In the beginning was the Word
Faithful Ones,

If we include scientific words, there are over 1,000,000 words in the English language. The average person knows about 20,000 words and uses 2,000 different words a week. We speak about 16,000 words a day on average.

Our words matter. However, what matters most is not the number of words we speak, but the kind of words we choose and the purpose for which we use them. The apostle James tells us that although ‘the tongue is a small part of the body’ it is extremely powerful (James 3:5). Our words can bring life.

Let us build each other up in word, and in deed, as we follow the Word that became flesh, Jesus Christ.

Lenten blessings,

Fr. Joe

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St. Paul’s Church
174 Whisconier Road
Brookfield, Connecticut 06804
(203) 775-9587
www.saintpaulsbrookfield.com

The Rev. Joseph Shepley, Rector
Beth Miller, Parish Office Coordinator
**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2nd</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Lori O’Hara</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Beth Beck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 9th</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Polly Sorrentino</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Dot Crocker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 16th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Happy Easter</td>
<td>No Coffee Hours</td>
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**Hebrews 13:2** - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

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**This Week at St. Paul’s**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Mar 30</td>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>Boot Camp, Crocker Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Music Night, Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Sat, Apr 1</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Men’s Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td><strong>John 21:12</strong> Group, Theo’s Diner, New Milford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, Apr 2</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Traditional Holy Communion</strong> <em>(LiveStream)</em></td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Rector’s Forum, Guild Room</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Contemporary Holy Communion</strong> <em>(LiveStream)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Apr 3</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Christian Caring, Guild Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Stephen Ministry, Guild Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Apr 4</td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Ladies Bible Study, Guild Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>Boot Camp, Crocker Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:15 pm</td>
<td>Boy Scouts, Crocker Hall</td>
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<td>Wed, Apr 5</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Holy Communion &amp; Healing</strong></td>
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<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Lenten Series, Crocker Hall</td>
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<td>Thu, Apr 6</td>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>Boot Camp, Crocker Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Mission Committee, Guild Room</td>
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<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Property Committee, Classroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Music Night, Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Sat, Apr 8</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Men’s Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall</td>
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<td>7:30 am</td>
<td><strong>John 21:12</strong> Group, Theo’s Diner, New Milford</td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Jericho Food Pantry, Danbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, Apr 9</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Traditional Holy Communion</strong> <em>(LiveStream)</em></td>
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<td>Rector’s Forum, Guild Room</td>
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<td><strong>Contemporary Holy Communion</strong> <em>(LiveStream)</em></td>
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**The Rector’s Forum**

**In the Beginning Was the Word**

Each Sunday at 9:30, the Rector’s Forum continues with the Gospel of John. The last of the four Gospels to be written, it emphasizes Jesus’ full divinity within a deeply theological framework while being accessible to all.

Please join us in the Guild Room for this exciting Bible study, and expect to be transformed by the **Word of God**.
"Take Away the Stone!"

by John Tuthill

Thus says the Lord God, “I am going to open your tombs and raise you up from your tombs, O my people.... I will put my spirit in you and you shall live.”

- Ezekiel 37:12,14

In the Gospel reading this Sunday in John chapter 11, Jesus brings his close friend and follower back from being dead & buried for four days. His sisters, Mary and Martha, may have depended on Lazarus to provide for them, in addition to loving him - why else send a desperate appeal for Jesus to come to their town? It was a place Thomas described as foolishly dangerous for them to go when he said, "Let us also go with him, that we may die with him there" (verse 16). My study Bible describes the area (Bethany) as full of Jesus’ enemies (verse 8). How soon after reviving did it dawn on Lazarus that he and his family were now also targets of Jesus' many enemies because it was Jesus that raised him? (John 12:10-11).

If he had any inclination to remain dead, the reading does not say. But Lazarus as a friend and follower of Jesus more likely had faith in the will of God, and was accepting of any new threat of violence. The raised Lazarus was a walking sign of Jesus’ divinity and now a walking and living testimony to the Good News.

An added blessing to Lazarus would have been a lack of fear, because of knowing first-hand the experience of death and the other side. In modern times, people who have been clinically dead (although, none that I know of for anything near four days) and who have been resuscitated - many of their accounts say that they no longer fear death. But unlike people revived from a short period of clinical death, Lazarus came to life serving a purpose - living as a vivid demonstration of God's grace and God's power over death.

- Thanks be to God!

“That imperious summons!
Spring's restlessness among dry leaves. He stands at the grave's entrance and rubs death from his eyes,
while thought's fountain recommences its play, watering the waste ground over again for the germination of the blood's seed, where roses should blow.”

- R. S. Thomas (1913-2000)
When Fear Is Good

by Steve Hemming

“The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.”

Proverbs 19:23

The Lord tells us in over 350 scriptures throughout the Bible to not fear, nor be afraid, but instead put our trust in the Lord, as noted in Psalm 56:3; “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.” Conversely, in several other places in the Word, we are to have a fear of the Lord, which is to our benefit, as mentioned in Proverbs 14:27; “The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.”

Derived from the Hebrew word yirah, fear, as in “fear of the Lord” means to regard God with reverence. When we have this healthy sort of fear of Him, we will be much more inclined to dread God’s displeasure, desire His favor, happily submit to His will, be grateful for all His benefits, worship Him in sincerity, and consciously obey His commandments (page 348, in Unger’s Bible Dictionary, Moody Press, 1957). An example that supports this definition can be found in Psalm 111:10; “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.”

How we relate to God in terms of whether or not we fear Him, will have a direct impact on any trepidation we may feel towards the people and things in our lives. Oswald Chambers sums it up best—“The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.” Following Chambers’ lead, perhaps we fear men so much because we fear God so little. No wonder why Proverbs 29:25 warns us; “The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.”

There are numerous blessings that result from having a reverent fear of the Lord; too many to mention here. However, I will touch upon a few, in order to whet your appetite to search for more on your own:

We will gain knowledge –
- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7
- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

We will have all we need –
- “Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.” Psalm 34:9-10
- “Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. He himself shall dwell in prosperity, and his descendants shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.” Psalm 25:12-14

God will delight in us –
- “The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.” Psalm 147:11
- “Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.” Psalm 33:18-19

While we need not be afraid of God, we would be wise to have an obedient regard for, and reverential fear of our Lord, if we want to maintain a truly meaningful and fruitful relationship with Him.

“Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.” Psalm 86:11
As part of our outreach, St. Paul’s donates gift cards and non-perishable items to six area food pantries. The non-perishable items are provided by our generous congregation and are truly appreciated. Donations for the food pantry can be left in the basket at the back of the church. Delivery is made to one food pantry each month. Thank you.

Transforming Saints of God

Thursday, March 30th

Innocent of Alaska
Bishop, 1879

Innocent, whose secular name was John Veniaminov, was born in 1797 in the village of Anginskoye, Verkhokolsk District, in the Irkutsk province of Russia. In 1823, Michael, the Bishop of Irkutsk, was instructed by the Holy Synod to send a priest to the island of Unalaska in the Aleutians. Following only two years of service as a parish priest, John Veniaminov volunteered for the mission to the Aleutian islands. In May of 1823, John, his wife, his infant son, and his brother Stefan set forth on their long and arduous journey, which took more than a year. He immediately began the work of evangelism and conversion that would last nearly fifty years and would lead to his being called “The Apostle of North America.” He taught the islanders to be carpenters, blacksmiths, and bricklayers, and with their help, he built a church for the local people.

John Veniaminov’s parish included not only the island of Unalaska, but also the Fox Islands and Pribilof Islands, whose inhabitants had been converted to Christianity before his arrival. He became familiar with the language and dialects of the people he served, traveling the icy waters between the islands in a canoe. Choosing the most widespread of these dialects, the Aleut language of the Fox Islands, he devised a Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated into it the Gospel of Matthew and many of the most used hymns and prayers.

In 1829, with the blessing of the Bishop of Irkutsk, he traveled to Nushagak on the American mainland, where he preached the Gospel to the peoples of the Bering seacoast. In 1834 he was transferred to Sitka Island where he began his mission work with the Tlingit people. Despite their faithful adherence to their own customs and traditions, he learned their language and converted many of them to Christ. Innocent of Alaska, as he came to be known, was loved and respected by the peoples he served, and his work laid the foundation for a continuing mission to the people of the Aleutian Islands.

Transforming Stewardship

“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’”

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard, the pressure is on, things aren’t going our way, do we really believe, do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need.

Garden Angels Needed

Help is needed for the garden in front of the church. If you enjoy gardening, and have a little time to spare, please consider becoming a "garden angel." Now that we have irrigation, pruning, weeding, deadheading, and seasonal cleanups are our main tasks, along with watering the pots. Days and times are very flexible! If you would like more information please feel free to call Mary Beth Durkin (203-297-5382) or Diane Froelick (704-609-6502).
Noticed the Red and White prayer request cards in the pew? Each Sunday, fill out your request, put it in the red bowl on the table on the way to communion. Then take a card from the bowl either right then or after service. Pray for that request for one week. How comforting to know that your request is being prayed for and that you are praying for someone else’s! You might just be praying for the person sitting next to you! Or, if you’d prefer - please send your request to St. Paul’s at prayingnow2@gmail.com!

† Pray It Up

First Communion - Coming Soon!
Calling all families with students in second grade or above. First Communion classes with Father Joe will begin this spring. See the dates below and email Nicole at nmoconnors@gmail.com to sign up!

First Communion - Sunday, May 21st
First Communion classes
4 Sundays, April 23rd through May 14th
9:30-10:15 am in the Level 2 classroom

Come One, Come All to
Saint Paul’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt!
Saturday, April 15th - 10:30 - 11:45 am
This event is open to everyone - please invite family, friends and neighbors to celebrate with us. All children in grade 5 and younger are invited to gather eggs, enjoy a special treat, hear the story of our Risen Savior and make an Easter craft. This event will be held rain or shine. Please bring a container to collect eggs and boots in case of damp weather. We will move inside if needed. We hope that you can join us!
**Fellowship – More than Coffee Hour?**

As Fr. Joe mentioned last Sunday, thank you all for your prayers as your Vestry met on its annual retreat. We covered many topics and you will soon be part of and experiencing for yourself the continued outpouring of the Spirit’s direction of this, His church.

One topic that we spent a great deal of time talking about was the “movement” that Fr. Joe started a few Sundays ago with his personal testimony. It was a wonderful example of how we can deeply connect by sharing our story and allowing others to see God working in our lives.

It had me thinking about the word “fellowship.” We do use it liberally don’t we? We “have fellowship”; we “encourage fellowship,” etc.

But maybe true fellowship is more than saying hello at Coffee Hour; maybe it is truly sharing our stories with each other. Being a bit vulnerable as Fr. Joe spoke about at the annual meeting, but knowing that it is safe as we are called to give each other grace as we step out in His name, and do so in love for one another.

What happens when we are in fellowship, when we share our story?

It is obedience on our part, as we have to make a conscious decision to share, when the Spirit is prompting us to do so.

We help ourselves as we gain strength and healing from hearing ourselves talk about God in our lives.

We encourage others by showcasing how God works in someone else’s life, and they can gain hope that He is and will be working in their life too.

We connect with others, and when we do that we work toward our calling: building up the body of Christ.

We exchange life with each other. We don’t what people have gone through or are going through…sharing life allow us to walk together through trials and tough seasons.

So, when we are in community, let’s have a fresh perspective of fellowship as we greet one another, and share in love with each other.

May God be glorified in all we do!

The word April means “to open.” This is the time of year that leaf and flower buds open. In most northern countries, this is a month of transformation. The day is now longer than the night. Even if the nights are still chilly, the daytime sun is strong and growing stronger. The earth itself seems to take part in the Passover of the Lord.

**W**atch your thoughts, they become words; watch your words, they become actions; watch your actions, they become habits; watch your habits, they become character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny. - Frank Outlaw

**W**e can not stop the thoughts that come into our heads but we do not have to serve them tea. - Rumi
Art in the Christian Tradition
Ezekiel in the Valley of the Dry Bones
1956
Benno Elkan, 1877-1960
Knesset, Jerusalem, Israel

"Built by Benno Elkan, a British-Jewish sculptor who worked on it for 6 years, the Parliament of the United Kingdom gave it to Israel in 1956. Built in the shape of the Menorah which appears in Arch of Titus, it includes engravings of some 30 important events, idioms, characters and terms from the Jewish history. It is considered a visual "textbook." [from Wikipedia] Photo by Deror avi.

Ezekiel was a prophet and a priest. His ministry began before the conquest of Judah in 587 BC, and continued in exile in Babylon. This book is the foundation for both Jewish and Christian visionary or apocalyptic literature, e.g. Revelation (or The Apocalypse). It is a book that contains many strange things (strange because we do not understand them, e.g. Ezekiel eating a scroll), but the prophet's message to the exiles is clear: he assures his hearers of God's abiding presence among them, and he emphasizes God's involvement in the events of the day, so that Israel and all nations "will know that I am the Lord." For the first time, we see the importance of the individual in his relationship to God. To a dispersed and discouraged people, he brings a message of hope: hope that God will restore them to their homeland and the temple.

Sunday's Collect provides one of our favorite reassurances - that if we love what God commands, and desire what He promises, then among the swift and varies changes of the world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found, and we need not look only to the world around us for love, affirmation, serenity and peace. What a relief!
A few years ago I began using Kindle for my reading. While Amazon does sell and promote several dedicated devices for reading their eBooks, one advantage of the system is that books can be downloaded to any internet computer or mobile phone (and once downloaded can be read without maintaining a connection). Let me share with you some of my recent reading (but please understand that I also read and enjoy mysteries and other entertainments that I do not list here).

David Plotz, Good Book: The Bizarre, Hilarious, Disturbing, Marvelous, and Inspiring Things I Learned When I read every Single Word of the Bible, HarperCollins. The author identifies himself as a non-observant Jew who, while attending a bat mitzvah, picked up a Torah from the pew and opened it at random to Genesis 34, and was shocked by what he read there – this chapter had certainly not been covered in Sunday School, and is also missing from our lectionary. As a result he decide to read the entire (Hebrew) Bible and record his reactions. This book is the result. In the concluding chapter he tells us that the experience did not make him a believer, but did make him a “full-on Bible thumper.” It gave him an understanding of the origins of much of our culture, secular as well as religious; and, more importantly, it taught to argue with, and try to make sense of the many repellant elements (including the story that started the whole project). I recommend this to those who seek a helpful (but not "religious") guide to the Old Testament. Readers should bear in mind that the order of Books in the Hebrew Bible is not what we are accustomed to; when he seems to be skipping around he is simply following the Hebrew arrangement.

F. A. Hayek, The Road to Serfdom, University of Chicago Press. I commend this, not as a religious document, but to those who seek a moral dimension to economics. I have long heard of this work, but only recently read it, and found it difficult at times, but worth for its realism.

Saint Augustine’s Prayer Book: A Book of Devotions, ed. David Cobb and Derek Olsen, Forward Movement. This is a 2014 revision of a devotional guide first issued by the Order of the Holy Cross in 1947. Although I do not use it extensively, it is a useful devotional resource, with advice for following the calendar and for personal spiritual life as well as suggested forms of prayer for many purposes. There are, for example, prayers for private use during the day, a form for Sacramental Reconciliation, along with helpful preparatory material, prayers of preparation and thanksgiving for Communion, and much more. The emphasis is certainly Anglo-Catholic but not so extreme that most Episcopalians would feel uncomfortable with the bulk of the material.

Wes Howard-Brook, Come Out, My People: God’s Call out of Empire in the Bible and Beyond, Orbis Books. Originally trained as a lawyer, the author later took the M.Div. and began a teaching ministry. He is now an adjunct faculty member at Seattle University, and on the faculty of the Deacon Formation Program of the Archdiocese of Seattle. He has given us a commentary on the entire Bible in which he develops the theme of two contrasting types of religion: the Religion of Empire as...
practiced in Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and in the Greek and Roman Empires, and sometimes in Israel itself; and the religion of Creation, which he sees as the intent of Biblical religion, though often displaced by its imperial rival. In the former religious practice is largely controlled by the state which often claims direct foundation by the God(s). In the latter God is seen as creator of humans whom he calls directly into relationship with himself. Although he sees both these views espoused at various points in the Old Testament, he suggests that the New is a thoroughgoing espousal of Creation, but that Constantine and his successors dragged the Christian Church back into Empire. I find some of his arguments less convincing than others – in particular I do not always see the contrast as sharply as he does – but he does make sense of some of the most difficult and contradictory elements of Scripture. Like the Hayek work mentioned above, this book requires some background knowledge, in this case of the Bible and its historical context, but with that caveat the reader should find it both interesting and worth arguing with.

Fr. Bill Loring, Scholar in Residence

Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

† Happy Birthday to You!

B arbara Davidson, Kirsten Peterson, Robin Powell & Ron Switzer celebrate today! Friday is the big day for Christopher Goodman & Lauren Onorato. Throw a party for Catherine Kast, Noah DoBosh & Rory Palmer on Sunday. Helen Sheridan will be blowing out candles on Tuesday. Bake a cake for Abigail Keating on Wednesday. Have a blessed day everyone!

www.lentmadness.org

CLICK HERE

L ENT M ADNESS

Who will win the Golden Halo?
† Sunday School Lessons

⇒ This Week’s Lesson
⇒ Early Elementary
⇒ Unit 20: Jesus is King!
⇒ Bible Basis: Jesus makes his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).
⇒ Lesson Focus: Jesus is our King.
⇒ Memory Verse: Jesus loves me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20
⇒ Upper Elementary
⇒ Unit 21: Jesus is Alive!
⇒ Bible Basis: Jesus prays in Gethsemane, is arrested, is put on trial by the high priest, and mocked by soldiers (Mark 14:32-65 15:16-18).
⇒ Lesson Focus: Become humble and obedient to God’s will.
⇒ Memory Verse: And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8

† Choir Practice for Sword Points Readers
(click on the red links below to begin your personal practice)

Opening Hymn: Holy Spirit, Ever Living
Gospel Response: Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Offertory: O Love of God, How Strong and True Hymn Tune: Maryton
Closing Hymn: Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death Hymn Tune: St. Anne

9:30 The Saturday morning PraiseMoves class has a new starting time. 9:30

† Electronic Giving

Saint Paul’s is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking/savings account or your credit/debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and provides much needed donation consistency for our congregation. There is no cost to you to use this system. Also there will be no changes if you choose to still use your present method of giving.

The system is simple using the following steps on our website. Sign on to the church website at www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com. Click on the blue “Give Online” button at the top left of the home page. Click on the “Create Profile” button to create your unique on line profile. After you have created your profile, follow the on line instructions to schedule your contribution. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Allen at 203-775-6633 or treasurer@SaintPaulsBrookfield.com.

“WE ARE THE Episcopal BRANCH OF THE Jesus Movement”

learn more: forwardmovement.org

—Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
† This Sunday’s Readings

The Raising of Lazarus

Ezekiel 37:1-14

In our first reading the prophet has a vision of the bones of a dead and hopeless people being restored to new life in their homeland. The Lord calls upon Ezekiel as son of man to prophecy that the people who have experienced exile and many hardships will live again. The Spirit of the Lord restores their spirit and breath, and they rise from death. Although this passage can be understood to anticipate the hope of individual resurrection, Israel did not yet have this belief.

Psalm 130

The psalmist calls to the merciful Lord and waits upon God for forgiveness and redemption.

Romans 8:6-11

In this lesson Paul draws a contrast between minds dominated by fleshly and worldly things and those in whom Christ lives and are set on the Spirit. The person at enmity with God is incapable of fulfilling the intention of the law, but one in whom Christ dwells is animated by the Spirit of God, and that Spirit, through which God raised Jesus from the dead, also gives to believers true life in our mortal bodies.

John 11:1-45

The gospel is the story of Jesus’ raising of Lazarus from the dead. This is the last and greatest of Jesus’ signs, and it points beyond itself to the hope of a new life after death for all. Only slowly do Jesus’ friends begin to understand what he is saying to them and the deeper meaning of their own words. Soon the one who has raised Lazarus will himself be put to death, and then become the way of resurrection to eternal life.

† Pick Up Your Copy Today!

Synthesis CE Study Guides for each week’s readings will be available at the back of the church.

† Sermon Shorts

Is your blindness keeping you from seeing the new creation in your life? To replay all our sermons, audio and videos follow this link for The Sunday Sermons. Check out our sermon archives as well.
† Exclusive Sword Points Interview with Lazarus

Sword Points: We are here today with the man of the moment, Lazarus, who yesterday was spectacularly, and some say miraculously raised back to life by Jesus Christ. Lazarus, thanks for joining us.
Lazarus: You’re welcome. I’ve been dying to come on this show.
Sword Points: So, Lazarus, how do you feel?
Lazarus: Well after four days of resting in peace on my death bed, I’m a bit stiff, but surprisingly quite refreshed. Apart from a few times where I had to roll over in my grave, it was nice to get some down time if you know what I mean.
Sword Points: Not really, but have you been able to work out what actually happened to you?
Lazarus: All I know is this – last week I was sick and died. But to my surprise as much as anybody’s, this week, I’m alive.
Sword Points: But what happened, where did you go?
Lazarus: Well I’m glad you raised that question, but I really don’t know. I was dead.
Sword Points: What has the attention been like?
Lazarus: Overwhelming. It seems I raise a crowd wherever I go. I didn’t get a wink of sleep last night and I’m dead tired today.
Sword Points: Ok, jokes aside, can you give us a bit of background about yourself, your family and what they think of this whole near-death experience of yours?
Lazarus: Well I was born and raised in Bethany, twice now in fact. I have two sisters, Mary and Martha, and a drop-dead gorgeous wife, Leah. They have all been through quite a lot in this last week.
Sword Points: Can you expand on that? What have they been through?
Lazarus: Well for starters, it’s not a near-death experience as you describe it, but a fully-death experience. I was dead. Kicked the bucket. Bit the dust. Passed away. Pegged out. Pushing up daisies. Fell off my perch. Gave up the ghost. Dead as a dodo. Gone.
Sword Points: Ok ok I get it. Please. But how did your family react?
Lazarus: Sorry, well understandably they were distraught. Both of my sisters were also quite upset with Jesus as they thought he had made a grave mistake in taking so long to get there, but obviously they were pretty happy with the end result. And especially since the dispute over my dead body was resolved.
Sword Points: A dispute?
Lazarus: Yes, my family has a tomb, which we’ve had for generations, but we had missed the last few tomb insurance payments, and they were threatening to sell it off, which is what they call in the tomb industry, a dead give-away. But fortunately the undertakers didn’t let us down, like they normally do, and allowed us to make up the extra payments. In the end we got morgue than we asked for.
Sword Points: Lazarus, are you taking this interview serious?

(Continued on page 15)
Lazarus: Dead serious.

Sword Points: Well, have you spoken with Jesus about it? About what happened to you?
Lazarus: Yes, I raised the topic with him, and said thank you repeatedly.

Sword Points: But have you asked him why you?
Lazarus: That’s a good question, and has raised a few eyebrows.

Sword Points: What do you mean?
Lazarus: Well, some of my friends say that I have been flirting with death for years. They were truly mortified when they heard the news.

Sword Points: But you haven’t answered my question?
Lazarus: Of corpse I have.

Sword Points: No you haven’t, you’re just making terrible jokes.
Lazarus: Sorry.

Sword Points: Life is not just about making jokes.
Lazarus: I agree. There is mortal life than puns.

Sword Points: You did it again.
Lazarus: Did what?

Sword Points: Made a rotten joke.
Lazarus: Like you just did – Now the stakes have been raised.

Sword Points: You’re doing it deliberately.
Lazarus: Is it tomb much?

Sword Points: Yes. These puns are killing me.
Lazarus: Sorry, I’ll try and maintain my decomposure, I mean composure.

Sword Points: Stop it.
Lazarus: Stop what?

Sword Points: I know what you’re doing. You’re trying to get a rise out of me.
Lazarus: No. I’ll leave that to the Messiah.
Your Prayers Are Requested For…

It is such an intimate time when praying for the health and well being of others and such a privilege. The people that we lift up to The Lord are part of our hearts for all time. Please pray for…

…..Fr. George Hall and other parishioners convalescing in extended care facilities.
…..St. Andrew’s, Kent; Emmanuel, Killingworth; Trinity, Lime Rock; St. Michael’s, Litchfield.
…..Revival at St. Paul’s and the greater Danbury area.
…..ECCT Joint Leadership members of the Mission Council, Missionary Society, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, and Donations & Bequests.
…..Brenda Darling, Ginny Beck, Jean Stauffer, Clayton Ferry, Gary Stein, Ed Licence, Sue Balla, Rose Barrett, Lorraine Estok, Jim Megura, Jay Lawrence, Alex, Teresa Stacchiotti, Roger Kovacs, Mary DeAnzeris; Michele Sarver & Lee Rybos, continued healing …..the safe return of Denise’s dog.
…..the people of Gabon; the people of the Republic of the Congo; the Missionary District of Oeste-Brasil - (Brazil); and our sister and brother members of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.
…..Christians in the Middle East facing persecution at the hands of ISIS forces. Pray also for radical Muslims throughout the world to come to know Jesus Christ.
…..Michael for protection from mortar attacks in Somalia with the UN peacekeeping service.
…..Loaves & Fishes Hospitality in New Milford, the recipient of our food basket collections for the month of April.
…..Immanuel Lutheran Church, Danbury, a congregational partner of the Jericho Partnership.
…..Drew Ross, healing of major surgery for throat cancer; and Joe, who is undergoing treatment for Lymphoma.
…..Towns and Rural Areas.
…..Mary Nigro, Bill Nigro’s mother, recovering from a broken hip.
…..Rose Barrett, speedy recovery to her wrist from a recent fall.
…..Debbi Pomeroy, rapid healing to several broken bones in her hand so that she can return to work.

This & That & Links

(Click on pictures or red links for more info)

Links We Like

Things That Make You Think
Back Issues of Sword Points

Exploring Lazarus’ Tomb

Just outside of Jerusalem in nearby Bethany is the tomb of Lazarus where Jesus raised his friend from the dead!

Easter Memorials

There are envelopes on the back table for anyone wishing to have flowers decorating the church on Easter Sunday in memory of loved ones and friends. All memorials are due by Sunday, April 9. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Winkle, at 203-775-3343 or gailwinkle@yahoo.com.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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|     |     |     |     |     |     | 7:30 AM Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
|     |     |     |     |     |     | 9:30 AM PraiseMoves |
| 2   | 5   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| Lent | Lent | Lent | Lent | Lent | Lent | Lent |
| 8:00 AM Traditional Eucharist  
9:30 AM Rector’s Forum  
10:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist | 10:00 AM Christian Caring  
7:00 PM Stephen Ministry | 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Study  
5:45 PM Boot Camp | 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Healing  
6:30 PM Lenten Series | 5:45 PM Boot Camp  
7:30 PM Property Committee  
7:30 PM Mission Committee  
7:30 PM Music Night |     |     |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| Palm Sunday | Monday in Holy Week | Tuesday in Holy Week | Wednesday in Holy Week | Maundy Thursday | Good Friday  
(Parish Office Closed)  
12:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy and Ante-Communion  
6:30 PM Stations of the Cross  
7:30 PM Good Friday Liturgy | Holy Saturday | 7:30 AM Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
9:30 AM PraiseMoves  
10:00 AM Jericho Food Pantry  
11:00 AM St. Paul’s Quilters |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| Easter | Easter | Easter | Easter | Easter | Easter | Easter |
| 7:30 AM Traditional Eucharist  
9:00 AM Contemporary Eucharist  
10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist | 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry | 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Study  
5:45 PM Boot Camp | 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Healing |     |     |     |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| 2 Easter | 2 Easter | 2 Easter | 2 Easter | 2 Easter | 2 Easter | 2 Easter |
| 8:00 AM Traditional Eucharist  
9:30 AM Rector’s Forum  
9:30 AM First Communion Class  
10:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist | 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Study  
5:45 PM Boot Camp | 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Healing |     |     |     |     |
| 30  | 31  | 32  | 33  | 34  | 35  | 36  |
| 3 Easter | 3 Easter | 3 Easter | 3 Easter | 3 Easter | 3 Easter | 3 Easter |
| 8:00 AM Traditional Eucharist  
9:30 AM Rector’s Forum  
9:30 AM First Communion Class  
10:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist |     |     |     |     |     |     |
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April 2017
Just For Fun! (And Christian Fellowship)

Random Fact of the Week!

Did you know ... that the Slinky was invented in 1943 by accident by Richard James and around 1960, Richard moved to Bolivia to join Wycliffe Bible Translators?

Mary Allen, Chris Barrett, Ray Ferro, Steve Hemming, Diane Loring, Bill Loring, Dori McManus, Beth Miller, Nicole O’Connors, Patrick O’Connors, Mary Perry, Ken Perry, Kirsten Peterson, Debbi Pomeroy, Reyna Sampson, John Sarver, Joe Shepley, Tara Shepley, David Szen, Pam Szen, John Tuthill, Don Winkley and Gail Winkley.

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You can keep your death and resurrection certificates, Mr Lazarus ... we only need the birth one.

Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See John 11:45) 05-15-2002