

The Epistle

Newsletter of St. Paul's Church
A Parish in the Diocese of San Joaquin
The Anglican Church in North America

August, 2009

Too Much Of A Good Thing

During these summer months, when the weather is nice and people are outside, we often have a little time for refreshment. Enjoying God's creation and being with others is a tremendous gift. For many, however, the current economic times have forced us to scale back on what we would like to do or would have normally done in the past. This situation allows us an opportunity to reevaluate and reflect on how we can truly be refreshed.

If we look at how we are made, it is clear that there is a purposeful place for refreshment in our lives. We were created for it, and our life depends upon it. We have to stop and eat every day in order to function. We also have to sleep. If we forego these activities in an effort to be "more productive," we will not bear fruit. We are made by God in a certain way. In Scripture, we see that after God created the world, even He rested on the seventh day. Our understanding of setting aside Sunday as a day of rest has many meanings to it. Doing so reminds us that we can not control everything on our own with money, time, or talent. These belong to God, and He entrusts them to us as stewards to build up His kingdom.

We are created for a certain amount of rest and recreation, but we are also creatures who are fallen and prone to sin. With the fall from grace that is pointed out in Genesis (chapter 3), we understand that this has an impact upon us. There is an imbalance in our lives that comes in the form of temptation to do the wrong thing, and also at times, to do a good thing that is out of order. The phrase "too much of a good thing" reflects this reality.

Self-indulgence is one way this manifests itself in our lives when we selfishly do too much of a good thing. For example, we may think a certain ice cream looks good, but if we eat five gallons of it, it will not be refreshing for long, but rather, will give us a stomachache. This tendency of ours to self-indulgence is one that needs to be handed over to God and reigned in through a life of virtue. We have a tendency to go overboard for many reasons. When we work too much and then get a break, we have to rest with such intensity that we overdo it and things are out of order. There is also always the desire to find a bit of heaven on earth. The virtue of temperance is critical to keeping everything in balance and in good order (for example, to drink the right amount, eat the right amount, exercise the right amount, etc.) and to recognize our limits and our purpose as God's creatures.

As we enjoy this summer, let us remember to keep the Lord at the center of our lives. Going to Mass on Sundays and being committed to daily prayer are just a couple of ways we can do this. Let us thank God for the ability to be refreshed and to enjoy His gifts as He intended.

St. Paul's Church

120 North Hall Street
Visalia, California 93291
Church Office: (559) 732-4821
Rivera Hall: (559) 732-4822
Internet: www.spvisalia.com

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Thursday – 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Fridays – 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Summer Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 and 10:00 AM
Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Clergy and Staff

The Very Rev. Richard I. James, Rector
The Rev. Tancredo R. Pastores, Assistant
Antoinette Horsting, Financial Secretary
Elaine McKinney, Parish Secretary
Melvin Morris, Sexton

Members of the Vestry

2009

Kathy Bernardi, Kris Bratton,
Randy Hammond, Kim Robinson,
Chet Smeds

2010

Amy Gunn, Mary Murray
Jack Ramirez, Kashy Rowland-Smith,
William Winn

2011

David Francis, Monica Norton
John Peters, Harry Tow, Larry Wilds

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Kathy Bernardi, Betty Blackmon,
Kim Robinson, Chet Smeds

Alternates to Diocesan Convention

Amy Gunn, Bill Nebe, Nancy Salmon



Coffee Hour Teams

Thanks are due to the following people who have volunteered to be on a coffee hour team this month:

8:00 AM	10:30 AM
2 Ralph & Diane Friend Bud Erickson	Carol Whiteside Noreen Siebenaler Alex & Jennifer Peltzer
9 Cathy Guadagni (Help Please)	Ed & Kim Robinson Sally Williams
16 Franco & Kathy Bernardi Diane Hyde	Elaine Hord, Betty Jones Jim & Becky Doe
23 Bob & Loretta Murray Barbara Melton Cathy Guadagni	Bill & Ivreen McIntrye Tom & Nancy Daglish
30 Jerry & Darlene Hallberg (Help Please)	Kashy Rowland-Smith Aron & Nancy Gularte

Anyone able to help with coffee hours during the summer months is asked to call the church office at 732-4821.



Choir Rehearsals Begin

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, August 19, at 7:00 PM, in the downstairs choir room. All choir members are urged to attend August rehearsals to build up a good repertoire. New members are always welcome.



The Daughters of the King

All Daughters are invited to a Summer Luncheon to be held at Quail Park, Thursday, August 13 at 11:30. Please call Ethel Kirkham for a reservation by Monday, August 10. Cost: \$8

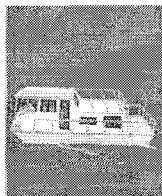
CHURCH-FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Youth Group Activities

High school and college students are invited to meet with Fr. Pastores at 6:00 PM on Sunday, August 2, for a time of fellowship and study. There will also be discussion regarding the up-coming boating outing.

Youth Outing

St. Paul's youth in grades six through twelve, and their families, are invited to Kaweah Lake on Tuesday, August 4, for a morning ride on a houseboat. The group will meet at the church at 9:00 AM and will spend four hours on the lake. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch and plenty of water and sun tan lotion. For more information, please call Fr. Pastores at 732-4821.



Movie Matinee

St. Paul's youth and their families are invited to a movie matinee on Sunday, August 9, at 3:00 PM in the Youth Room. This movie, entitled "Faith Like Potatoes", features a Zambian farmer who travels south with his family to start a better life in South Africa. Rating: PG

Family Camp is in September

Camp San Joaquin is for those who want to relax in the cool, beautiful Sequoia National Park. This year Family Camp will be Friday, September 4 to Sunday September 6. Archery, swimming, hiking, bike riding, camp fires, and much more are being offered and it is always a fun time for everyone.

Watch for more information or call the church office at 732-4821.

Honored Women's Luncheon

The Anglican Church Women's Honored Woman's Luncheon will be held Saturday, September 12, at 11:30 AM. All women are invited to Tornino's Restaurant, 5080 N. Blackstone Avenue, Fresno.

St. Paul's is proud to present Doris Newman and Dee Manley as this year's Honored Women.

Registration forms are located in the church office. Cost \$25 and reservations must be in by Tuesday, September 1.

From the Parish Records

Deaths

Sonja Dilton

Wanda Rouch – Sue Thompson's Mother

Thank You

Dear "St. Paulians",

(I hope that is an acceptable term). With the second occurrence of a broken hip in less than a year, I have been doubly blessed with visits, flowers and prayers of church friends. Thus, again, I thank you all and promise that I will do all in my power to stay on my feet in the future.

Sincerely,
Katie Crookshanks

St. Paul's Church
120 North Hall Street
Visalia, California 93291

Return Service Requested

The Epistle is published monthly by The Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Paul's Parish in Visalia, California, a California nonprofit corporation.



The following announcement is released by Bishop Schofield, July 23, 2009

After months of deliberation, the Fresno Superior Court has finally ruled on a material issue in the pending lawsuit. On July, 21, 2009, the trial court granted plaintiff Episcopal Church's and Bishop Lamb's motion for summary adjudication of the issue of entitlement to the incumbency of corporation sole and the presidency of Episcopal Foundation and Investment Trust. While these rulings are significant, they do not end the case at this juncture and many more issues remain to be resolved at the trial scheduled for February 1, 2010. While we appreciate the time and effort the trial court devoted to its ruling, nevertheless, we believe it cannot be sustained under a true "neutral principles" analysis that is now required by our state supreme court. We will ask the Fifth District Court of Appeal to review the trial court's ruling and we will be filing the appropriate papers with the appellate court on or before August 17, 2009. In the meantime, we will continue to vigorously defend the case in the trial court. For additional details about the trial court's ruling, you may wish to visit the Anglican Curmudgeon's website at: <http://accurmudgeon.blogspot.com/>.

Prayers are specifically requested for wisdom and discernment for our Chancellors, especially Mr. Rusty Van Rozeboom, and for the legal team that they work with across the nation.

Faithfully,
The Rev. Canon Bill Gandenberger
Canon to the Ordinary
Diocese of San Joaquin
4159 E. Dakota Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726