

*Transforming
Lives Through
Jesus Christ*

SWORD POINTS

August 10, 2023

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

(203) 775-9587

✠ Love &
a Firm
Grasp



† Love and a Firm Grasp

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 - Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15 - Matthew 14:22-33

“Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age” (Gen. 37:3). Fratricide was love’s outcome, or nearly so. “When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him” (Gen. 37:11). The favored child, Joseph, did little to blunt his brothers’ hatred, giving “a bad report of them to their father” (Gen. 37:2). So, the brothers conspired to kill him, but after Reuben intervened to spare his life, they instead sold Joseph into slavery.

Family values, then as now, are complicated; love and hate have often kissed each other. From the mess of human lives and the dysfunction of human families, however, some good may come. God will do what God will do.

Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites, or, according to another tradition, kidnapped by Midianite traders. Eventually, he was sold again in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. In Egypt, he rose to prominence in his master’s house, but then, refusing the advances of his master’s wife and accused by her of rape, he was handed over and shackled in prison. In time, however, he was set free because of his power to interpret Pharaoh’s dreams. He thus

was given renewed power and prestige, being second only to Pharaoh throughout Egypt. The culmination of the story was Joseph’s reunion with his father and brothers, whom he saved from starvation and forgave from the heart. “He kissed his brothers and wept upon them” (Gen. 45:15). His brothers did evil, but God brought forth good.

How do we human beings stay together? What binds us despite our pettiness, envy, malice, and hatred? What brings Joseph to his father and brothers again, and what holds them together? St. Augustine, addressing the question of how the Catholic Church of his day ought to behave toward another Christian denomination, a group church historians call “Donatist,” insisted that this “family dispute” could not break a deeper bond in Christ. “They will not cease to be our brothers and sisters until they cease saying *Pater Noster*.” Then he said: “Pour out the marrow of your love (*medulas caritatis vestrae*) to God for them” (*Exposition of Psalm 32:29*). This love is the love of God poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Only in the movement and flow of this love do we find each other most deeply as members of the same family. We are held together by a chain of love.

Although human families and communities are frail, they have, we dare to believe, the capacity for unity in the love which God is. This union in love is, of course, something more than goodwill and shared values and common interest. God reaches the whole human family, creating, recreating, sanctifying, and leading all to a renewed temporal good and eternal glory.

God’s saving power, however, extends not only to persons but also to all created beings, visible and invisible. The creation itself groans with eager longing for redemption because nature itself, in some sense, is disordered. The disciples out in a boat “battered by the waves” experience both nature’s fury and a metaphor for human life amid trial and tribulation. Jesus comes out to them, walking on the water. Peter joins him. Seeing the strong wind and becoming afraid, Peter sinks. Jesus extends his hand. “He reached down from on high, he took me; he drew me out of the mighty waters” (Ps. 18:16). Jesus is the mighty hand that rescues not from the storm, but in the midst of it.

A chain of love connects us, and a firm hand saves us.

Look It Up

Read: Matthew 14:31

Think About It

Jesus caught him.

- from *The Living Church*, 2023



✠ A Little Faith Can Get You Out of the Boat, But...

Matthew 14:22-33

It seems a little faith goes a long way if it gets you to step out of a perfectly good boat in a storm. On the other hand what's a little wind, even a strong one, when you are already walking on water?

Maybe that's the point. A little faith can get you out of the boat, but it can't keep you from sinking. Peter took his eyes off Jesus and suddenly the "Rock" was sinking like a stone. It is true for us as well when after a little while of enduring the storms of life, sorrow, pain, or loss, the winds and waves of unrelenting grief lead us to doubt the goodness and the grace of God and we sink into the depths of despair. But in those times faith can cause one to cry out "Lord, save me!" so even when we are sinking a little faith goes a long way.

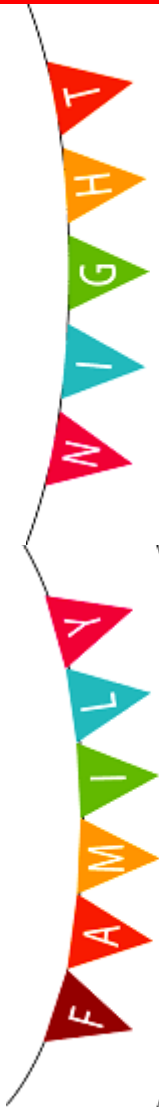


✠ This Week at St. Paul's

- | | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| Thu, Aug 10 | - 8:00 am | - PraiseBarre (Zoom) |
| | - 9:30 am | - Men's Study / Discussion Group, Guild Room |
| Fri, Aug 11 | 6-9:00 pm | - Friday Family Fun Night in the Meadow |
| Sat, Aug 12 | - 7:30 am | - John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford |
| | 8:00 am | - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall |
| | 10:00 am | - PraiseMoves (Zoom) |
| Sun, Aug 13 | The 11th Sunday after Pentecost | |
| | - 8:00 am | - Traditional Holy Communion (YouTube Live) |
| | 9:30 am | - Adult Class, Guild Room |
| | 10:30 am | - Contemporary Holy Communion (YouTube Live) |
| | 7:00 pm | - Recovery & Self-Reflection, Guild Room (Zoom) |
| Mon, Aug 14 | - 7:00 pm | - Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall (YouTube Live) |
| Tues, Aug 15 | St. Mary, the Virgin | |
| | - 8:00 am | - PraiseKicks (Zoom) |
| | 9:30 am | - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room |
| Wed, Aug 16 | - 10:00 am | - Holy Communion & Healing (YouTube Live) |
| | 7:00 pm | - Ladies Evening Zoom Bible Study (Zoom) |
| Thu, Aug 17 | - 8:00 am | - PraiseBarre (Zoom) |
| | - 9:30 am | - Men's Study / Discussion Group, Guild Room |
| Fri, Aug 18 | 6:00 pm | - Parents of Young Families Get Together |
| Sat, Aug 19 | - 7:30 am | - John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford |
| | 8:00 am | - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall |
| | 10:00 am | - PraiseMoves (Zoom) |
| | 11:00 am | - St. Paul's Quilters, Crocker Hall |
| Sun, Aug 20 | The 12th Sunday after Pentecost | |
| | - 8:00 am | - Traditional Holy Communion (YouTube Live) |
| | 9:30 am | - Adult Class, Guild Room |
| | 10:30 am | - Contemporary Holy Communion (YouTube Live) |
| | 7:00 pm | - Recovery & Self-Reflection, Guild Room (Zoom) |

Check our website daily for schedule updates.

Mark your
Calendar



WHO: You! Families, friends, anyone.

WHAT: Food: Hot dogs / Burgers / Chips. If you want, bring a potluck to give us some variety.

Games: Cornhole, ladder ball, bocce, basketball, soccer, board games, etc. Bring your own games.

FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

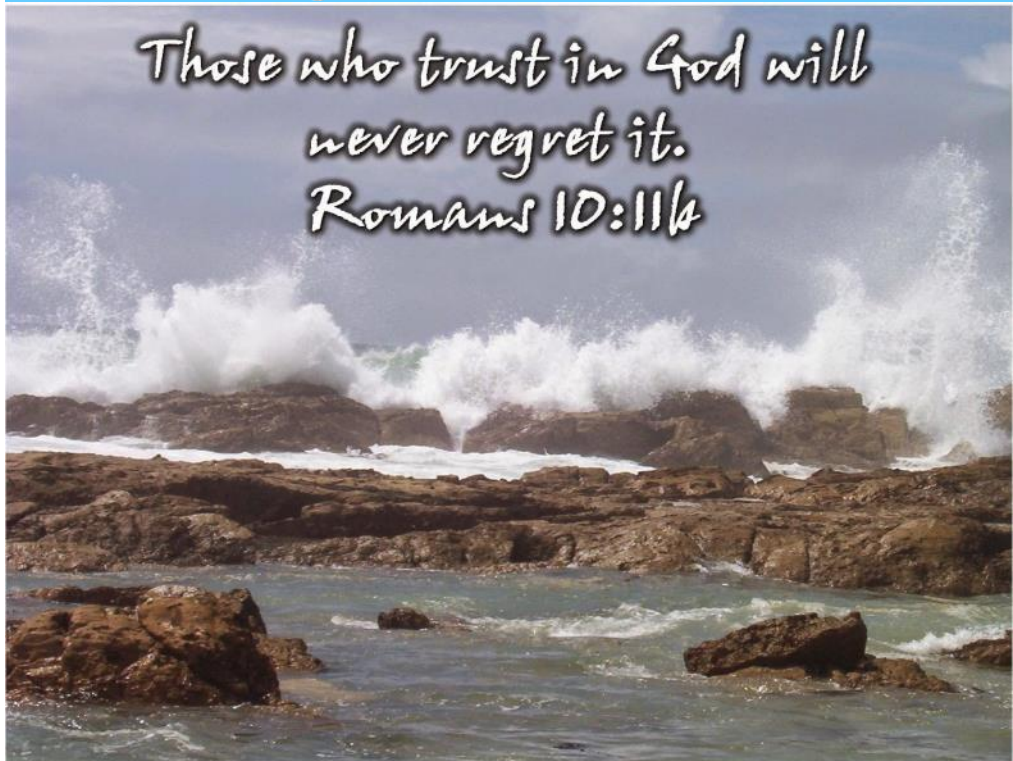


WHEN: Friday night, August 11th from 6 pm til 9.

WHERE: At St. Paul's in our meadow.

WHY: Why not! It's the middle of summer. Let's get together and enjoy some food, fun and fellowship!

*Those who trust in God will
never regret it.
Romans 10:11b*



† Prayer as We Search for a New Rector

Almighty God, you know the needs of your church in every place: look graciously upon us, the people of St. Paul's Parish, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Rector for this parish.

Jesus, you have blessed and sustained us through the past 238 years. We ask that you continue to lead us, stretch us, and direct us, in our search. Raise for us a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion, that we may continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and be a beacon of love and hope to our community and the world.

Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Guide the members of our Search Committee, as they labor to be faithful in seeking your will.

We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be strengthened in our mission to transform lives, being Jesus' heart, hands and feet to our neighbors no matter where they are on their journey of faith.

Bless us with mutual trust and respect, courage, and foresight as you shepherd our community through its journey.

Grace us with continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection.

All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name. **Amen.**



† The "New Thing" that Was Promised

Romans 10:5-15

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek..." is as radical a statement as any Paul made. Israel was a nation specifically set apart to be God's own people. The psalmist declares "God has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel. He has done this for no other nation..." (Psalm 147:19-20). They were distinct from other people through adherence to the Mosaic Law, through a restrictive diet, by the practice of circumcision. They were warned repeatedly to remain pure to avoid the ruin of the nation, by God's own hand no less! But now Paul declares the "new thing" that was promised through the prophet Jeremiah that even he could not have anticipated. The law that set Israel apart has itself been set aside for the sake of nations long denied equal access to the God of Israel. In Jesus Christ "God come down" the Word is as close as our own breath and the beating of our own heart. Of course we have made new distinctions; defining exactly how someone must "call on the name of the Lord to be saved" or what must be believed in order to qualify as one who will not "be put to shame." Maybe we need an equally radical expression of the grace of God who apparently after a thousand years or so with Israel was willing to be less exclusive when it came to who qualifies as "my people."



† Sinking Times

Sinking times are praying times with the Lord's servants. Peter neglected prayer at starting upon his venturesome journey, but when he began to sink his danger made him a suppliant, and his cry though late was not too late. In our hours of bodily pain and mental anguish, we find ourselves as naturally driven to prayer as the wreck is driven upon the shore by the waves. The fox hies to its hole for protection; the bird flies to the wood for shelter; and even so the tried believer hastens to the mercy seat for safety. Heaven's great harbor of refuge is All-prayer; thousands of weather-beaten vessels have found a haven there, and the moment a storm comes on, it is wise for us to make for it with all sail.

Short prayers are long enough. There were but three words in the petition which Peter gasped out, but they were sufficient for his purpose.



Not length but strength is desirable. A sense of need is a mighty teacher of brevity. If our prayers had less of the tail feathers of pride and more wing they would be all the better. Verbiage is to devotion as chaff to the wheat. Precious things lie in small compass, and all that is real prayer in many a long address might have been uttered in a petition as short as that of Peter.

Our extremities are the Lord's opportunities. Immediately a keen sense of danger forces an anxious cry from us the ear of Jesus hears, and with him ear and heart go together, and the hand does not long linger. At the last moment we appeal to our Master, but his swift hand makes up for our delays by instant and effectual action. Are we nearly engulfed by the boisterous waters of affliction? Let us then lift up our souls unto our Savior, and we may rest assured that he will not suffer us to perish. When we can do nothing Jesus can do all things; let us enlist his powerful aid upon our side, and all will be well.

† Transforming Stewardship

He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

- MATTHEW 14:29

When you hear Jesus calling, do you responded immediately and trust that He knows what He's doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say "yes" to Jesus, we feel the power of his presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has in mind for you.



† *Art in the Christian Tradition*

Testing the Waters,

by Daniel Eskridge,

Digital Art, 2021,

© Daniel Eskridge / Turning Art

At times, just like Peter in our Sunday gospel reading, we may need to step off our solid ground onto something that appears less secure. We sometimes have to move from a very familiar space to a less familiar place to the unfamiliar; from the known to the unknown. It certainly would have been safer for Peter to stay in the boat, especially as the sea was rough and storms were raging. But Peter was not adverse to taking a risk to get close to his friend Jesus.

Sunday's gospel reading is therefore a calling to look at our relationship with our Lord and reflect on the ways that the Lord may be calling us to take some new step in our relationship with him. Maybe we are too much sticking to our comforts and routines (which of course are very good to have). But when it comes to our faith, to our relationship with the Lord, we may have to explore the more unfamiliar too. The Lord is always calling us to 'come.' But maybe we are inviting him more to come to us, than we to go to him. We simply have to offer ourselves to him in new ways, every day... to step out of our familiar boat and to 'test the water' so to speak.

This artwork by Daniel Eskridge depicts a woman in a white nightgown sitting on a large rock on the edge of a secluded forest pool. She dips her toe in the water... testing etc. water. She is holding her other leg to her chest. Is the water safe? Too cold to swim? What dangers may lie beneath the dark waters of the woodlands? The woman is in unfamiliar territory.





Here is an update about St. Paul's ongoing food-related ministries serving our community:

Drive Thru Food Collection - occurs every other Wednesday from 11 am - noon. We have now held over 87 food drives since April 22, 2020! Last time our trucks delivered to the Jericho Food Pantry, Danbury and the Victory Christian Center in Danbury.

Our next food collection will be next Wednesday, August 16th and will support the Victory Christian Center in Danbury and the Jericho Food Pantry in Danbury.

Thank you all for your ongoing generosity and to the many volunteers who have helped to load the trucks and deliver food to the pantries.

Next Drive-Thru Food Collection

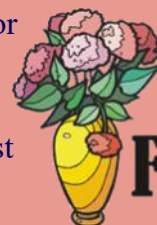
**Wednesday
August 16th**

*Help us,
Help others*

11 am to Noon



If you would like to request Altar flowers for a particular Sunday in Memory of a friend or loved one, please fill out an envelope located in the back of the church or send an email request to dszen@yahoo.com or contact David Szen.



**Altar
Flowers**

† This Date on the Church Calendar

Tuesday, August 15th

Saint Mary the Virgin

Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The honor paid to Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus Christ our Lord and God, goes back to the earliest days of the Church. Indeed, it goes back further, for even before the birth of her Son, Mary prophesied, "From this time forth, all generations shall call me blessed." [Magnificat]

The New Testament records several incidents from the life of the Virgin: her betrothal to Joseph, the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel that she was to bear the Messiah, her Visitation to Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist, the Nativity of our Lord, the visits of the shepherds and the magi, the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple at the age of forty days, the flight into Egypt, the Passover visit to the Temple when Jesus was twelve, [Matthew 1:16,18-25; Matthew 2; Luke 1:26-56; Luke 2]; the wedding at Cana in Galilee and the performance of her Son's first miracle at her intercession [John 2:1-11], the occasions when observers said, "How can this man be special? We know his family!" [Matthew 13:54-56; Mark 6:1-3; Luke 4:22; also John 6:42], an occasion when she came with others to see him while he was preaching [Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21], her presence at the foot of the Cross, where Jesus commends her to the care of the Beloved Disciple [John 19:25-27], and her presence with the apostles in the upper room after the Ascension, waiting for the promised Spirit [Acts 1:14].

She is thus seen to be present at most of the chief events of her Son's life.

Besides Jesus himself, only two humans are mentioned by name in the Creeds. One is Pontius Pilate, Roman procurator of Judea from 26 to 36 AD. That Jesus was crucified by order of Pontius Pilate pins down the date of his death within a few years, and certifies that we are not talking, like the worshippers of Tammuz or Adonis, about a personification or symbol of the annual death and resurrection of the crops. His death is an event in history, something that really happened.

The other name is that of Mary. The Creeds say that Christ was "born of the virgin Mary." That is to say, they assert on the one hand that he was truly and fully human, born of a woman and not descended from the skies like an angel.

On the other hand, by telling us that his mother was a virgin they exclude the theory that he was simply an ordinary man who was so virtuous that he eventually, at his baptism, became filled with the Spirit of God. His virgin birth attests to the fact that he was always more than merely human, always one whose presence among us was in itself a miracle, from the first moment of his earthly existence.

In Mary, Virgin and Mother, God gives us a sign that Jesus is both truly God and truly Man.

It sometimes happens that someone will report an appearance of the Virgin Mary, bearing a message, usually encouraging faithfulness in prayer. A reader has asked, "How far back do such reports go?" According to Donald Attwater (Penguin Dictionary of Saints), Gregory of Nyssa (335-395) says that the earliest known report of a supernatural appearance



(Continued on page 10)

Which of his brothers suggested that instead of killing him, they should sell Joseph to the passing merchants?

- a) Reuben b) Judah c) Dan

Genesis 37:26-27 NIV



(Continued from page 9)

Saint Mary

of the Blessed Virgin to anyone was of one to Gregory Thaumaturgos (213-270).

The genuineness of these appearances is not official Roman Catholic doctrine. It is perfectly possible to reject all such appearances as delusions, and still be a Roman Catholic in good standing.



Little is known of the life of the Virgin Mary except insofar as it intersects with the life of her Son, and there is an appropriateness in this. The Scriptures record her words to the angel Gabriel, to her kinswoman Elizabeth, to her Son on two occasions. But the only recorded saying of hers to what may be called ordinary, run-of-the-mill hearers is her instruction to the servants at the wedding feast, to whom she says simply, indicating her Son, "Whatever he says to you, do it."

This we may take to be the summation of her message to the world. If we listen to her, she will tell us, "Listen to Him.

Listen to my Son. Do what He tells you." When we see her, we see her pointing to her Son.

If our regard for the Blessed Virgin does not have the immediate effect of turning our attention from her to the One whom she carried in her womb for nine months and suckled at her breast, to the Incarnate God, the Word made flesh, then we may be sure that it is not the kind of regard that she seeks.

A right regard for her will always direct us to Him Who found in her His first earthly dwelling-place.
written by James Kiefer



✠ **Praying for the 1/3 of our world that are still unreached with the Gospel.**

Antankarana



Country: Madagascar | Population: 187,000 | Language: Malagasy, Antankarana | Main Religion: Ethnic Religions | Evangelical: 0.74%

The Antankarana, literally "the people of the rocks," occupy the far northern part of Madagascar, where they are isolated from the southern regions by the Tsaratanana mountain range. In the 19th century, while hiding from an enemy people, the Antankarana king made a vow that if his people survived, they would embrace Islam. They still honor this vow today, intermingling Islamic religion with traditional Malagasy customs. Pray for Gospel witnesses to go live and serve among the Antankarana. Pray that they would learn that Jesus is inviting them to find refuge in Him. Pray that the Antankarana would choose to embrace Jesus and vow to follow Him.

Does your life ever feel like it's being pounded and tossed around? Do you feel like you're sinking, with no way of being rescued? Sometimes, it does get that bad, doesn't it. The faithful follower knows not only when to ask for help, but, more importantly, who to ask?



Impetuous Peter ... so quick to want to show his faith and trust in Jesus ... and so equally quick to fall back in fear when the wind intruded. How often we, attempting to live as God's faithful, let the winds of the world make us falter in our trust for the ever-present heavenly mercy? Thankfully, over and over Jesus says, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

"Take heart; it is I.
Do not be afraid."



CHRISTIAN poetry by deborah ann

Matthew 14:27



25 Stories for 25 Years

Clara Perkins

JERICOH DIRECTOR OF
MENTORING, 25 YEARS



"I have met so many students and their families. The way Jericho has always shown support and love to every family, no matter the circumstance, continues to touch my heart. I remember ... when a young man was ready to give up on life, Jericho was there reminding him that God loved him and so did we. After many trips to visit him and consistent support, he realized life was worth living."



✠ Making Sense of God's Guidance Be careful what you see and hear

Up until now we have looked primarily at the responsibility of every believer and Christian leader to develop the ability to discern God's best and to follow faithfully. However, in his first letter to the Church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul describes a gift that enables the recipient to distinguish spirits ([1 Cor. 12:10](#)). How this gift relates to our normal decision-making is an important question to address. Does this gift operate in the arena of just judging doctrine or does it go beyond to other decision-making challenges that believers need to make and where the outcome is important? We need to look at this carefully in Scripture and see how it might relate to us today.

Paul in the context of 1 Corinthians addresses discernment in a focused way because of a serious problem facing this young and growing church. He seems to describe discernment as the capacity to differentiate the Word of God proclaimed by a true prophet from that of a satanic deceiver. There were a myriad of false apostles and prophets that were plaguing the Corinthian church (c.f. [2 Cor. 11](#)) and thus Paul is anxious to guard the church from error. Since the gift mentioned here is also described in [1 Cor. 14:29](#), this kind of spiritual discernment appears to pertain specifically to oral statements or prophetic claims in their meetings.

Paul's mention of this gift or function shows his concern for the protection of the truth in the worship service. Those given the gift of special discernment are expected to help believers separate truth from error. In other words, the operational focus of this gift seems to be on identifying the source of teaching or an influence - whether it is from God or something else. However, Paul does not elaborate beyond the naming of this gift and its primary purpose, so we need to proceed with caution in any wider application.

There are various opinions as to what this gift might look like today. It is thought that the discerning of spirits is a gift or supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to perceive the source of a spiritual manifestation. Some examples that are suggested as illustrations of the outworking of this gift in Scripture include Peter's determination that Cornelius' conversion experience was truly of God, ([Acts 10:30-35](#)), Paul identifying the fortune telling activities of a slave girl as being of the devil ([Acts 16:16-18](#)), and Peter and John's confrontation of the false prophet Simon the Sorcerer ([Acts 8:18-23](#)). If distinguishing spirits is a genuine spiritual gift, then it is not connected to mind reading, psychic phenomena, or the ability to criticize and find fault!

Scripture gives us several clear illustrations of how Satan and lying spirits seek to masquerade as angels of light ([2 Cor. 11:13-14](#)) to deceive God's people. We see a

powerful example of this when Jesus rebukes Peter for denying the need for Jesus to suffer on the cross when we read, "Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men" (Matt 16:23). Jesus discerned that behind Peter there was another

influence at work which was not from God. What a shocking statement that must have been to well-intentioned Peter! This was coming from a close disciple of Jesus but serves as a sober reminder that behind our statements or advice, there may be another influence and thus the need for careful discernment and testing of truth. Today as well, it seems clear that men and women with the gift of discernment are needed to distinguish between words, deeds or even appearances (angel of light) that may seem true but in reality, are false. We need help in exposing deceptions and imitations that otherwise we would accept as genuine.



(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Ordinary or Extraordinary?

Tim Challies in his book on *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment* (2007) asserts that the gift of discernment is given today to protect believers and to protect the local church. Challies goes on to suggest that in addition to the role of separating truth from error, this gift helps to identify the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, identify worldliness, decide disputes, and oversee the exercise of spiritual gifts ensuring that they are done in a way that will bring honor to God and serve other believers. They can see when the use of gifts is inconsistent with Scripture. Beyond that, however, Challies states, “A person with the gift of discernment can assist others in seeking and finding the will of God. This must be done in a way that is consistent with biblical principles...” (p. 135).

Sadly, if the gift of discernment of spirits was available to some of the believers in Corinth, it didn't seem to be working very well! There seemed to be a real lack of discernment in the church's practices and behavior. Despite having multiple spiritual gifts including distinguishing spirits, Paul ends his exhortation about gifts with the stinging rebuke of, “Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.” (1 Cor. 14:20).

Therefore, care needs to be exercised in claiming to know God's will in a situation based on the supposed possession of this spiritual gift. It would be great to be able to go to a “Christian guide” reportedly with this gift and find out what decision or future action you should take! In Israel's time, the High Priest would wear the Urim and Thummim on his breast plate which would serve as a divination tool for discerning God's direction in a situation. But Scripture cautions us about putting aside our minds, collective wisdom, clear biblical teaching and accepting whatever is offered as “God's will.” At the same time, many of us in difficult meetings have seen how a person can suddenly share a breakthrough idea or conclusion that really seems to be divine wisdom for the decision. We'll look later in more detail at the interaction of personal responsibility with the working of the Holy Spirit in decision-making.

Perhaps we need to keep in mind that Scripture describes two other important spiritual gifts that may feed into our decision-making or guidance for a situation, namely the gift of wisdom and knowledge. According to Robert Clinton, the word of wisdom gift refers to the ability to know the mind of the Spirit in each situation, and to clearly communicate the situation, facts, truth, or application of the facts and truth to meet the needs of the situation. The central thrust of the gift of wisdom then would be applying revelatory information. (*The Making of a Leader*, 1988, p.78).

While as individuals or as communities of believers when searching for God's guidance on important questions or issues we can greatly benefit from those with special spiritual gifts or insights, it still does not obviate the need for us to be fully engaged as well in discerning God's best for us. Recall for a moment the critical debate in Acts 15 when so much was at stake for the future expansion of the church among the Gentiles. Input was shared from key parties and a lively debate ensued. In the end it was James who sought to synthesize and summarize opinions into a final decision. His recommendation not only considered the strong assertions of Paul, Barnabas and Peter but looked for confirmation from Scripture as well. In the end, James carefully offered a conclusion in the language of, “It is my judgment, therefore...” (Acts 15:19). Peter's word of wisdom was accepted by all and enabled church leaders to move in unity in fulfilling the Great Commission to disciple the nations.

Later, James, the leader of the Jerusalem church, offered a helpful word of advice in discerning the true from the false, the genuine from the fake when he said, “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” (James 3:17). In other words, if the so-called wisdom being offered doesn't bear these characteristics, then it is highly suspect and best to challenge.

- Dan Bacon





EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

† Rector Search Process Update

Please mark your calendars. Our Diocesan Transition Minister Amber Page Gehr will be visiting us on **Sunday, August 27th**. We will have **one service at 9 am**, followed by a presentation in the sanctuary outlining the transition process and rector search. Coffee will follow.

† Saints of God

Thursday, August 10th

Laurence of Rome

Deacon, and Martyr at Rome, 258

Laurence (or Lawrence) was chief of the seven deacons of the congregation at Rome, the seven men who, like Stephen and his companions (Acts 6:1-6), were in charge of administering the church budget, particularly with regard to the care of the poor. In 257, the emperor Valerian began a persecution aimed chiefly at the clergy and the laity of the upper classes. All Church property was confiscated and meetings of Christians were forbidden. The bishop of Rome, Sixtus II, and most of his clergy were executed on August 7, 258, and Laurence on the 10th. This much from the near-contemporary records of the Church. The accounts recorded about a century later by Ambrose and the poet Prudentius say that, as Sixtus was being led to his death, Laurence followed him, saying, "Will you go to heaven and leave me behind?" and that the bishop replied, "Be comforted, you will follow me in three days." They go on to say that the Roman prefect, knowing that Laurence was the principal financial officer, promised to set him free if he would surrender the wealth of the Church. Laurence agreed, but said that it would take him three days to gather it. During those three days, he placed all the money at his disposal in the hands of trustworthy

stewards, and then assembled the sick, the aged, and the poor, the widows and orphans of the congregation, presented them to the prefect, and said, "These are the treasures of the Church." The enraged prefect ordered him to be roasted alive on a gridiron. Laurence bore the torture with great calmness, saying to his executioners at one time, "You may turn me over; I am done on this side." The spectacle of his courage made a great impression on the people of Rome, and made many converts, while greatly reducing among pagans the belief that Christianity was a socially undesirable movement that should be stamped out.

The Emperor Constantine erected a shrine and basilica over Laurence's tomb in a catacomb on the Via Tiburtina. The present Church of St. Laurence Outside the Walls, a beautiful double basilica (damaged in World War II), includes a choir and sanctuary erected by Pope Pelagius II (579-590) and a nave by Pope Honorius III (1216-1227).

Laurence is the subject of a small round glass medallion, probably dating from the fourth century, now in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. It bears the simple inscription, "Live with Christ and Laurence."

The Greek word from which we derive our English word "martyr" simply means "witness;" in the age of the persecutions, before Constantine recognized the Church early in the fourth century, a "martyr" came to be generally understood, as it is to this day, as one who had witnessed even to death. For Laurence, as for all the martyrs, to die for Christ was to live with Christ.





✝ Thank You, Joe!

The past two weeks, Joe Bernardo has been methodically and painstakingly resealing our parking lot. While dodging rain storms and oppressive heat, Joe is completing a project long overdue and that will lengthen the life of our lot by many years.

St. Paul's Barn Repair Fundraiser

Hello from Robert Lacroix a member of BSA Troop 5, sponsored by St. Pauls. I'm working towards my Eagle Scout Rank. My service project involves a refurbishment of the "barn" on the church property. The project has been approved by the Property Committee, the Troop Committee, and the Scout Council.

My Leadership will involve all volunteer scouts and adult helpers. I'm soliciting equipment and materials from local merchants.

Additionally, I will need \$2,000 for other expenses and I am asking for parishioners assistance. Cash or checks made out to "St. Paul's Eagle Project" in memo line would be appreciated.

Please keep an eye out on the barn over the next few months as we make progress. Thank you.



Holy Land Revisited

✠ The Jesus Boat ✡

In desert country life, a drought is as much a part of living as dying. The desert is a harsh place, especially in biblical times when those in Galilee depended on fishing to survive. A drought almost always brought bad times, even death.

Late in January 1986, during one such drought, between the ancient harbors of Gennesar and Magdala, local residents (ironically fisherman brothers like Peter and Andrew) made the chance discovery of a boat's oval outline in the muddy lake bed. Word spread like wildfire. In less than two weeks, local newspapers were announcing discovery of "the Jesus Boat!"

Archaeologists, called to examine the still unexcavated vessel, announced it was the first ancient ship ever found in the Sea of Galilee. They suggested that it was built and used between 100 B.C. and 100 A.D. - the time of Jesus of Nazareth!

Marathon, round-the-clock excavations ensued, racing against both the now-rising waters of the Sea of Galilee and treasure seekers. The archaeologists even invented new

techniques of excavation and preservation as they went along. Just before the site was flooded, the almost completely intact hull was fully excavated, encased in polyurethane, and floated to shore for further study and conservation.

The boat is almost 27 feet long, just shy of eight feet wide, and roughly four and a half feet high. It was probably of the Sea

of Galilee's largest class of ships. Fore and aft sections were most likely decked and it had a mast, meaning it could be both sailed and rowed depending on the weather.

Evidence of repeated repairs suggests the boat had a long life. Studies of ancient ships suggest this vessel had a crew of five (four rowers and a helmsman). The ancient Jewish historian Josephus Flavius referred to such ships holding 15 people. Skeletal remains from Galilee during this period indicate males averaged five feet, five inches tall, and weighed roughly 140 pounds. Fifteen such men could easily fit into this vessel. So that begs the question: did Jesus and His 12 men sail together in this boat?

The Galilee boat dates to the general time of Jesus' ministry. It was the type used by Jesus and the Twelve, and large enough to hold 13 men. It could have been in use at the same time He sailed the sea here, but Jesus cannot be connected to this particular boat with any degree of certainty. Still, it does help us visualize daily life in Galilee, daily life as Jesus knew it.

Today, you can see the Jesus Boat at the Yigal Alon Center (operated by the Kibbutz

(Continued on page 17)



Here's our group visiting the Jesus Boat in 2013.

(Continued from page 16)

Jesus Boat

Ginosar), on the western shore of the Sea of Tiberius. It's something you should not miss. You'll be treated to a fascinating video about the boat's history, discovery, and journey to the museum. The gift shop has some amazing items related to the boat's history as well. If you exit at the rear of the museum, you'll be greeted by the Sea of Galilee. Use this once in a lifetime opportunity to take a boat ride on the same lake that Peter and his friends fished, and where the Jesus Boat sailed so many years ago.



It's all rather surreal when it sinks in that these men really lived here, droughts and storms and all, and used a boat just like the Jesus Boat. Perhaps the other amazing part of this story is how a drought gave life, maybe for the first time ever, to a kibbutz and their two fishermen, Moshe and Yuval. Peter and Andrew would most likely approve!

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.



- Romans 10:9-10

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

† **Start Spreading the News!**



EVANGELISM:

Sharing Christ With Others

“If the apostles reminded even Paul himself to remember the poor (Galatians 2:10), then surely the rest of us need such a reminder.”

- Russell Moore, *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*

Our next trip to the Holy Land is in May of 2024! We leave on April 30th for a two-week journey into our faith. Watch future *Sword Points* for more info.

† Ladies Evening Bible Study

During the summer the Wednesday evening women's Bible study is doing a new thing, which is open to everyone!
We are doing a 15-minutes-a-day Bible study on the Psalms! The challenge is to read and meditate on ONE psalm a day (15 mins.). A good routine for our spiritual health, right? Here is a list of the psalms and the weekday reading dates:

Aug 9-15 - Psalms 146-150

Set aside 15 minutes during each week day to read one psalm.

Have pen and paper ready to write your

answers to two questions

Pray: Ask God to teach you about who He is and how to apply His Word to your life.

Read the psalm for the day (You might read a short psalm several times or you might not finish a longer psalm in 15 minutes.)

Write your answers to two questions:

What does this psalm tell me about who God is (His character, His actions)?

How can I apply this psalm to my life?

Thank God for what He is doing in your life.

When the group meets on the following Wednesday at 7:00 on Zoom, we will read parts of the five psalms and share our answers to the two questions.

Those who are not doing the challenge are still welcome to join the group on Zoom.

As always, feel free to invite a friend!

Contact Carol at cmeadwheeler@hotmail.com or 203-525-0011 for the Zoom link or check the calendar on the church website.

We are considering what we should study in Sept, beginning Sept 13th.



“You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

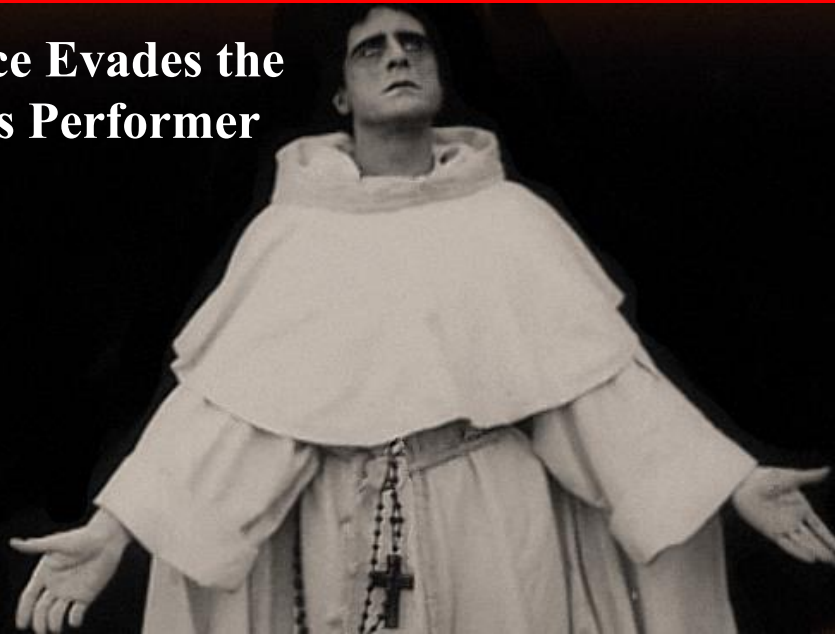
† Recovery & Self-Reflection Group

Every Sunday evening at 7 pm in the Guild Room, Gordy Hiltz is convening a new Recovery & Self-Reflection group. It will be a

"fellowship meeting for those who are looking to make amends with past decisions by reflecting on where we've been, are now, and would like to be. This will be accomplished using topic guided discussions, increasing self awareness for our day to day actions, with the goal of being a slightly better version of ourselves from who we were the day before each and every day."



Why Peace Evades the Religious Performer



There seem to be many in our day who are seeking God. Yet they appear to be but feeling “after Him,” in order to “find Him,” as if He were either a distant or an “unknown God.” They forget that He is “not far from every one of us,” for “in Him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:23, 27-28).

That He is not far, that He has come down, that He has come near - this is the “beginning of the Gospel” (Mark 1:1). It sets aside the vain thoughts of those who think that they must bring Him near by their prayers and devout performances. He has shown Himself to us that we may know Him, and in knowing Him find the life of our souls.

With some who call themselves Christians, religion is a very unfinished thing. It drags heavily and is not satisfactory, either to the religious performers of it or to the onlookers. There is no substance in it and no comfort. There is earnestness perhaps, but there is no “peace with God” (Romans 5:1), and so there is not even the root or foundation of that which God calls “religion.” It needs to begin over again (John 3:3).

Acceptance with God lies at the foundation of all religion, for there must be an accepted worshipper before there can be acceptable worship. Religion is, with many, merely the means of averting God’s displeasure and securing His favor. It is often irksome, but they do not feel easy in neglecting it; and they hope that by it they may obtain forgiveness before they die.

This, however, is the inversion of God’s order, and is in reality the worship of an unknown God. It terminates in forgiveness; whereas God’s religion begins with it. All false religions, though outwardly differing very widely, are made up of earnest efforts to secure for the religionists the divine favor now, and eternal life at last.

The one true religion is seen in the holy life of those who, having found for themselves forgiveness and favor in believing the record that God has given of His Son, are walking with Him from day to day in the calm but sure consciousness of being entirely accepted, and working for Him with the happy earnestness of those whose reward is His constant smile of love. These, having been much forgiven, love much and show, by daily sacrifice and service, how much they feel themselves debtors to a redeeming God, debtors to His Church, and debtors to the world in which they live (Romans 1:14).

But if this be true religion, how much is there of the false?

It is not good that men should be all their life seeking God and never finding Him, that they should be “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7). It is not good to be always doubting - and when challenged, to make the untrue excuse that they are only doubting themselves, not God; that they are only

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

Why Peace Evades

dissatisfied with their own faith, but not with its glorious object.

It is not good to believe in our own faith, still less in our own doubts, as some seem to do, making the best doubter to be the best believer - as if it were the gold of the cup, not the living water which it contains, that was to quench our thirst; and as if it were unlawful to take that precious water from a poor earthen vessel, such as our imperfect faith must ever be!

In this momentous thing, surely it is with the water, and not with the vessel, that the thirsty soul has to do. It is not the quality of the vessel, but the quality of the water, that the thirsty soul thinks of. He, whose pride will not allow him to drink out of a soiled or broken pitcher, must die of thirst. So he who puts away the sure reconciliation of the cross because of an imperfect faith, must die the death. He who says, "I believe the right thing, but I don't believe it in the right way, and therefore I can't have peace," is the man whose pride is such that he is determined not to quench his thirst save out of a cup of gold!

Some have tried to give directions to sinners about "how to get converted," multiplying words without wisdom (Job 35:16), leading the sinner away from the cross by setting him upon doing, not upon believing. Our business is not to give any such directions, but, as the apostles did, to preach Christ crucified, a present Savior and a present salvation. Then it is that sinners are converted, as the Lord Himself said, "I, if I be lifted up...will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).
- Horatius Bonar (1808 – 1889).



Heart to Hands

Dear Parish Family,

I wanted to you remind you that the ministry "Hearts to Hands" is still alive and active.

Although there have not been any announcements for needs lately, it is primarily because you, as parish family members, have reached out to individuals knowing what their needs are and have stepped in. This is what original intent of "Hearts to Hands" - to make individuals feel comfortable in sharing what need they have and fellow members becoming aware and helping.

However, as a ministry, we're still here to help you...to be that first point of contact. This ministry focuses on the needs of our church family members. We have our ministry "Beyond the Red Door" that can help others but we also need to support each other within as needed. Following is a list of some needs previously provided but we are not limited to these. To help others, the ministry seeks others who may specialize in a field. Note that any financial support requests are required to be brought to the Wardens for approval. Requests are confidential but of course, if support is needed from the greater congregation it will need to be communicated to get that support.

- Drive to/from doctors appointments
- Yard clean-up for elderly/handicapped
- Meal provision after tragedy or surgery
- Guidance/assistance for moving – i.e., help with tag sale, finding home, listing items on website to sell

If you have a need, please contact Dorothy Crocker via text 860-488-1982 or leave a voice mail message.





Parish Picnic

End of Summer

September 3rd

Noon



Who: You

What: Parish Picnic

When: Sunday September 3rd, noon

Where: Ed & Joanne Siergiej on Candlewood Lake; 62A Forty Acre Mountain Road, Danbury.

St. Paul's will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. Everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish / salad / dessert to share. Maps will be provided Sunday morning. The forecast is good. Swimming / boating also!



† Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Study is in "Summer Session" gathering to discuss the appropriate daily devotion from *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers. .

Zoom is available and all ladies are invited. They meet every Tuesday at 9:30 in Crocker Hall or by Zoom. Contact Mary Beth Durkin durkin.mb@gmail.com for the Zoom link and further information.



† Wednesday Service Growing in Popularity

Our mid-week Wednesday morning 10 am Holy Eucharist with healing prayer has been growing consistently. With live music and a brief homily, this service is just what you need to sustain you through the week. Come join us and check it out or watch on YouTube Live.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Aug 13th	8 am	- Thomas's	10:30 am	- Jack Collins
Aug 20th	8 am	- Roginski's	10:30 am	- Heidi Duckett
Aug 27th		9 am	- Jim Miller / Nancy Rekart	



Contact Mary Allen at
203-775-6633 or
chamla@charter.net



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



August 13, 2023 – Pentecost 11 (A)
Jonathan Daniels

Jonathan Daniels' name resonates as one of the civil rights heroes and martyrs of our time. Giving his life at the early age of 26, Jonathan Daniels dedicated himself completely to his work, both inside and outside of The Episcopal church.

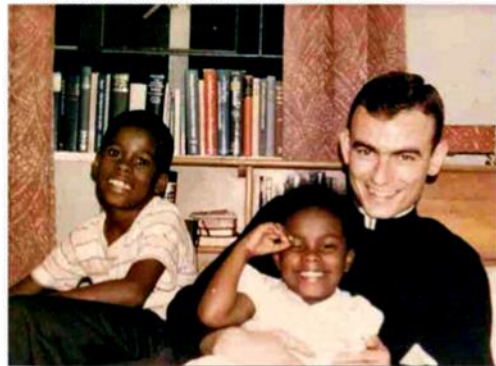
Born March 20th, 1939 in Keene, New Hampshire, Daniels grew up devoutly religious. Drawn to the rich system of traditions and rituals, Daniels became a practicing Episcopalian early in his life. This same desire for tradition, order, and organization led him to attend the Virginia Military Institute where he eventually graduated as valedictorian of the class of 1961. A fellowship that would finance his graduate studies then led him to Harvard University's English literature department. Not long after entering Harvard, Daniels discovered that his true calling was for ministry, so he left to pursue the priesthood.

Less than a year later, Daniels began his studies at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the epicenter of a world of social activism. Meanwhile, the southern portion of the United States found itself in the midst of chaos with protests, killings, and racism running rampant. Minister and activist Martin Luther King, Jr. called upon northern clergy to go to Selma, Alabama, one location experiencing some of the worst of these atrocities.

Jonathan Daniels decided to answer this call and moved to Selma, Alabama in the early 1960s. His time there changed his life forever. He became passionate about civil rights work and was involved in as many ways as he could.

In August of 1965, he participated in a voters' rights demonstration in Fort Deposit, Alabama where authorities arrested him. On Friday, August 20th, 1965, he was released from the county jail without warning and without bail. Daniels and other released activists walked across the street to buy soda at the corner store. Thomas Coleman, local and volunteer deputy sheriff, blocked their way and ordered them off the property while wielding a shotgun. He aimed his gun at 17-year-old Ruby Sales, an African-American activist. Daniels instinctively pulled her back and stepped into the line of fire, dying instantly but saving Ruby's life. Coleman stood before an all-white jury facing charges of manslaughter, not murder, and was acquitted of all charges.

While Jonathan Daniels' life was cut dramatically short by an act of violence, his heroic legacy of selflessness and compassion lives on in schools, history, and the Church, even today. The Episcopal Church made Jonathan Daniels an official martyr of the church and added him to the Lesser Feasts and Fasts calendar of commemorations in 1994, designating August 14th, the day of his arrest, for his feast.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ray James and Kathy Baird celebrate today. Dot Crocker opens presents on Saturday. Bake a cake for Judith Howes on Sunday. Amy Tilford blows out candles on Monday. Ron Streaman is a year older and wiser on Tuesday. Have a blessed day everyone!



RFB

Presents

**COFFEE
WITH
JESUS**



Barely hanging on
over here, Jesus!



Stormy, isn't it?
Whaddaya say
we walk on water?

**Walk
on Water**



But the wind!
And the waves!



Hey! Eyes on me, Kevin.



©Radio Free Babylon™ All rights reserved. We all know the story. Peter got his eyes off of Jesus and started to sink. And the same story has been repeated in every person who has ever sought to follow him. We lose sight. We see the storm, and not the one who commands the storm. We could be so much better. We could realize crazy dreams. We could walk on water if we kept our eyes on him. Easily said, so hard to do. We are of little faith. We doubt. Lord save us. (Matt 14: 22-33)

✠ How to Stay Focused on Christ

by Mari-Anna Stålnacke @flowingfaith

Fear comes in waves.
Does summer for you mean living without routines? I love it. We truly need to break routines once in awhile. But the fact is living without routines can be disastrous. Also for our spiritual well-being. Routines help us stay focused on the right things.

While on vacation we might forget to keep our daily date with God. For a few days it does not matter that much. God does not move anywhere. Grace is valid even when we do not focus on it. But after a few days without being filled with the Spirit, doubts and fears start to creep in us. And that's when all kinds of troubles start. Just ask Peter.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid." Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come ahead." Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!" Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-hearted, what got into you?" The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!" (Matthew 14:25-33, MSG, emphasis added,)*

Peter was the first one to step out of the boat and walking in faith on the water toward Jesus. And he was doing great until he looked elsewhere. Fear does come in waves. When Peter lost his focus on Jesus, he became full of doubts and started to sink. Blessedly Jesus was right there for him to reach out and catch him. The same way when we lose our focus on Jesus, we become full of doubts and start to sink. Blessedly Jesus is right there for us to reach out and catch us.

As we look for Jesus Christ to be our guide in life we are doing great. If we focus on God, we won't sink. If we focus on God, we will walk in faith. But the moment we start looking elsewhere for answers we start sinking in. The moment we get distracted, doubts and fear start creeping in.

What to do then? How can I stay focused on Christ in summer? Enjoy your vacation. Enjoy your routine-less existence. But don't forget God. Don't forget prayer. Don't forget centering on God. Don't forget reading your Bible. Even just a few verses will get you refocused on Jesus. And your doubts and fears are kicked out of your heart and mind. "Take a courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." This is what the blessed existence is all about: being free, fearless and focused on Christ.

Dear God,
We so need you.
Forgive us for getting distracted with minor things.
Enable us to stay focused on you.
That is the only way to the blessed existence.
Keep us free, fearless and focused on you.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Q4U: How do you stay focused on Christ?

Be blessed, my fellow pilgrim, as you embrace the blessed existence with Christ!





SUNDAY SCHOOL classes will resume in September.

"GOOD NEWS: Thanks to a volunteer, there will be nursery care for children age 4 and under for Sundays August 13, 20, and 27. The caregiver will bring children to their parent or guardian before the start of Communion. Questions: Ask Julie Astbury.



BROTHERS MCCLURG w/ GUEST PATRICK O'CONNORS

September 15, 2023 | 7:30 P.M.

\$15 tickets adv. | \$20 at door

www.communitycoffeehouse.org



Community Coffeehouse | 7 Madison Ave. | Danbury, CT 06810 | (203) 748-4972

† This Sunday's Readings

(Click on the red links for the readings)

Walking on Water

[Genesis 37:14, 12-28](#)

In our Hebrew Bible story, Israel, once called Jacob, has settled in the land of Canaan. He sends his youngest and favorite son Joseph to assist his older brothers shepherding the flock in Dotham. Joseph's older brothers despise him out of jealousy and at first conspire to murder him, though in the end they sell Joseph to Midianite traders who carry him off in slavery to Egypt. Joseph will one day see God's providential hand in these actions, and ways in which evil may be turned to good.

[Psalm 105, 1-6, 16-22, 45b](#)

A hymn of praise celebrating God's forming of a people through the generations.

[Romans 10:5-15](#)

In this lesson Paul teaches that the word of faith is a gift; by it we make our saving confession that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. Without God's grace the way of righteousness would be impossibly distant. But the faith that leads to righteousness is in our hearts and the confession of salvation is on our lips. This is true for all people, no matter what their background, and so it is essential that the Good News be carried far and wide, that all may call upon the name of the Lord.

[Matthew 14:22-33](#)

The gospel is the story of Jesus' walking on the water and his rescue of Peter after his faith fails him. The narrative has several levels of meaning. In legendary terms Jesus is like the Creator God who strides over the watery chaos monster. Matthew's gospel stresses this revelation of Jesus' close relationship with God, as God's Son, and the importance of faith on the part of the disciples. A church beset by its own problems and lack of faith would be glad to perceive in this story the saving presence of its risen Lord.

[Matthew 14:22-33](#)

Walking on the sea is not an idle, capricious, magic trick. After spending time alone in prayer, Jesus has stepped out onto the back of a chaotic and dangerous spirit to go and be with his friends.

"...IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT **JESUS IS LORD** AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT **GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD...**"



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES



ISN'T THIS JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE? LIKE THE **SUNRISE?** LIKE **GRAVITY?**



YES



THEOLOGY IS BOTH **EASIER** AND **HARDER** THAN I EXPECTED.



ROMANS 10:5-15

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† Sermon Shorts

The Transfiguration, Yet Again!. To replay all our sermons, audio and videos follow this link for the [Sunday Sermons](#). Check out our [Sermon Archives](#) as well.



† 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. We are the ark of the church, at times storm-tossed and frightened. Let us cry out in faith for our own needs and the needs of the world, saying: "Lord, save us," as we pray for:

.....Joe Hock, Harlan Jessup, Jan Brochu, Ed Licence and other parishioners convalescing in extended care facilities.

.....Fresh expressions of the church in Connecticut; missional experiments.

.....Revival at St. Paul's and the greater Danbury area.

.....Church musicians: organists; choirs and choir directors; bands; community chorister programs; parish and diocesan committees oo liturgy, music and worship.

.....Clayton Ferry, Barbara Hock, Jim Megura, Peter Scalzo, Jr., Gail, Doris, Karen, Beverly Hall, Robert, Eve, Roger, Barbara, Fred, Cynthia, Arlene, David Williams, Heidi Pinheiro, Donna, Denny, Dale Mitchell, Larry Wanzer, Joe, Ruth, Jayne, Ken, Mark Baird, and Veronika continued healing.

.....the people of [Ukraine](#); the people of the [Kingdom of Norway](#); the people of [China](#); the bishop, clergy and laity of the Diocese of Winchester - The Church of England (Canterbury Province); and our sister and brother members of the [African Methodist](#)

[Episcopal Church](#).

.....That those caught in addictions of mind or body, for those who feel powerless and sink ever deeper into despair.

.....[Victory Christian Center](#), Danbury and their [Food Pantry](#), which is the recipient of our food basket collections for the month of August.

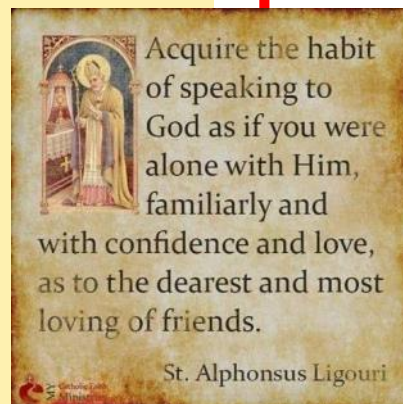
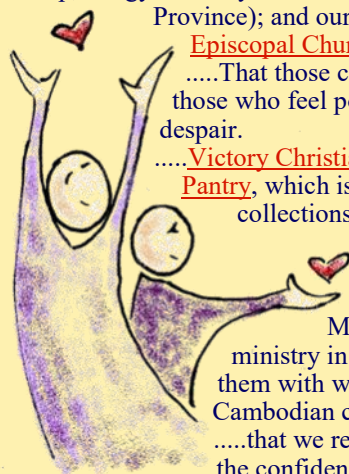
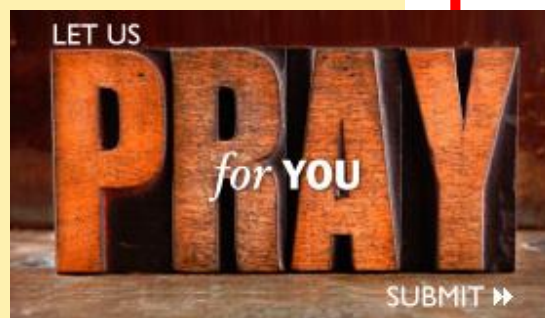
.....Wilton Baptist Church, a partner church of the Jericho Partnership.

.....Our missionaries, Will & Becky McLaughlin and their family, and their ministry in Cambodia; the Holy Spirit will provide them with words that communicate effectively in the Cambodian culture and language.

.....that we respond obediently to God's call and have the confidence to walk on water.

.....The one third of humanity that does not have access to the gospel, for zealous preachers of the word, that by the Holy Spirit, they open the ears of their hearers to the good news of salvation and their eyes to the loveliness of God's wisdom.

.....[Monastic Orders and Vocations](#).



The Installation of Fr. Joseph Shepley



The Installation of Fr. Joseph Shepley

Good evening! Welco...
Scheduled to broadca...

Broadcast starts
Saturday, August
12th at 4:40 pm.



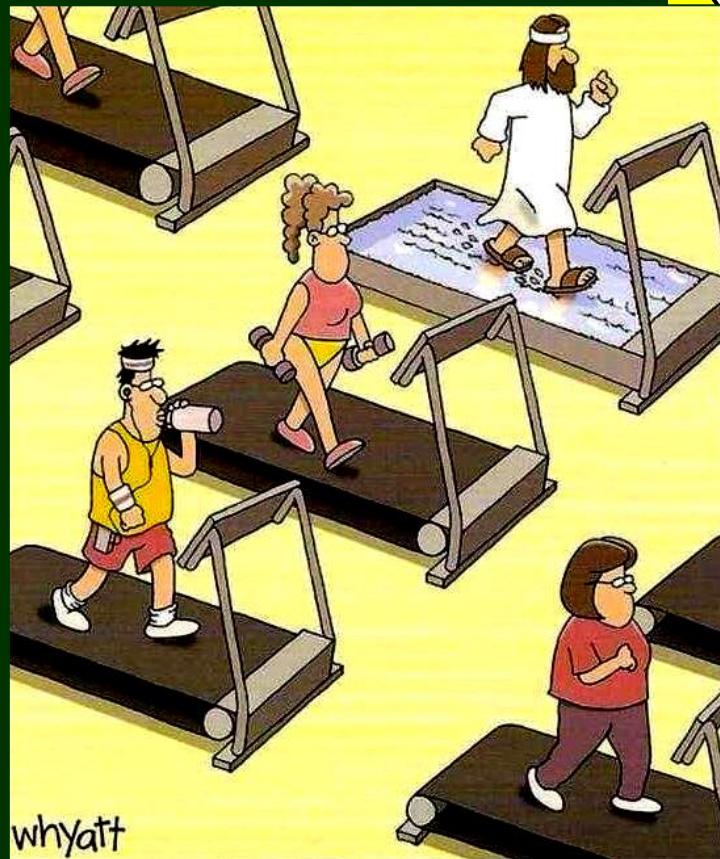


Just For the Joy of It!

(And Christian Fellowship)

Random Fact of the Week!

Did you know ... that the weather forecast for exoplanet [HD 189733 b](#) (pictured) is "Westerly winds at 5,400 mph, with molten glass showers"?



† It Takes An Editorial Board Contributors to Sword Points:



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Chuck Allen, Dan Bacon, Dot Crocker, Mary Beth Durkin, Gordy Hiltz, Pam Koniecki, Jim Miller, Mary Perry, Kirsten Peterson, John Sarver, Bill Schrull, Diane Simone, Pam Szen, David Szen, Carol Wheeler, Don Winkley.

Ecclesiasticus 43:27 - We could say more but could never say enough; let the final word be: 'He is the all.' - 30 -