

*Transforming
Lives Through
Jesus Christ*

SWORD POINTS

August 28, 2025

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

(203) 775-9587



Join Us Sunday!

. One Service at 10 am

. Parish Picnic



✠ Altar Dedication / Cookout

This Sunday, August 31st, we are holding one Sunday outdoor service at 10 am. We will be dedicating our outdoor chapel area and the use of our old rectory cornerstone* converted into an altar.

Following the outdoor single service on August 31st, we'll have an end of summer parish barbeque. So bring your favorite lawn chair and prepare to worship and celebrate with us.



* The cornerstone, which sat neglected for more than 50 years, came from our old rectory that was located on Long Meadow Hill Road. The rectory built in 1879 was sold in 1970. The cornerstone is

engraved "St. Paul's Rectory" across the front and has the date 1879 on the left side.



One Service & Parish Cookout

This Sunday, August 31st

10:00 am



Who: You.

What: End of Summer celebration, and dedication of our outdoor worship space.

When: Sunday August 31st, 10 am

Where: Our meadow behind the church.

St. Paul's will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. Everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish / salad / dessert to share. Bring a lawn chair and dress comfortably.

back2school prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to *see* new friends.

Open my ears to *hear* my teacher.

Open my mind to *learn* new things.

Let my heart *remember* YOU are near
when I'm afraid.

Help me to *love* others like you do.

I want to *shine* your light so bright in my school."

© Courtney DeFeo

Amen.



EVANGELISM:

Sharing Christ With Others

† **Start Spreading
the News!**

“If you alter or obscure the Biblical portrait of God in order to attract converts, you don't get converts to God, you get converts to an illusion. This is not evangelism, but deception.”

John Piper



† This Week at St. Paul's

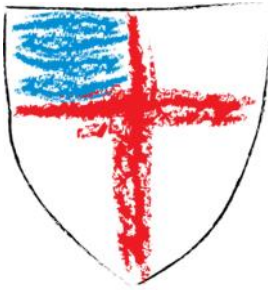
- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| Thu, Aug 28 | - 9:30 am | - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room |
| Sat, Aug 30 | - 7:30 am | - <u>John 21:12</u> Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, Bridgewater |
| | - 8:00 am | - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall |
| Sun, Aug 31 | | The 12th Sunday after Pentecost |
| | -10:00 am | - Outdoor Dedication of Altar & Holy Communion
<i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| | 11:30 am | - Parish Picnic, Meadow |
| Tues, Sep 2 | - 9:30 am | - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room |
| | - 7:00 pm | - Scout Troop #5, Meadow |
| Wed, Sep 3 | -10:00 am | - Holy Communion & Healing <i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| | 11 to Noon | - Drive-Thru Food Collection #141 |
| | 11:30 am | - Summer Reading Group, Guild Room |
| | - 7:00 pm | - Ladies Evening Zoom Bible Study <i>(Zoom)</i> |
| Thu, Sep 4 | - 9:30 am | - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room |
| | - 7:30 pm | - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| | - 7:30 pm | - Property Committee, Guild Room |
| Fri, Sep 5 | -10:00 am | - St. Paul's Walking Group, Brookfield Greenway |
| Sat, Sep 6 | - 7:30 am | - <u>John 21:12</u> Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford |
| | - 8:00 am | - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall |
| Sun, Sep 7 | | The 13th Sunday after Pentecost |
| | | "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday" |
| | - 8:00 am | - Traditional Holy Communion <i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| | - 9:30 am | - Town Hall Meeting, Crocker Hall |
| | - 10:30 am | - Blessing of Backpacks & Contemporary Holy Communion
<i>(YouTube Live)</i> |

Check our website daily for schedule updates.



The Priest-in-Charge WEEKLY

Fr. Nate, our Priest-in-Charge is distributing a weekly e-mail to communicate things directly from his desk to yours. **Connection, communication, and care** are among the highest priorities of his new ministry, and he wants to make sure there are regular touch points between us. If you would like to receive "*The Priest-in-Charge Weekly*" and **already receive weekly e-mails from St. Paul's**, you don't have to do anything - you're already included on the list! If you would like to receive "*The Priest-in-Charge Weekly*" and **DO NOT receive weekly e-mails from St. Paul's**, or if you want to opt out, write Fr. Nate at priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com and let him know.



† **Ih-pis-kuh-puh l / Dik-shuh-ner-ee**

(Episcopal Dictionary)



† **Fair Linen**

/ ih-liz-uh-bee-thuhn / set-l-muhnt /

Fair Linen - A long white cloth that covers the top of the altar. It typically hangs down some distance over the ends of the altar. The *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) directs that at the eucharist the altar "is spread with a clean white cloth during the celebration" (p. 406). Historically, in the early church, a small table was brought out and put in place for the liturgy of the table. A white cloth was spread on the table at this time. As late as the eighth century, a white cloth was spread upon the holy table during the eucharist by deacons after the liturgy of the word. It is appropriate for the altar cloth to be spread on the altar before the service or at the offertory. It may be embroidered with five crosses, one on each corner and one in the center. References to the fair linen date from the 1552 BCP.





Join us for

Friend SUNDAY

At St. Paul's Church

**September 7, 2025
8 & 10:30 AM**

† Lived Humility

[Jeremiah 2:4-13](#) - [Psalm 81:1, 10-16](#) - [Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16](#) - [Luke 14:1, 7-14](#)

Pride separates while humility connects. Our pride is usually behind our refusal to learn from others. We have all the knowledge, so what could we possibly learn from someone else? It is impossible to teach someone who knows it all until we can demonstrate the person's lack of full knowledge. Of course, those who are proud are often blind even to such a demonstration. The usual result of such an interaction is a pride-driven attack upon the person making the challenge. The division caused by pride is not only between student and instructor, but also between the learner and the knowledge. Only those who have the humility to admit that they do not possess complete knowledge are in the frame of mind necessary to learn.

The problem of pride is that it blinds us to the truth and cripples our ability to learn. Our entire world becomes clothed in our skin or the delusion that our experience is the totality of reality. Only humility opens us to accessing new knowledge and new sources of knowledge.

Pride is also a great divider of people. When we think of ourselves as more important than others, we begin to disregard them. The "humility" of the proud is a practical obsequiousness toward those who will help them become more important. In my pride, I become the fulcrum of the balance that determines who is and who is not important in the world. Like a typical middle-school student, I will eagerly accept the invitation to the party of a "cool kid," but will reject, without any thought, attending that of an unpopular classmate. And how crushed we are when we work hard to be in the circle of friends of a popular student and then do not receive an invitation. All our prejudice is based on our pride.

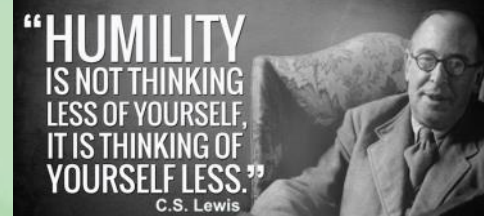
Hospitality is a good antidote for this type of pride. Hospitality is other-centered. When the guests arrive, we seek to serve their needs and make them feel at home. There is no room for pride when we are serving the needs of other people. Jesus practiced a radical form of hospitality when, while we were yet sinners, he died for us so that those who would believe in him might respond and be welcomed by the Father. The offer of salvation through the cross was made to all people without prejudice. Although we do not often think of the cross in terms of hospitality, it really fits the definition.

There is nothing in the definition of hospitality that refers to the worthiness of its recipients. Rather, the generosity, cordiality, offering, and receptivity, and openness of the host are front and center. Here there is a giving of oneself for the good of the guest - invited or a drop-in.

On the cross, Jesus offered us reception into the eternal pleasant and sustaining environment of God's presence. As his offer is universal, so too should be our announcement of his offer. If there is no one that Jesus counted unworthy of his dying on the cross, then there is no one in all creation who is not worthy of being told of the saving grace of God. Our proper response to the cross is not to proudly rejoice that we are in Jesus' circle, but rather to consider ourselves his servants who are sent out to the highways and byways, gated communities and tenements, to indiscriminately distribute the Father's invitations to the wedding banquet.

Look It Up: Jeremiah 2:1-3

Think About It: Pride is declaring your independence from the One who sustains you.
- by The Rev. Dr. Chuck Alley, *The Living Church*, 2025



*Humilitas | Fr.
Lawrence Lew, O.P./
Flickr*

✠ This Date on the Church Calendar

Friday, August 29th

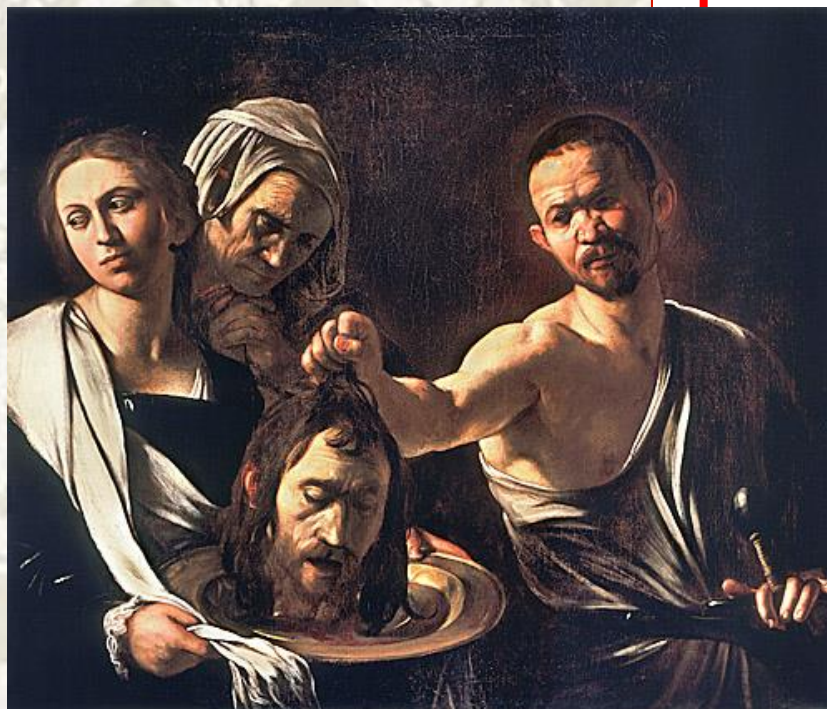
The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist commemorates the martyrdom by beheading of John the Baptist on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of his step-daughter Salome and her mother Herodias.

According to the Synoptic Gospels, Herod, who was tetrarch, or sub-king, of Galilee under the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John the Baptist because he reproved Herod for divorcing his wife (Phasaelis, daughter of King Aretas of Nabataea) and unlawfully taking Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip I. On Herod's birthday, Herodias' daughter (whom Josephus identifies as Salome) danced before the king and his guests. Her dancing pleased Herod so much that in his drunkenness he promised to give her anything she desired, up to half of his kingdom. When Salome asked her mother what she should request, she was told to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Although Herod was appalled by the request, he reluctantly agreed and had John executed in the prison.

The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus also relates in his [*Antiquities of the Jews*](#) that Herod killed John, stating that he did so, "lest the great influence John had over the people might put it into his [John's] power and inclination to raise a rebellion, (for they seemed ready to do any thing he should advise), [so Herod] thought it best [to put] him to death." He further states that many of the Jews believed that the military disaster that fell upon Herod at the hands of Aretas, his father-in-law (Phasaelis' father), was God's punishment for his unrighteous behavior.

None of the sources gives an exact date, which was probably in the years 28–29 AD (Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-27; Luke 9:9) after imprisoning John the Baptist in 27 AD at the behest of Herodias his brother's wife whom he took as his mistress. According to Josephus, the death took place at the fortress of Machaerus in present day Jordan..



Jesus reminds us that the calling of a follower is to take care of those from whom we can expect no reward. His is not an easy task for many of us.

Take note

by Kirsten Peterson, Organist & Choirmaster

Greetings!

Don't forget! This Sunday, August 31st at 10:00 a.m., we'll gather outdoors for a joyful, combined worship service to dedicate our beautiful new outdoor altar - a sacred space built from the cornerstone of our old rectory and stones from our own grounds. .

We're also thrilled to welcome Mark Miller as our guest worship leader. Mark is a gifted musician and deeply faithful worship leader whose music draws people into the heart of God. With roots in both gospel and classical traditions, and a passion for authentic, Spirit-filled worship, Mark's leadership will make this Sunday not just memorable, but meaningful. You won't want to miss it.

Want a preview of one of the songs we'll sing Sunday? Click on the image below.



✠ *Art in the Christian Tradition*

European Field,

by Antony Gormley (born 1950),

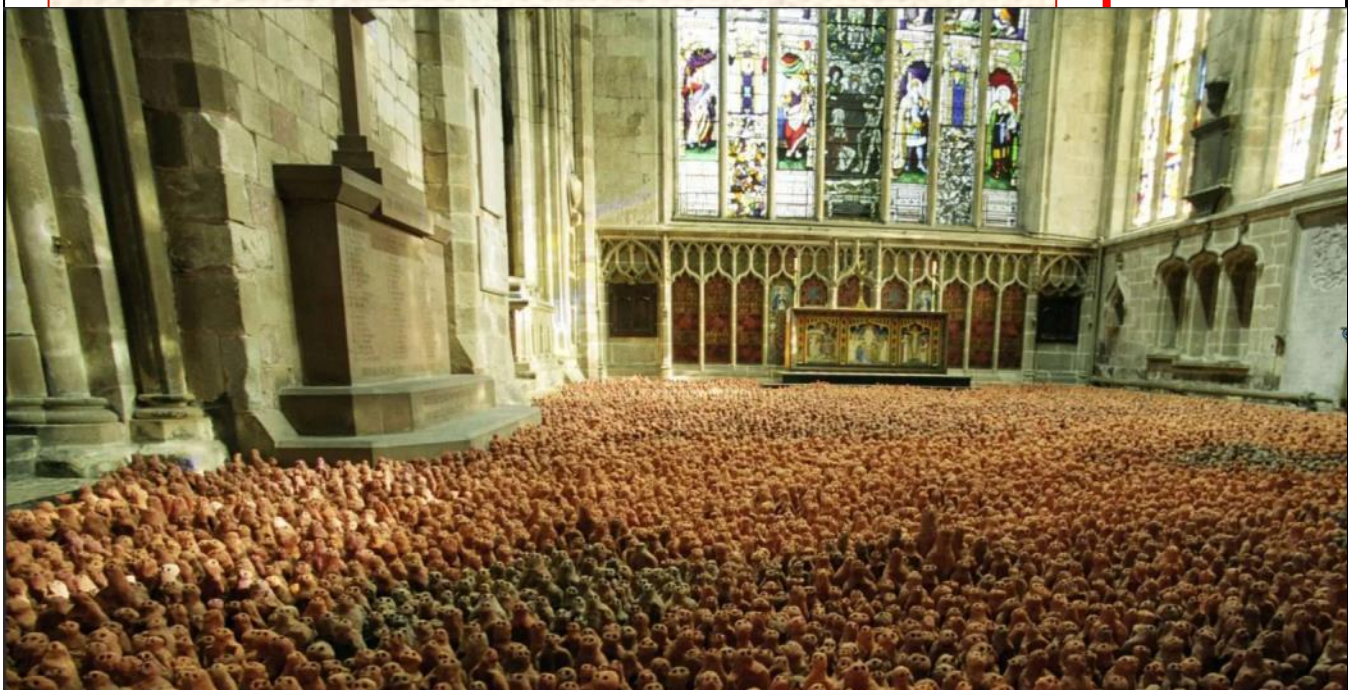
Sculpture installation conceived and made in 1993,
terracotta figures, variable size, approx. 40,000 sculptures, each 8-26 cm high,
installation view inside St Mary's church in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, UK,

© Alamy

Humility is at the heart of Sunday's Gospel reading, yet it is a quality that is rarely spoken of in our culture, and often misunderstood when it is. Many associate it with weakness, timidity, or self-effacement, like the image of a 'shrinking violet' hiding away, reluctant to step forward. But this is a distortion of true humility. The word itself comes from the Latin *humus*, meaning earth or ground, and at its core, humility is about being grounded. It is the virtue of recognizing the truth about ourselves and the truth about others. A humble person knows their gifts and talents, yet sees them as blessings from God, responding with gratitude rather than self-congratulation. A humble person is also aware of their shortcomings.

Mary is the supreme example of humility. In the opening lines of her Magnificat, she proclaims, 'My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for the Almighty has done great things for me.' She recognizes that she is richly blessed, but she makes it clear that this is entirely God's doing. Mary does not diminish herself, nor does she exaggerate her importance. She simply tells the truth about her life: acknowledging the marvels God has worked in her, and directing all glory back to Him. True humility, then, is neither denial of our worth nor inflation of it.

In 1993, Antony Gormley created *European Field*, an installation of 40,000 small terracotta figures, each hand-molded by volunteers, which filled the interior of St Mary's Church in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. The figures, made from simple clay, stand shoulder to shoulder, each one unique yet part of a vast community. Their material, *terra-cotta* (literally "fired earth," fired *humus*) speaks to the words of Genesis: that we are formed from the dust of the ground, uniquely shaped by the hands of God. Gormley's work becomes a quiet meditation on our shared humanity and individuality, a reminder that, despite our differences, we share the same humble origin. In this sense, the installation is a visual parable of humility: to be truly "grounded" is to remember that we are all clay in the Potter's hands, our worth coming not from self-importance, but from the God who lovingly formed us.



† Labor Day

My God, Father and Savior, since you have commanded us to work in order to meet our needs, sanctify our labor that it may bring nourishment to our souls as well as to our bodies.

Make us constantly aware that our efforts are worthless unless guided by your light and by your hand.

Make us faithful to the particular tasks for which you have bestowed upon us the necessary gifts, taking from us any envy or jealousy at the vocations of others.

Give us a good heart to supply the needs of the poor, saving us from any desire to exalt ourselves over those who receive our bounty.

And if you should call us into greater poverty than we humanly desire, save us from any spirit of defiance or resentment, but rather let us graciously and humbly receive the bounty of others.

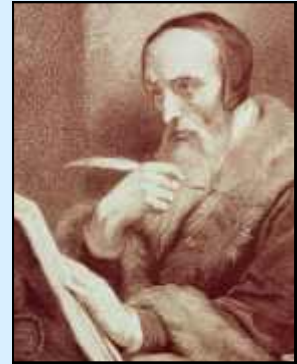
Above all, may every temporal grace be matched by spiritual grace, that in both body and soul we may live to your glory. Amen.

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held their second Labor Day holiday just a year later. In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday - a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor Convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

Although Labor Day is a secular day, a number of organizations and houses of worship express good wishes for the day with prayers.



*Prayer by John Calvin
appropriate for Labor Day*





Blessing of the Backpacks - On Sunday, September 7th at the 10:30 service, there will be a blessing of the backpacks for all students! Students of all ages are encouraged to bring their backpack to the service to receive a special "Back to School" blessing!

✠ **New Adult Class Begins September 14th**

An exciting new adult Christian Formation series starting Sunday, September 14. More than anything

else, Christ came to earth to instill faith in God and trust in his promises. Faith isn't optional - it's the heartbeat of the Christian life. Join us as we explore what faith really is, how it works in everyday life, and how it deepens our walk with God. The Adult Class meets weekly on Sundays between services starting at 9:30 in Guild Room.



Fill in the _____

Do not forget to entertain _____, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:2 NIV



According to the author of Hebrews, we are to keep our lives free from the love of... what?

Hebrews 13:5 NIV

✠ **Transforming Stewardship**

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." Luke 14:13 -14

We have a difficult time with the concept of giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity we often want something in return - a raffle ticket, a dinner, or a chance to play golf. Yet, as Christian stewards we need to remember that the true reward for our giving awaits us in heaven.





✝ Helping Our Neighbors

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 140 food drives since April 22, 2020! Last time we delivered food to the Victory Christian Center in Danbury & their Food Pantry and the Jericho Partnership in Danbury.

Our next food collection, will be Wednesday, September 3rd and will support the St. James' Daily Bread Food Pantry, 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 vehicles and deliver food to the pantries.

Next Drive-Thru Food Collection Wednesday September 3rd



*Help us,
Help others!*

11 am to Noon

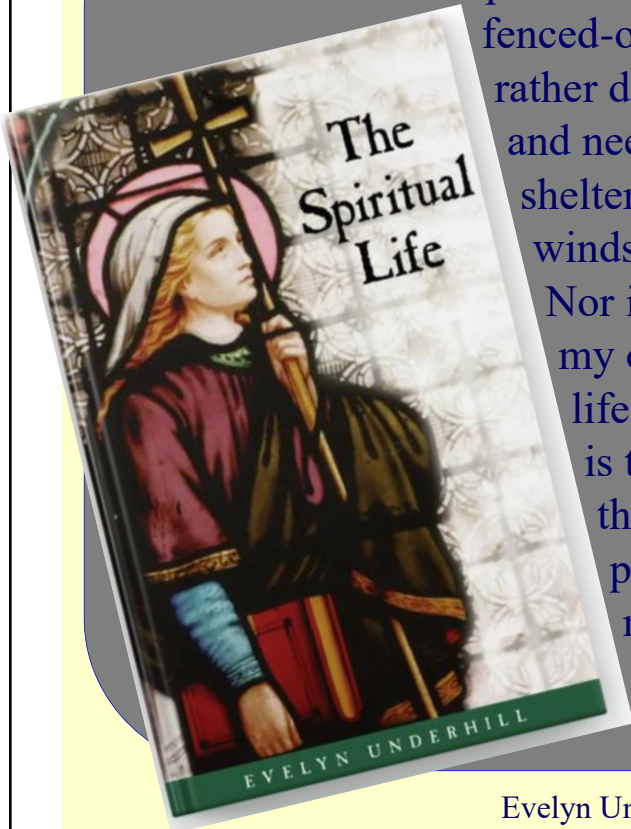
If you would like to request Altar flowers for a particular Sunday in Memory of a friend or loved one, please fill out the flower chart or envelope located in the back of the church or send an email request to dszen@yahoo.com or contact David Szen.



† Thought for Reflection

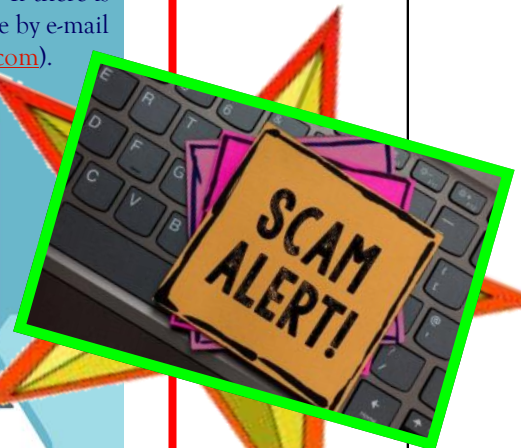
- from Fr. John Morrison

“My spiritual life is not something specialized and intense; a fenced-off devotional patch rather difficult to cultivate, and needing to be sheltered from the cold winds of the outer world. Nor is it an alternative to my outward, practical life. On the contrary, it is the very source of that quality and purpose which makes my practical life worthwhile.



Evelyn Underhill, *The Spiritual Life*, p. 24

Phishing Scams - Don't fall for them! Please do not respond to any message from Fr. Nate or St. Paul's by email or any other method of communication that asks you to purchase something (often a gift card) or asks for a "favor." **Delete these messages, do not reply, do not click links in the messages, mark them as Spam or Junk.** If there is any doubt about the veracity of a text or email, contact Fr. Nate by e-mail at priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com or the office dszen@yahoo.com.



† Saints of God

Thursday, August 28th

Augustine of Hippo,

Bishop & Theologian, 430

Augustine, perhaps the most influential theologian in the history of Western Christianity, was born in 354 at Tagaste in North Africa. In his restless search for truth, he was attracted by Manichaeism and Neoplatonism, and was constantly engaged in an inner struggle against sin. Finally, under the influence of his mother, Monica, Augustine surrendered to the Christian faith in the late summer of 386. He was baptized by Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, on Easter Eve in 387. After returning to North Africa in 391, Augustine found himself chosen by the people of Hippo to be a priest. Four



years later he was chosen bishop of that city. His spiritual autobiography, *The Confessions*, written shortly before 400 in the form of an extended prayer, is a classic of Western spirituality. He famously wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Augustine wrote countless treatises, letters, and sermons. They have provided a rich source of new and fresh insights into Christian truth, and became foundational of later Christian theology as it developed in the Western church. Much of Augustine's theology developed in dialogue with those he disagreed with, and his training in rhetoric is on full display. The Manichaeans had attempted to solve the problem of evil by positing the existence of an independent agent eternally opposed to God. In refutation, Augustine affirmed that all creation is essentially good, having been created by God, and that evil is, properly speaking, the privation of good. A rigorist sect, the Donatists, had split from the rest of the church after the persecution of Diocletian in the early fourth century. Against them, Augustine asserted that the church was "holy," not because its members could be proved holy, but because holiness was a property of the church, to which all its members are called. Stirred by Alaric the Visigoth's sack of Rome in 410, Augustine wrote his great work, *The City of God*. In it he writes: "Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by love of self, even to the contempt of God, the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self. The earthly city glories in itself, the heavenly city glories in the Lord . . . In the one, the princes, and the nations it subdues, are ruled by the love of ruling; in the other, the princes and the subjects serve one another in love."

Augustine died on August 28, 430, as the Vandals were besieging his own earthly city of Hippo.

Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread for September, October & November is now available on the table in the back of the church. *Our Daily Bread* contains a scripture verse and meditation for each day.



† Wednesday Morning Healing Service

Our mid-week Wednesday morning 10 am Holy Eucharist with healing prayer, now has about 50 worshippers weekly.. 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.

Greeters Needed

Greeting people in a warm way makes them feel good about their presence in church.

At St. Paul's, we are always looking for people who feel called to serve in this important ministry.

If you are interested in becoming a greeter, please contact Pam Szen (prszen@gmail.com) or David Szen.



MOVE

To a new spirit of gratitude.

GIVE to your
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE Episcopal CHURCH



||| A THIRD OF US

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

Abkhaz

Country: Turkey | Population: 168,000 | Language: Abkhaz | Main Religion: Islam | Evangelical: 0.00%

In the 15th century, Ottoman Turks conquered the Caucasus Mountain region, and many Abkhaz converted from Christianity to Islam. When Russia regained control of the region, the Muslim Abkhaz felt threatened by Christian Russia and accepted refuge offered by Muslims in Turkey. Most Abkhaz live in rural areas where they raise cattle and grow crops like tobacco, tea, fruits, and vegetables. They have begun to assimilate into mainstream Turkish culture and are in danger of losing their identity as a separate ethnic group. Still, they have retained their caste system and their complex native language, which includes more than 50 consonants and numerous pronunciations for each one. Pray that the complete Bible would be translated into their language. Pray that Christian Abkhaz left in Russia and Georgia would share Christ with their brothers in Turkey.

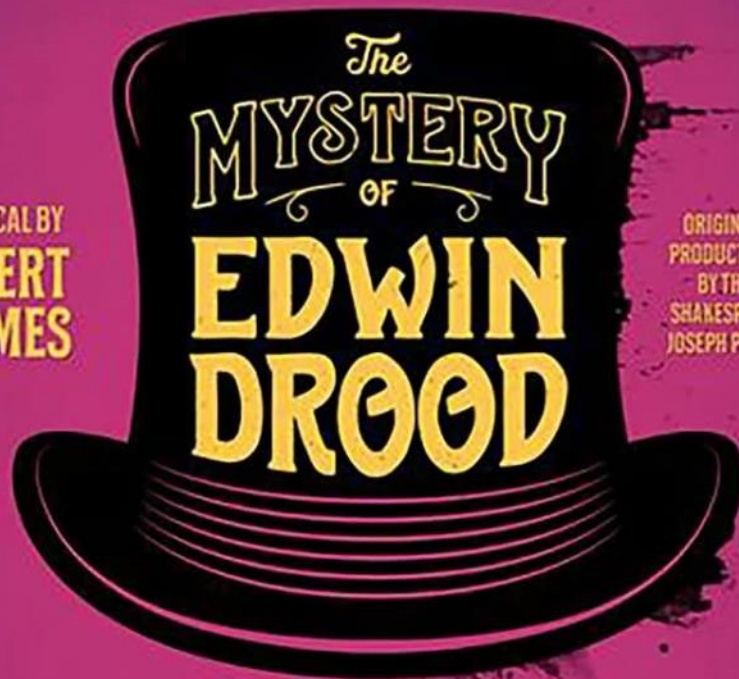




Crystal Theatre
norwalk, connecticut | est. 1987

Director Mat Young
Choreographer Kelly Nayden
Musical Director Matt Stolfi

A MUSICAL BY
RUPERT HOLMES



ORIGINAL BROADWAY
PRODUCTION PRODUCED
BY THE NEW YORK
SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
JOSEPH PAPP, PRODUCER

tix
\$25 Adults
\$15 Students
Seniors

Sept. 12th, 13th, 18th,
19th & 20th
7:30pm
Matinee 14th & 21st
2pm

*Featuring St. Paul's own
Timothy Huber!*



CAST Timothy Huber, Nancy L. Meyer,
Rhianna Ring-Howell, Michael Stanfield, Sara LaBella,
Elias Levy, Gillian Eckert, Kelly Nayden, Jonathan Hall,
Brooke McHugh, Samantha Strack, Zoe Guaman,
Ben Medina, Grady Dennis, James Ring-Howell

Tix available at
crystaltheatre.org

Crystal Theatre, 66 Bayview Ave, Norwalk, Ct 06850



ANDY GULLAHORN & JILL PHILLIPS

Fri., Sept. 12, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

Tickets \$30

www.communitycoffeehouse.org



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

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



August 31, 2025 – Pentecost 12 (C)
New Episcopal Community Grants

New Episcopal Community grant applications are open for dioceses and mission developers who are envisioning, planning, or growing new worshipping communities and missional enterprises throughout the church. **The deadline to apply is Sept. 23**, with grantees announced after the Executive Council meeting in late October.

The following types of grants are available:

Discernment Grants: Up to \$5,000 to fund the discernment season of a New Episcopal Community. Funds may be used for sending the potential point leader to a gifts assessment retreat, coaching, training, demographic studies, micro-experiments, visits to similar types of ministries, and more.

Seed Grants: Up to \$30,000 to fund the initial stages of a New Episcopal Community's launch. A seed grant recipient is typically in the first and/or second year of its life cycle. A seed grant application has a strong and realistic ministry plan, the beginnings of a core team, and support from its local diocese.

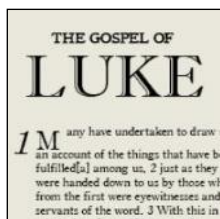
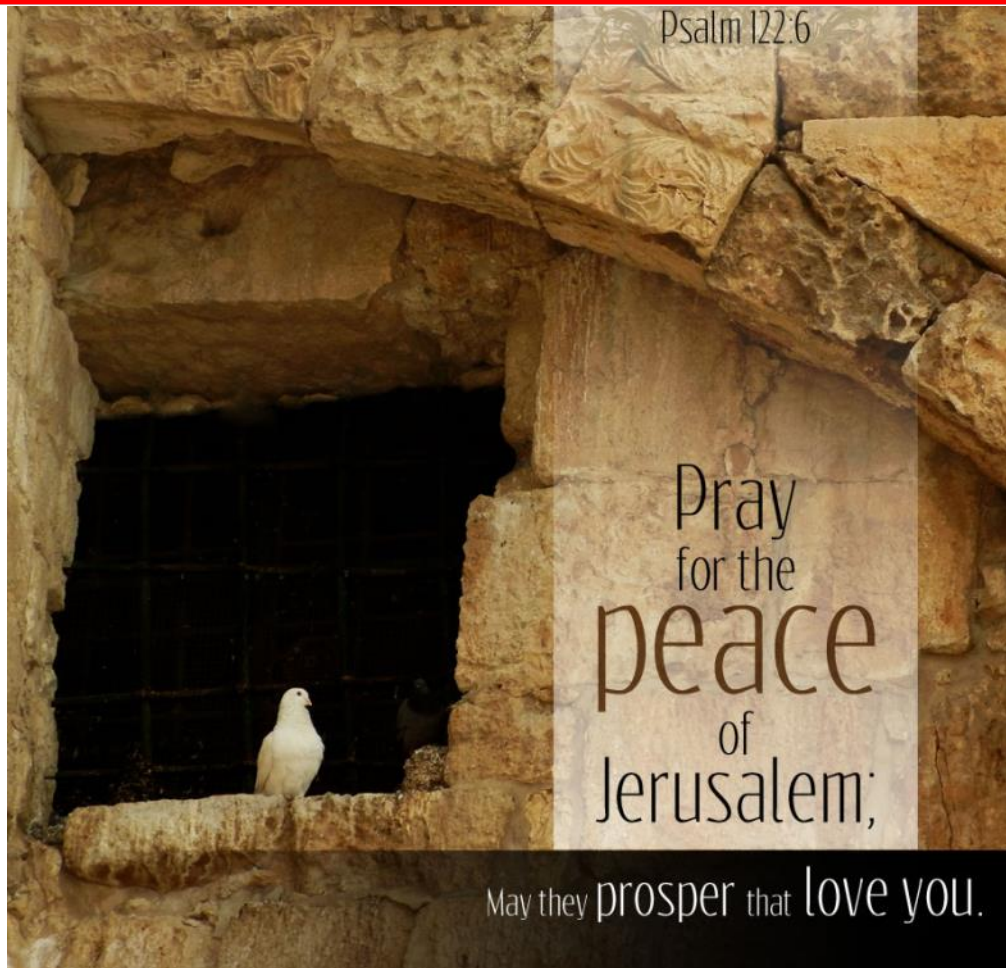
Growth Grants: Up to \$30,000 to help fund approximately the second and third years of a New Episcopal Community.

Harvest Grants: Up to \$40,000 to help fund the later stages of a New Episcopal Community's launch (approximately years three to six).

Download a grant application guide and diocesan endorsement forms from the New Episcopal Community grants webpage here: <https://iam.ec/necgrants>.

Questions? Email the Rev. Jason Shank, interim church planting network strategist, at jshank@episcopalchurch.org.





Our Men meet weekly study on Monday nights. They are currently dissecting the Gospel of Luke. Join them each Monday night at 7 pm in Crocker Hall. All the studies are available live on YouTube.

† **Ladies Wed Evening Bible Study**

All women are invited to join the Ladies Wednesday Evening Bible Study for our new study of the book of Ephesians. Every Wednesday evening, 7-8 pm by Zoom.

This letter includes many praises and prayers to God for his saving love and gifts to the church. We look forward to studying and sharing our questions and experiences together. Please join us as we receive God's Word (3:17) "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."





“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels unaware.” Blessed are those who make service to others an ingrained part of their stewardship lives. “Pay it forward” and “pass it on” are current mantras for some in our society. We have been so blessed by our Creator that these reminders should be welcomed and, yes, sought out tasks for us.

† Priest-in-Charge Listening Session



The second of this year's quarterly Priest-in-Charge Listening Sessions will be held next Sunday, September 7 in Crocker Hall at 9:30 a.m. These gatherings are part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of safety, connection, and shared purpose within the parish. This is an opportunity to ask questions, share reflections, and hear about where we've been and where we're headed as a community. Your presence helps strengthen the fabric of our common life.

† St. Paul's Walking Group!

Our St. Paul's walking group is making a comeback! We will set up a day and time to meet each week for a walk and possibly stop somewhere after to rehydrate. The group is open to anyone that is interested. Weather permitting, our first walk will be at the Brookfield Greenway on Friday Sept 5 at 10:00 am. We should plan to meet at the parking lot by the police station. Ron Switzer (rjswit@msn.com) will check the weather and send out an update e-mail by the Thursday before.



† Sunday School Info!

ATTN: PARENTS OF ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Sunday School Resumes Next Week - Sunday
School classes for kindergarten through grade 8 will resume Sunday, September 14 at 10:30 am.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Aug 31st

One service at 10 am with Cookout

Sep 7th 8 am - Mary & Chuck Allen

10:30 am - Tilford's

Sep 14th 8 am - Crocker's

10:30 am - Pam Keniecki



**COFFEE HOUR
HOSTS NEEDED**

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



† St. Paul's Mission Committee
Annual Request for Budget Line Items for Year 2026

"If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and if one of you says to them, go in peace, be warmed and be filled, and yet do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." James 2:15-17

Saint Paul's Mission Committee serves the entire parish as a focal point for our mission work. We prepare an annual budget for Vestry approval. Items in this budget come from you, our parishioners! This is your opportunity to enhance your personal or family missions with the prayer, talents, and financial support of the entire parish!

As a sponsor of your Christian based organization, you are annually asked to complete the form at the end of this article. Additionally, you are expected to submit a "Sword Points" article. This is your opportunity to "put a face" on what we, as a Parish, are supporting.

We invite your active participation in this budgeting process as well as your involvement with St. Paul's Mission Committee. We meet first Thursday, monthly 7:00 in the Guild Room.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact a member of the Mission Committee: George Blass, Angela Haselwood, Lois Hunt, Joyce Sarver, Bill Schrull, Ron Switzer, Pam Szen, Bonnie Wanzer, or Don Winkley.



Mission Organization: _____
Persons requesting prayer, physical or financial support _____

Our task is to sponsor those missions that are:

- ***Christ Centered***
- ***Meet the basic needs of our neighbors***
- ***Have a strong base of existing personal support by the individual making this submission.***

Briefly describe the purpose or scope of the mission or organization:

Is it Christian based, to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ?

To what extent do you recommend St Paul's should offer support?

Prayer Needs: _____

Financial Support: \$ _____

Physical Assistance: _____

Any other pertinent information for committee consideration.

Kindly return this form to the Mission Committee by September 28, 2025.

**FEATURING *CHIME IN!* ENSEMBLE
RETURNING FOR THE SECOND SUMMER!**

HANDBELL CHOIR

FRIDAY 8/29 @ 7 PM

**Free to attend!
Donations appreciated!**

at St. Paul's Church in Woodbury

stpaulswoodbury.org



Saint Paul's Parish Chronic Pain Support Group

Compassion • Hope • Fellowship

Living with chronic physical pain can feel isolating and overwhelming, but you don't have to face it alone. Join others who understand what you're going through in a safe, supportive, and faith-centered environment. Our monthly, peer-led support group provides a welcoming space to connect, share experiences, and support one another.

Next Meeting
Thursday, September 4th • 11:30am
The Guild Room • St Paul's Parish
174 Whisconier Rd. Brookfield, CT
***Meets on the 1st Thursday of every month**

Contact - chronicpain@saintpaulsbrookfield.com

***Pre-registration Required**



RFB 

Presents

COFFEE WITH JESUS



Lord Jesus, **PLEASE**
get me through this day.



The effectual fervent prayer
of a righteous person availeth
much, Lisa!

Fervent



English please, Jesus.



I'm on it.

©Radio Free Babylon® All rights reserved. Desperation breeds fervency. Isn't it odd how when we're at our most desperate, our faith seems to increase? The woman with the "issue of blood" said to herself, "If I can just touch the hem of his garment, I'll be healed." So she does. And IS! And Jesus is all, "Who touched me?" And Peter says, "Dude! People are all around you! What are you talking about?" But Jesus explains that he FELT it. Same is true today. Touch the hem. He'll heal you.

† This Sunday's Readings

(Click on the red links for the readings)

Take the Lower Place

Jeremiah 2:4-13

In our Hebrew scripture lesson the prophet gives voice to the Lord's bafflement with the families of Israel, who have strayed far and no longer seek for God. The people seem to have forgotten their deliverance from Egypt and God's providential care in giving them the promised land. All have forgotten the Lord; priests, rulers, prophets, and people alike, pursuing gods which are no gods, and worthless ways. The very heavens are appalled that the people have turned from God, the fountain of living water.

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

A psalm of festival praise and an exhortation to worship the Lord alone.

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

In this reading Christians are urged to live moral, hospitable, and charitable lives, recalling the faith and examples of their leaders, but especially the unchanging Jesus. The leaders referred to are the founders of this church who have now died. Jesus Christ, however, remains with his person, in the past, present, and future. Scripture says that God will never forsake us, and, with the Lord as our helper, there is no need to be afraid. Therefore one should be swift to worship, both in the praise of one's lips and by sharing and striving to do good to others.

Luke 14:1, 7-14

In the gospel Jesus tells a parable about humility and teaches his host that he should invite the poor and infirm to his feasts. Both the parable and the teaching have a still deeper significance. The reign of God is the Lord's gift, which comes to those who do not presume their place in it. By his actions as well as his words Jesus' ministry shows that the kingdom is open to those who are considered by others to be outcasts. People who share in God's ruling love and justice are to have a transformed attitude toward the poor and needy.

Luke 14:1, 7-14

This is what Jesus is teaching/proclaiming here. What does it look like for those with higher status/honor/privilege to live the year of the Lord's favor?



† Sermon Shorts

“Healing in His Wings.” 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. It would be a joy for us to be as you are, O Lord, toward the least of things on the earth. We ask for your peacefulness, your humility and your innocence, as we pray for...

.....Ed Licence, Gail Winkley, and other parishioners convalescing in extended care facilities.

.....For all Episcopal schools, seminaries & campus ministries; Kent School; South Kent School; Pomfret School; Salisbury School; Wooster School; Rectory School; St. Thomas Day School, New Haven; Trinity Academy, Hartford; The Episcopal Church at UConn, Storrs; Berkeley Divinity School, New Haven, The Episcopal Church at Yale, New Haven; Trinity College, Hartford.

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

.....Student preparing to enter schools, Colleges, universities & seminaries.

.....For the Peace of Jerusalem. - Psalm 122:6

.....Clayton Ferry, Barbara Hock, Jim Megura, Peter Scalzo, Sr., Peter Scalzo, Jr., Doris, Karen, Beverly Hall, Roger, Cynthia, Valerie, Heidi Pinheiro, Dale Mitchell, Ruth, Blake, Nick Marcalus, Cliff, Evelyn Kirner, Jane Sedor, Jim Beck, Larry Wanzer, George, Bob Finn, Paul Kovacs, Barbara Stowell, Susan Morrison, Lois Hunt, Alex, Elana and Veronika continued healing.

.....the people of [Ukraine](#); the people of the [Republic of Tajikistan](#); the people of [Eswatini](#); the bishop, clergy and laity of the Diocese of Ohaji / Egbema - The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); and our sister and brother members of the [United Church in the Solomon Islands](#).

.....For the grace of humility: that we may come to a deeper understanding and ownership of our gifts and acknowledge our need for God amidst all our weaknesses.

.....[St. James' Episcopal Church](#), Danbury and their [Daily Bread Food Pantry](#), which is the recipient of our food basket collections during the month of

September.

.....Our missionaries, Will & Becky McLaughlin and their family, and their ministry in Cambodia; and for all missionaries: that God will inspire the message that they offer, help them to recognize how they can best serve their communities, and sustain them in times of loneliness.

.....For all who are ill: that God's love will bring healing and renewal to them, an end to the pandemics, and strength to all who care for the sick.

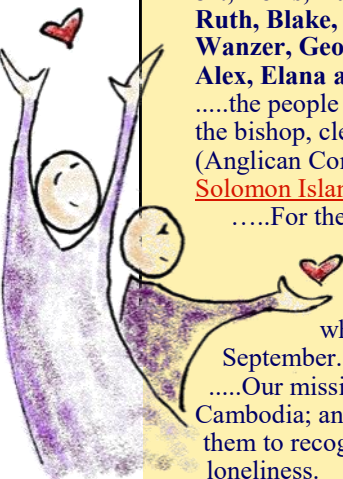
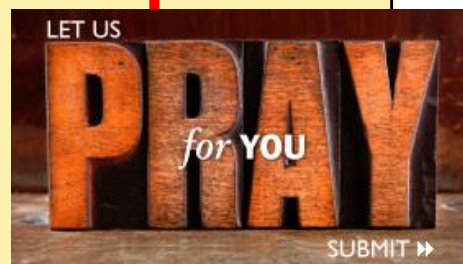
.....[Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield](#), a community partner of the Jericho Partnership.

.....[The Care of Children](#).

.....That generous giving means sharing with those who cannot repay us.

.....For 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 that they would become strong in their faith, grow in numbers and be a light to those around them.

.....For all who exercise authority: that they may follow in the footsteps of Christ in being servants to others and attentive to those in greatest need.



Parable of the Wedding Feast

A modern retelling of Jesus' parable in Luke 14:7-11. This comes from 'McGee And Me-Star In The Breaking.'



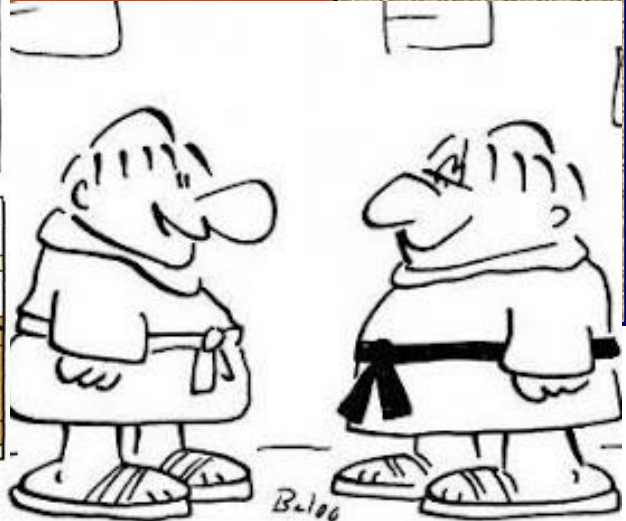
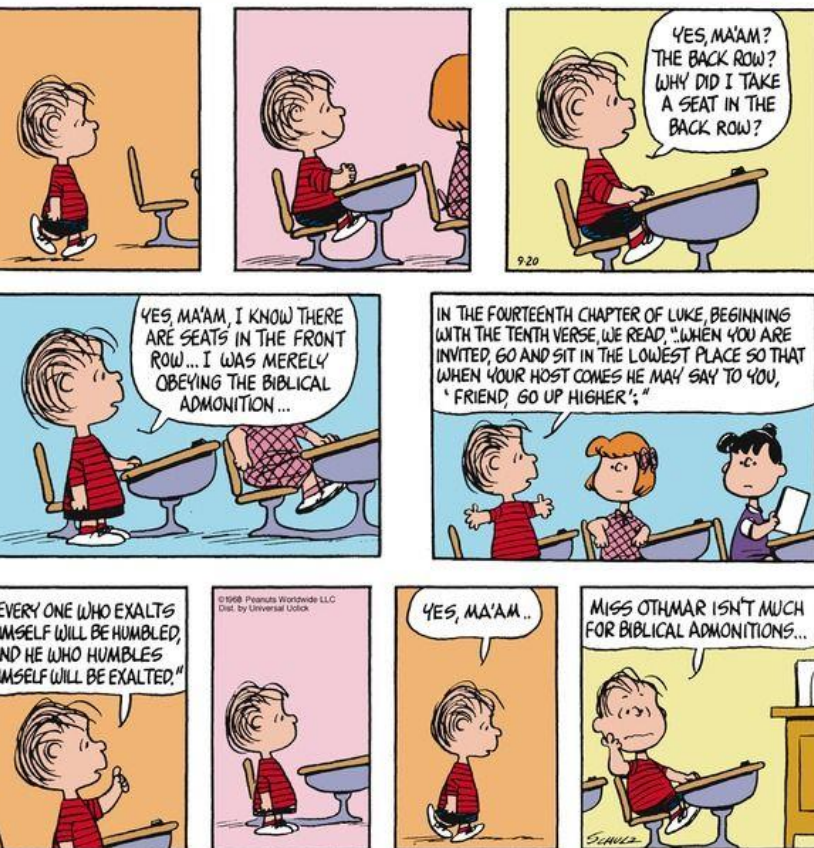


Just For the Joy of It!

(And Christian Fellowship)



Did You Know that the **fall of the Berlin Wall** (immediate aftermath pictured) was the result of a bureaucratic mistake?



"No kidding? — a black belt in humility?"

Find us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Find Us On Instagram

Watch us on YouTube

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