PAUL'S** – 6:15 pm
- 8/11 Interfaith Shelter Network Guests Move In – 12:00 noon
- 8/11 - 8/24 Interfaith Shelter Network – 6:00 pm - 7:30 am
- 8/12 **Holy Eucharist** – 8:00 am
Holy Eucharist – 10:30 pm
- 8/16 **SUMMER NIGHTS AT ST. PAUL'S** – 6:15 pm
- 8/19 **Holy Eucharist** – 8:00 am
Holy Eucharist – 10:30 pm
Sts. Ælred & Hildegard Gay & Lesbian Ministry BBQ – 6:00 pm
- 8/25 Interfaith Shelter Network Guests move out – 12:00 noon
- 8/26 **Holy Eucharist** – 8:00 am
Holy Eucharist – 10:30 pm
- 9/3 **Parish Office Closed**
- 9/9 **HOMECOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP** – 9:00 am
St. Peter's CSI Congregation Festival – 4:00 pm



Episcopal Church

Enriching &
Encouraging
Journeys of Faith

1221 Wass, Tustin, CA 92780

Reese M. Riley
Rector

Kay Sylvester
Assistant Rector

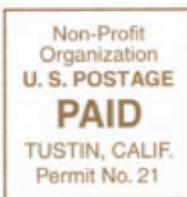
David P. Milligan
Associate for Ministry

Wayne P. Kempe
Parish Administrator

Elyse Kennedy
Administrative Assistant

Susan Dean
Minister of Welcome and Inclusion

CHECK OUT
OUR WEB SITE
www.stpauls.org



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Return Service Requested