

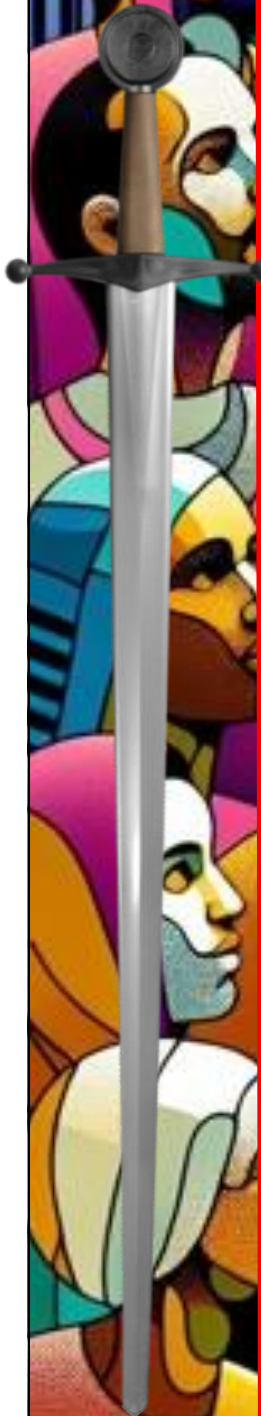
*Transforming
Lives Through
Jesus Christ*

SWORD POINTS

Pentecost 3B, 2024

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

(203) 775-9557



✠ **All in the
Family**



† Who Is Family for You?

All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel...and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations"...

Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them...forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only-- you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them." 1 SAMUEL 8:4-5,6B-7,8B-9

Then [Jesus] went home, and the crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."... A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." MARK 3:20-21,32-35

Dysfunctional families. Where would life's ever-unfolding drama be without them. Some children are their parents' treasure while others are their worst



nightmare. Some children can do no wrong in their parents' sight, others can do nothing right. Samuel's sons are an embarrassment, a source of grief. While Mary, his mother, and the brothers of Jesus think he's crazy and needs to be physically restrained.

Just as Samuel might have wished his sons had behaved better, and the elders of Israel wanted a king to "be like other

nations," so perhaps Mary and her other sons were upset or embarrassed by Jesus not "being like other" sons. It seems to come down to: how do we define "family?" Jesus looked around and defined family for himself as: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother." Who is family for you?



† Stewardship Reflection

“And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.” – MARK 3:25

Do your parish ministries complement each other or do they compete against each other? Is your parish “one Body of Christ” or a bunch of little, separate ministries controlled by human ego? The goal of all parish ministries is to bring people to Christ. All of our parish work should be for the glory of God’s name, not our own name.

When Jesus' friends heard how many people were around, what did they say when they went out to lay hold on him? (Mark 3:21)

- A. "He teaches with authority."
- B. "He is beside himself."
- C. "He hath Beelzebub."



† This Week at St. Paul's

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|--|
| Thu, Jun 6 | - 8:00 am | - PraiseBarre <i>(Zoom)</i> |
| | - 9:30 am | - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room |
| | - 7:30 pm | - Choir Practice, Sanctuary |
| Sat, Jun 8 | - 7:30 am | - John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford |
| | - 8:00 am | - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Guild Room |
| | - 9:00 am | - PraiseMoves <i>(Zoom)</i> |
| Sun, Jun 9 | | The Third Sunday after Pentecost |
| | - 8:00 am | - Traditional Holy Communion <i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| | - 9:30 am | - Adult Class, Guild Room |
| | - 10:30 am | - Sunday School, Classrooms |
| | - 10:30 am | - Contemporary Holy Communion <i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| | - 7:00 pm | - Recovery & Self-Reflection, Guild Room <i>(Zoom)</i> |
| Mon, Jun 10 | - 7:00 pm | - Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall <i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| Tues, Jun 11 | | St. Barnabas, Apostle |
| | - 9:30 am | - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room |
| | - 7:00 pm | - Boy Scout Troop #5 |
| Wed, Jun 12 | - 8:00 am | - PraiseMoves <i>(Zoom)</i> |
| | - 10:00 am | - Holy Communion & Healing <i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| | - 7:30 pm | - Vestry Meeting, Guild Room |
| Thu, Jun 13 | - 8:00 am | - PraiseBarre <i>(Zoom)</i> |
| | - 9:30 am | - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room |
| | - 7:30 pm | - Property Committee, Guild Room |
| | - 7:30 pm | - Choir Practice, Sanctuary |
| Sat, Jun 15 | - 7:30 am | - John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford |
| | - 8:00 am | - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall |
| | - 9:00 am | - PraiseMoves <i>(Zoom)</i> |
| | - 10:00 am | - St. Paul's Quilters, Crocker Hall |
| Sun, Jun 16 | | The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost |
| | - 8:00 am | - Traditional Holy Communion <i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| | - 9:30 am | - Adult Class, Guild Room |
| | - 10:30 am | - Contemporary Holy Communion <i>(YouTube Live)</i> |
| | - 7:00 pm | - Recovery & Self-Reflection, Guild Room <i>(Zoom)</i> |



† **Forms of Love**

[1 SAMUEL 8:4-20, 11:14-15](#) - [PSALM 138](#) - [2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-5:1](#) - [MARK 3:20-35](#)

We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves. In practice, we will get this wrong if we love ourselves inadequately, or excessively, or inordinately. Moreover, the voice of the enemy within us, a clear and sharp and strident voice of self-loathing, may mean that we fain love while harboring hatred toward everyone. What is proper self-love, and how should love flow out toward the world and our neighbors?

To begin, we are the beloved children of God, and despite our failings and sins, God has come to our rescue, preeminently so in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Indeed, to quote a beloved verse, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (JOHN 3:16). We are each the infinite object of God’s infinite love. The love that God extends to one individual is the same love God extends to all.

Are we to love every person in precisely the same way? Obviously, we cannot and should not. There is a love that children owe to their parents, a love that parents owe to their children, a love that siblings owe to each other, a love that friends share together. The more intimate and smaller the group, the more intense and obligatory the love. Thus, as we move further out into the world and human community, the love we owe will look more like *duty*, being less emotionally intense. In every relationship, however, whether intimate or more distant, love must constantly adjust to circumstances and context.



The most intimate community of love, the family, makes a special claim upon our lives. Put simply, children owe a debt of love and gratitude to their parents that they can never adequately repay. Parents give their lives for their children. So, it is right and good that love is deep and strong in the home. Is there, however, a danger here? Yes! Intense love can create an allegiance that pits family against family, tribe against tribe, and community against community. Love, even when just and good in some measure, can miss the mark if it becomes unduly insular, defensive, and fearful toward the outsider.

Jesus addresses this problem in language that seems (note: seems!) to be against the family. In truth, however, he is creating a new and more expansive family. Listen to these difficult words: “Then his mother and his

brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers!’ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother” (MARK 3:31-35).

In a similar way, the marriage rite affirms the unique and special love that the bride and groom have for each other, and then says that marital love may expand in the gift of children and to the wider community. “Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others.” Marriage and family do not shut the bride and groom off from the world, but rather provide a base of support and love, allowing their love to expand and embrace.

Love your family. Love the human/ecclesial family, too.

Look It Up

[Acts 17:26](#)

Think About It

Humanity derives from one God and one Ancestor.

by Patrick Twomey, *The Living Church*, 2024

† 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.

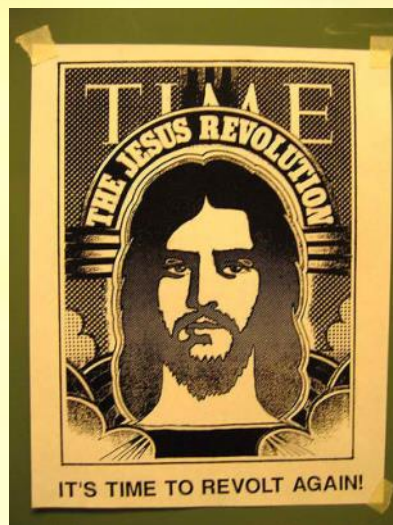
All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name. **Amen.**



† So Much for Family Values!

Mark 3:20-35

It is clear from the scriptures that Jesus raised a ruckus. People have been trying to quiet him down ever since. It's not hard to do. Jesus isn't around to object to whatever we claim WWJD. Even the church has a vested interest in the status quo, especially where pensions and tax breaks for the clerical class are concerned. But Jesus was a radical in his time and upset everyone, even disciples who followed and his family who tried to understand. That's because Jesus was living the limitless future in the far too constrained present where risking radical love gets you crucified. So how might we be brother and sister and mother to Jesus in our time? It might be by radical generosity or acting with more grace, thinking with less judgment, loving with fewer restrictions. That being said just getting push back for one's beliefs is not proof that you and Jesus are on the same page. But if we transform lives like Jesus did - fishermen who become fearless preachers, tax collectors who stop cheating, women who are welcomed as leaders, or a Pharisee who born from above steps out of the shadows - you can bet eternity we are doing the will of God.

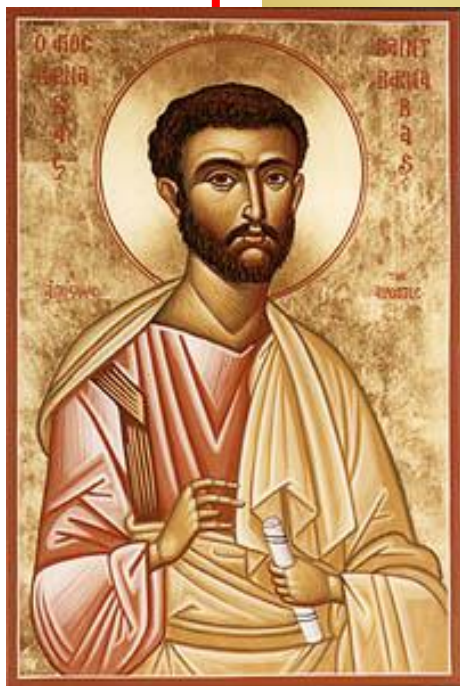


† This Date on the Church Calendar

Tuesday, June 11th

St. Barnabas, the Apostle

“Joseph, a Levite born in Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), sold a field he owned, brought the money, and turned it over to the apostles” (Acts 4:36-37). This first reference in the New Testament to Barnabas introduces one whose missionary efforts would cause him to be called, like the Twelve, an apostle.



His new name fits what we know of his actions. As a Jew of the diaspora, Barnabas had much in common with Paul. When Paul came to Jerusalem after his conversion, most of the Christians there wanted nothing to do with him. They had known him as a persecutor and an enemy of the Church. But Barnabas was willing to give him a second chance. He looked him up, spoke with him, and brought him to see the other Christians, vouching for him, and declared to them how, on the road to Damascus, Paul had seen the Lord, and had preached boldly in the name of Jesus (Acts 9:27). Later, Barnabas, having settled in Antioch, sent for Paul to join him in leading the Christian church in that city.

Barnabas and Paul were sent by the disciples in Antioch to carry famine relief to the church in Jerusalem. Upon their return, the church in Antioch sent them on their first missionary journey beginning at Cyprus. At Lystra in Asia Minor, the people took them to be gods, supposing the eloquent Paul to be Mercury, the messenger of the gods, and Barnabas to be Jupiter, the chief of the gods, a testimony to the commanding presence of Barnabas.

The association of Barnabas and Paul was broken, after their journey, by a disagreement about Mark, who had left the mission to return to Jerusalem. When Paul and Barnabas were about to set out on another such journey, Barnabas proposed to take Mark along, and Paul was against it, saying that Mark had shown himself undependable. Barnabas wanted to give Mark a second chance, and so he and Mark went off on one journey to Cyprus, where Barnabas is traditionally honored as the founder of the church., while Paul took Silas and went on a return visit to the churches that he and Barnabas had founded in Asia Minor. Apparently Mark responded well to the trust given him by the "son of encouragement," since we find that Paul later speaks of him as a valuable assistant (2 Timothy 4:11 "Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry."; see also Colossians 4:10 "Aristarchus my fellow-prisoner greets you, as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you have received instructions - if he comes to you, welcome him.", and Philemon 24 "...and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow-workers.").

Tradition has it that Barnabas was martyred at Salamis in Cyprus.



As part of our outreach, St. Paul's donates gift cards and non-perishable items to six area food pantries. The non-perishable items are provided by our generous congregation and are truly appreciated. Donations for the food pantry can be left in the basket at the back of the church. Delivery is made to one food pantry each month. Thank you.

The sixth month is named after Juno, the Roman goddess of hearth and home. Juno's month was lucky for weddings. In years past among Christians, weddings were rarely held during the paschal seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Eastertide, which ends on Pentecost. After Pentecost time of summer weddings began.

In the Northern Hemisphere, June is the month of the summer solstice. The church keeps many solemnities this month.



† Adult Class Series: S.H.A.P.E.

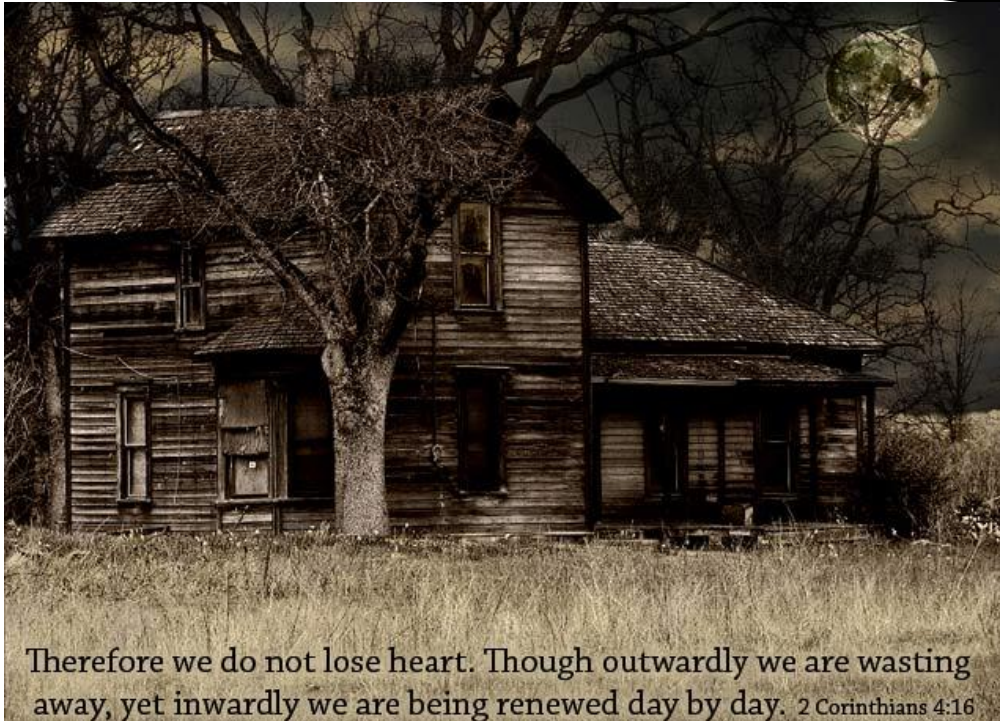
Our Adult Christian Formation class is featuring a five-week series on spiritual gifts and talents on Sunday's at 9:30 am between the two services. Dan Bacon and David Williams are leading the study titled "SHAPE" that will help each of us find our place in the church where we can grow and effectively serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

SHAPE is an acronym for the five characteristics that help us to determine God's unique purpose for our lives. These characteristics are **Spiritual** Gifts, desires of our **Heart**, **Abilities**, talents, and skills, **Personality** traits, and **Experience**. The better we understand each of these characteristics, the better we will be able to discern and find our place in the Body of Christ, the church.



† Fathers' Day Memorials

Father's Day is June 16th. Anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar in loving memory of a father, please make your check payable to Saint Paul's Church with the name or names of those to be remembered written on the memo line. All memorials are due June 9th. Contact David Szen with any questions at dszen@yahoo.com. All the gentlemen worshipping with us on Father's Day will receive a boutonniere.



Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16



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 108 food drives since April 22, 2020! Last time our trucks delivered to the Brookfield Social Services and the Jericho Partnership in Danbury.

Our next food collection, will be Wednesday, June 12th and will support the Bethel Community Food Pantry, 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
June 12th

*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.

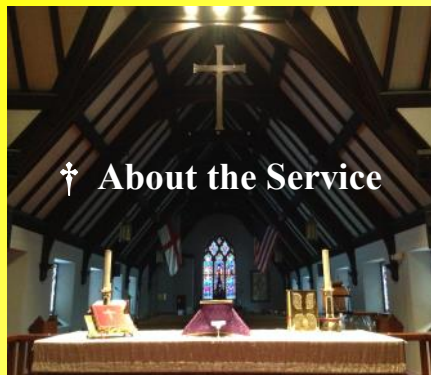


**Altar
Flowers**

† Transforming Saints of God Thursday, June 6th

Ini Kopuria,
Founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, (1945)

Ini Kopuria's job, as a native police officer took him all over Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, but a vision of Jesus, calling him to do different work for his people, led him to a life of evangelism in which he aimed to take and live the gospel in the remotest villages and islands in Melanesia. He began a Brotherhood for Melanesians in 1925 and, with help from the Bishop of Melanesia, the Right Reverend John Manwaring Steward, realized Ini's dream by forming a band of brothers. He prepared a Rule and made vows himself in which he dedicated his life and his land to God. Men were asked to make only a five-year commitment to service within the community and many came to join him and stayed for much longer. It quickly grew into one of the largest religious communities in the Anglican Communion and its method of evangelism proved highly effective. Ini died on June 6, 1945 and is revered throughout the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea. He is commemorated in the calendars of the Church of the Province of Melanesia and of the Church of England.



† About the Service

The Opening Acclamation & The Collect for Purity

Following the processional hymn is the Opening Acclamation - the wording here calls to mind the beginning of Jewish prayers that also begin "Blessed be God" and uniting our tradition to theirs. In Lent the words change, setting penitence in its proper perspective. In Easter, the words change again to the traditional Easter greeting found in Lk 24:34 and in keeping with the greater emphasis the 1979 BCP places on

the Easter season.

The Collect for Purity is said next and it has its roots as a private, preparatory prayer of the priest dating back to the 11th century. Its tone is reminiscent of Psalm 51 - the great penitential psalm of David. In Rite I it is required to be said by the priest, in Rite II it is optional. The BCP states that the Celebrant alone says it as all of us prepare our selves for worship.



The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

After-Service Prayer Teams - We now have prayer ministers available after each service to meet with people in the first pew. This is in addition to the Wednesday prayer offered at the altar and Healing Sunday prayers at the altar. Please feel free to come forward to ask for prayer for yourself or others.



† High Hopes

Psalm 138

This is a psalm with high hopes. All the kings of the earth will sing of the ways of the Lord, despite the lyrics “he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away” for kings, or queens for that matter, are not generally addressed as “your lowliness.” But they have been humbled by the words of God’s mouth and so they join the psalmist in praising God and even the little “g” gods have to listen to the song. In the *Large Catechism* Martin Luther defines a god as anything or anyone “upon which you set your heart and put your trust.” The pantheon of little “g” gods, wealth or ability or intellect or religious pedigree, etc. would prefer to stop up their ears and ours to the sound of the song of praise to the big “G” God. In times of trouble when souls grow weak they sing their own song offering comfort or escape in the small “g” god of indulgence or denial. But little “g” gods always disappoint for only a big “G” God can save us from ourselves and fulfill the high hopes of the psalm. Humbled by the words of God’s mouth who hears our cry for help, preserved and delivered in the day of distress, God’s purpose is fulfilled for us. And this is the highest hope, that in spite of our addiction to little “g” gods the big “G” God sang for us the endless song of enduring, steadfast love and invites us to join the chorus.



The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your love, O Lord, endures forever --
do not abandon the **works of your hands.**

- Psalm 138:8

† *Art in the Christian Tradition*

**Peace not War,
Street Art by MAD,**
spray paint on wall, Iran, 2011,
© Mad, artist

This street art work was sprayed in Iran, where graffiti is still considered to be a crime. Street art and graffiti are not recognized as art, and are considered to be serious acts of vandalism against the nation, punishable with long prison sentences. For this reason Iranian street artists live and work anonymously. They use names that don't identify who they are. Our artist today is called 'MAD.' Other prominent street artists in Iran include Icy, Sot, CK1, some of whom have now emigrated to the USA. We know very little about our artist, MAD, except that he grew up in Tabriz, where his work flourished especially during the street troubles that followed the elections. Our work depicts two soldiers carrying a peace sign. It is a poignant anti-war work.

There is goodness and badness in our world. Sometimes goodness can be very obvious, Jesus being the best example of this. Sometimes badness can be very obvious too, when we think of wars and people getting killed. But sometimes it requires much more subtlety to assess certain situations and to decide whether something is good for us or bad for us. It requires discernment. What Jesus is teaching us in Sunday's Gospel reading is that he judges very harshly those people who see goodness and yet portray it as being evil. That is what the devil's work is: turning a good thing into a bad thing.

Some of the religious experts in the Gospel reading held the view that the spirit at work in Jesus was an evil spirit, not the Holy Spirit. *'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.'* It is hard to imagine a more serious misjudgment of others that to confuse the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives with that of an evil spirit. It is what Jesus calls in the gospel reading, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. We might be tempted to think that we could not be so blind. Yet, we too can fail to recognize the presence and working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others. We can be so focused on what we perceive to be their failings that we fail to see the presence of the Holy Spirit in them.



Jericho Partnership Inc.

Mobilizing Ministry . Transforming a City

† Why Are We Here? Why Does Jericho Exist?

Hear directly from some high school seniors about how Jericho (or "Pathways" to these grads as many started at Pathways Academy when they were in middle school) impacted their lives.



Kareen McClendon

"I joined Pathways Academy in middle school. Pathways taught me a lot of great things - how to shake a man or woman's hand properly and look them in the eye. They were preparing us for the outside world. I met new people, made new bonds, met teachers that left an impact on my life, like Mr. Mark, and Mr. Rice, who wouldn't let you give up on yourself; he would go over the problem with you over and over until you got it. (Getting together with Mark Lounsbury) gave us time to talk about life and what I saw myself doing in my future years, how I can be a better version of myself.

When times were very difficult, I would go to the after-school program and see Mark and ... leave with a plan to do better and reach my goals."

Ezarae Staton

"I've been involved in Pathways since 6th grade. The experience was always fun and positive. Pathways taught me how to never give up and I really loved the fact that everyone wanted to see you do great things. It's always nice to have people that shine light on your potential and push you to success. I cherish the moments where Holly (Hatfield, her mentor) took time out of her day to help me with something happening in my life. Whether it was a Zoom call, text message or when we went out, it meant a lot to be because Holly really showed she cares."



**SATURDAY
JUNE 29, 2024**

5K RUN & WALK



ATHLETES OF CHRIST

**STARTS AT ROGERS PARK
RACE TIME 10AM**

RUN THE RACE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
RONNY 203-739-5052,
ATHLETESOFCHRIST@GMAIL.COM
CRYSTAL@ATHLETESOFCHRIST.COM**

**ONLINE: ATHLETESOFCHRIST.COM
INSTAGRAM= @AOCDANBURY FB= @ATHLETESOFCHRIST**

PROCEEDS ALSO BENEFIT >>> JERICHO PARTNERSHIP



INGERSOLL
AUTO OF DANBURY



Newtown
Savings Bank
The Power of Local



THE GOOD NEWS
HAPPEN
since 1712...
MAKING

SCALZO

Union
Savings Bank

**TOWN
TOWN**

Elmer's
DINER
Family Restaurant

JERICHO
PARTNERSHIP



Website Links - Usher, acolyte, lector, intercessor, and lay reader schedules are published monthly on our website at saintpaulsbrookfield.com / parish ministries / acolytes-lay-readers-lectors-intercessors / downloads. Our parish member directory is posted on our website at saintpaulsbrookfield.com / about / member directory / downloads.

✠ **Sunday School Info!**

ATTN: PARENTS OF ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS, preschool- Gr. 8:

Sunday School classes now start at 10:30 am. Please bring your children directly to their classrooms. Students will return to their parents in time for Holy Communion.



Life is short and we have but little time to brighten the way of those who walk with us. So make haste to be kind, be swift to love, be gentle with yourself and brighten the world around you.



Save-the-Date

Parish Picnic - Candlewood Lake

Thursday, July 4th, 2 pm til fireworks...

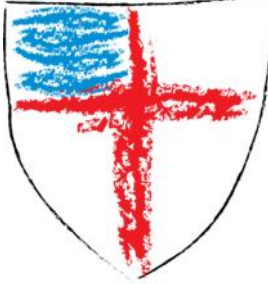


Church Picnic



EVANGELISM: ✠ Start Spreading the News!

Sharing Christ With Others "I've heard it said many times when talking about going to heaven, 'You can't take it with you.' It's true that you cannot take with you your house, car, money, or other things you have valued here on earth, but how about your husband, wife, parents, children, friends, and acquaintances? You personally will never be able to get someone into heaven, but God certainly can use you as a tool to spread the good news as He brings more people to Himself." - Van Harden, - Dillon Burroughs



† Ih-pis-kuh-puh | Dik-shuh-ner-ee

(Episcopal Dictionary)



† Calendar of the Church Year \ 'ka-lən-dər \ əv \ thə \ 'chərch \ 'yir \

The calendar (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 15-33) orders the liturgical year of the Episcopal Church by identifying two cycles of feasts and holy days—one dependent upon the movable date of Easter Day and the other dependent upon the fixed date of Christmas, Dec. 25. Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after Mar. 21. The sequence of all Sundays in the church year is based on the date of Easter. Tables and rules for finding the date of Easter Day, and other movable feasts and holy days are provided by the BCP, pp. 880-885. The date of Easter determines the beginning of the season of Lent on

Ash Wednesday and the date of Pentecost on the fiftieth day of the Easter season. The Sundays of Advent are always the four Sundays before Christmas Day. The church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. The calendar also identifies and provides directions concerning the precedence and observance of principal feasts, Sundays, holy days (including Feasts of our Lord, other major feasts, and fasts), Days of Special Devotion, and Days of Optional Observance. The calendar lists dates for celebration of major feasts and lesser feasts by month and date. Appropriate Sunday Letters and Golden Numbers are also provided. (see BCP, pp. 880-881). The calendar also lists the titles of the seasons, Sundays, and major holy days observed in the Episcopal Church throughout the church year, including Advent season,

Christmas season, Epiphany season, Lenten season, Holy Week, Easter season, the season after Pentecost, holy days, and National Days.

JUNE 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Justin, Martyr, 167 R						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST					

Name Tags - Remember how awkward you felt when you first came to St. Paul's because you didn't know anyone or when you visit a different church? Name tags help. So, please be courteous to your fellow parishioners, to newcomers, visiting clergy and guests by extending a warm welcome to them and by wearing your name tag. And remember to wear them to coffee hour as well.



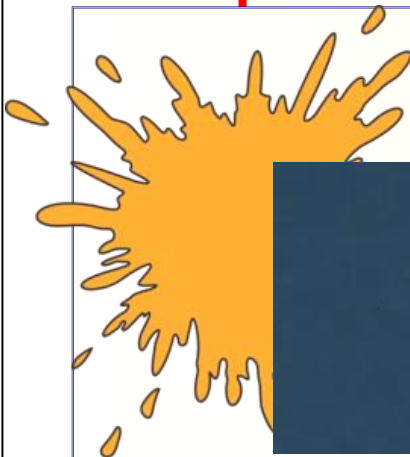
† Ladies Evening Bible Zoom Study

The Ladies evening zoom Bible study will be doing a six-week study of passages in the letters of the Apostles John and Peter, beginning Wed May 22 through the month of June on Wednesday nights 7-8:00pm. All are welcome to join us as we listen closely to what the Lord is teaching us from these Apostles who have changed so much after their experiences with the Resurrection and Pentecost. As followers of Jesus, we also want to grow in faith, hope and love. Come and share with us in this journey! Any questions or to get on the zoom link email, contact Carol Wheeler at 203-525-0011 or cmeadwheeler@hotmail.com.



† 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."



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

GRADUATE

To thoughtful planned giving.



GIVE to your EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

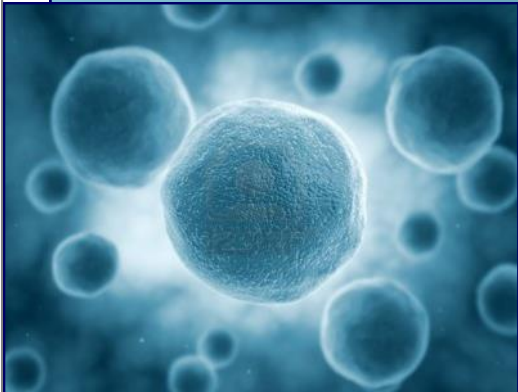
† Loving Care Revealed

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14).

A human cell measuring 1/1000 of an inch in diameter contains instructions within its DNA that would fill 1000 books of 600 pages each. Each individual has their own unique set of fingerprints, and no two people, among billions, look exactly alike.

God the Creator (Father) reveals loving care over us in how we are made. God the Redeemer (Son) reveals loving care over us in how we are saved. God the Sustainer (Holy Spirit) reveals loving care over us in how we are continually carried by faith.

Know your worth. We were bought with a price, and so we in turn glorify God with every fiber of our being. To live a life of worship is to celebrate the immeasurable goodness of our loving God who declares that we matter.



† Hopeline Baby Bottle Campaign

The **Hopeline Baby Bottle Campaign** began on Mother's Day and runs through Father's Day.

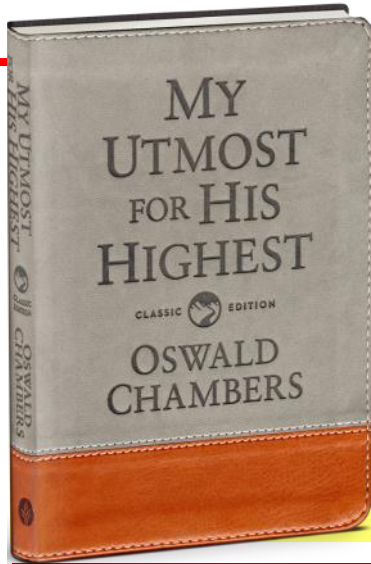
Hopeline is a Christian-based ministry supporting women during unplanned pregnancies. In addition to material assistance for the care of the newborn, such as cribs, clothing, diapers, and other supplies, Hopeline offers counseling, support, and ultrasounds performed on newly pregnant women by an Ob-Gyn trained physician. They offer post-abortion counseling to women of any age.

St. Paul's supports **Hopeline** through its annual "Change for Change" Baby Bottle Fundraiser. There are baby bottles at the back of the church and in the Parish Hall that we ask you to please fill with your loose change and bills and return them by June 16th, Father's Day. **Please Note:** Checks should be made out to St. Paul's with "Hopeline" in the memo line.

For more information, contact: Bonnie Wanzer or Lois Hunt.



Last year
St. Paul's
collected
over \$2,500!



† Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Women's Tuesday morning Bible Study is in summer session. We meet every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11am in the Guild Room to discuss the appropriate daily reading from “My Utmost for His Highest.”

All are welcome to join in person or through Zoom. The link is available on our website, or 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



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

Bambara

Country: Mali | Population: 6,831,000 | Language: Bambara | Main Religion: Islam | Evangelical: 1.10%

As the largest ethnic group in Mali, the Bambara are also one of the most powerful and influential. Their native language is spoken throughout the country. The Bambara work as farmers, raising crops and livestock, and many also hunt game and gather wild honey. During the short rainy season, they often entrust their livestock to their Fulani neighbors while entire households work the fields. The Bambara highly value marriage and children. Virtually all adults marry, and even elderly widows have suitors. While most Bambara identify as Muslims, many still practice traditional animistic religious beliefs. Ask God to raise up intercessors and to break up spiritual ground among the Bambara. Pray for discipleship among Bambara believers and for a healthy, growing church.

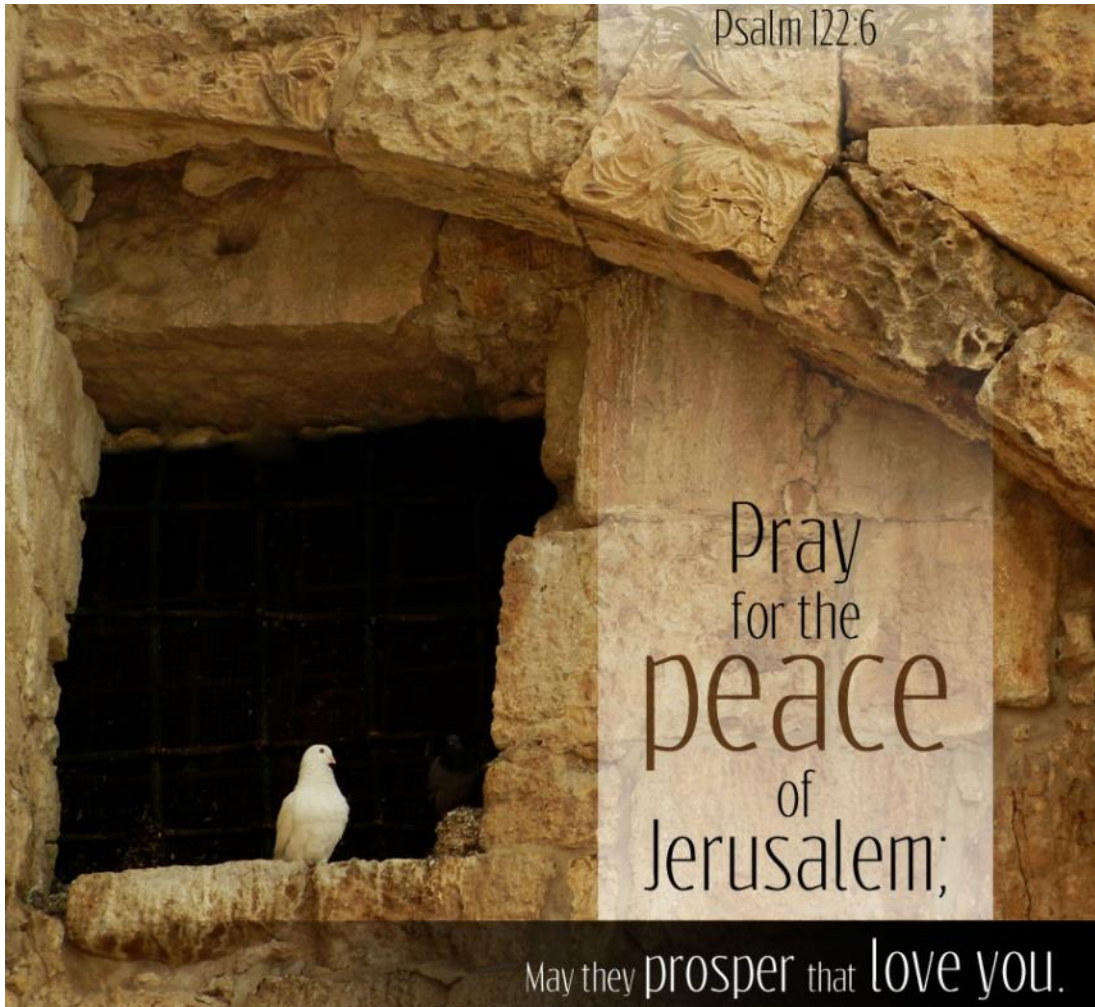




Friday, June 21, 2024, 7:00pm

7 Madison Ave., Danbury, CT

Tix & Info at www.communitycoffeehouse.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Pamela Mannion celebrates today. Ian Kirner & Al Chaleski blow out candles on Friday. Joan Stein opens presents on Sunday. Matt Bugbee & John Conte are a year older and wiser on Monday. **Have a blessed day everyone!**



RFB 

Presents

**COFFEE
WITH
JESUS**



I feel broken, Jesus.



Guess who's in the business of fixing broken people, Lisa?

Broken



You don't understand, Jesus.
I feel beyond repair.



Lisa, Lisa, Lisa.
I have yet to meet the person I couldn't fix.
Once they submit.



©Radio Free Babylon.® All rights reserved. Years ago, I prayed for God's Spirit to descend upon me. I wanted to experience the POWER of the 2nd chapter of Acts. You know what happened? I was plugged into an electrical circuit. My arms shot into the air involuntarily. I undulated in raise to the Almighty. Completely outside of my being, but with zero hesitation. God showed me in that moment the power of submission. When you call him "Lord," get ready. He's going to show you some serious truths.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



June 9, 2024 – Pentecost 3 (B)
Your Guide to the DFMS, Part 2

Throughout the summer, our bulletin inserts will feature resources available to you, your ministry, your congregation, and your diocese from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society – the formal, incorporated name for The Episcopal Church. Learn more by scanning each department’s QR code or visit iam.ec/teguide.

Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries offers resources and training for clergy and lay leadership, as well as tools for congregational development. Asian language liturgy and worship are also available. We are an umbrella of several ethnically and culturally diverse convocations: Arab-Middle Eastern, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Pacific Islander, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Asian American Young Adults.



Download or order our “Being Episcopalian” booklet.

Learn more about the ANDREWS program.

Join our ethnic convocation meetings.

Use Episcopal liturgies in various Asian languages.

Attend the triennial Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry (EAM) Consultation.

Church Planting and Redevelopment engages leaders who are either visioning a new faith community from scratch, or re-imagining ways of “being church” with their existing community. We are especially committed to supporting communities that have historically been underrepresented in The Episcopal Church, and parishes that are committed to knowing, loving, and learning from their neighbors. We provide leadership discernment, training, coaching and co-learning opportunities for point leaders and teams who feel called to undertake this brave work.



Read our guides to the leadership gifts of successful church planters and congregational redevelopers.

Find out what to expect when you’re starting a new Episcopal community.

Explore Genesis II: Re-Vision and Renew

Listen to “The Genesis Podcast.”

Stay in touch through our monthly connection points.

The Office of Communication serves The Episcopal Church’s ministries, congregations, dioceses, and churchwide offices by amplifying our core messages and mission through a broad array of professional digital tools, creative services, news reporting, and public affairs communications. Our stories and productions, created from a desire to share Jesus’ Way of Love with the whole world, highlight the work of God’s people—in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement and beyond.

Keep up to date on news from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and subscribe to the Daily Scan.



Create visual resources with inspiring styles and standard looks consistent with The Episcopal Church’s visual identity.

Listen to our growing library of podcasts produced by The Episcopal Church and our ministry partners.

Elevate your writing with clarity and consistency through our writing style guide.

Contact our office to share ideas for new and expanded offerings from your ministry, congregation, or diocese.

Next week: The Camino Project, Concert for the Human Family, Creation Care

Published by the Office of Formation of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017

© 2024 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

† This Sunday's Readings

(Click on the red links for the readings)

Preaching, Teaching, and Healing

[1 Samuel 8:4-20, 11:14-15](#)

In our Hebrew Bible lesson the elders of Israel insist that the aging prophet Samuel anoint them a king such as governed the surrounding nations. The biblical account refers to the military threat of the Philistines as the primary motivation for this request, but other pressures were likely at work as the tribal structure of Israelite society underwent change. God tells Samuel to consent to the request of the elders, but to make clear the cost involved in submission to the arbitrary power of a human monarch. Yet the people persist in their request and Samuel anoints Saul as king over them.

[Psalm 138](#)

A hymn of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord on high who has saved God's servant and cares for the lowly.

[2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1](#)

In this passage Paul speaks of the eternal and glorious hope that belongs to Jesus' disciples even in the midst of trouble and mortality. The apostle has just told of the difficulties that beset his ministry. These, however, have not prevented his preaching of the gospel. Now he quotes scripture to express his conviction that the belief of Christians can and must be proclaimed in all circumstances. Although our physical being is gradually decaying, we are inwardly being renewed in accordance with what is unseen and eternal.

[Mark 3:20-35](#)

In our gospel lesson Jesus is accused of being possessed by the prince of demons. He responds by describing his battle against Satan and indicating that true relationship with him is based in the doing of God's will. The passage suggests a certain separation between Jesus and his own relatives due to the intensity of his ministry. To those who charge him with doing good by the power of evil, Jesus answers with figures of speech - one implies that Jesus himself is the man who must first bind Satan before destroying his power. A warning is given not to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit - by which perhaps is meant calling good evil.

Mark 3:20 - 35

Here is the Good News:
Jesus is not out of his mind;
Jesus is not filled with
demonic spirits. Rather,
Jesus has the mind of God;
Jesus is filled with the Holy
Spirit - and invites all of us
to be of the same mind and
same Spirit in a new family
as his sisters and brothers.

CALLING JESUS
"DEMON
POSSESSED"
IS UNCOOL.

ACTUALLY, IT'S A
GOOD THING.

IT'S AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
THAT JESUS WAS DOING
REAL MIRACLES.
THIS TESTIMONY OF HIS
ENEMIES IS HELPFUL.

AH, SO JESUS HAS
FRENEMIES?



© WETZSTEIN 15-06-03

MARK 3:20-35

† Sermon Shorts

"Fear Not" 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. Through God's enduring love and faithfulness, let us strive to become mother, father, sister, or brother to everyone, each according to their need, on every limb in the sacred family tree of Christ, as we pray for those in need:

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

.....**St. John's**, North Haven; Christ Church, Norwalk; **Iglesia Betania**, Stamford; **St. Andrew's**, Stamford.

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

.....Companions in Mission for Publishing & Communication and those communicating God's Word, digital ministry, online social networks and communities.

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

.....**Clayton Ferry, Barbara Hock, Jim Megura, Peter Scalzo, Sr., Peter Scalzo, Jr., Gail, Doris, Karen, Beverly Hall, Robert, Eve, Roger, Fred, Cynthia, Valerie, Heidi Pinheiro, Donna Cennamo, Dale Mitchell, Larry, Ruth, Fred Bauer, Carol Gurski, Elana and Veronika** continued healing.

.....the people of **Ukraine**; the people of the **Socialist Republic of Vietnam**; the people of **Kuwait**; the bishop, clergy and laity of the **Diocese of Fianarantsoa** - The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; and our sister and brother members of the **Moravian Church in Tanzania**.

.....For a spirit of hope: that all who are experiencing affliction may draw strength from the resurrection of Christ and be renewed within so that they may give witness and glory to God.

.....**Bethel Community Food Pantry**, the recipient of our food basket collections for the month of June.

.....**Kingdom Way Pentecostal Church**, Danbury, a church partner 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.

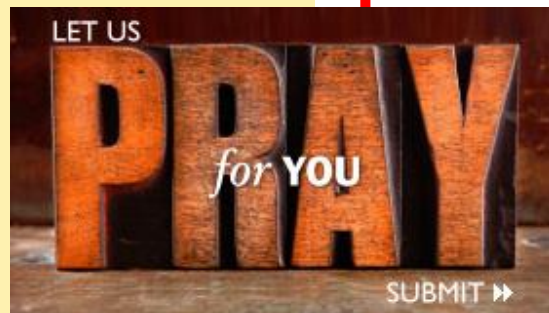
.....**The Care of Children**.

.....that our parish ministries collaborate together for the greater glory of God and not for our own pride.

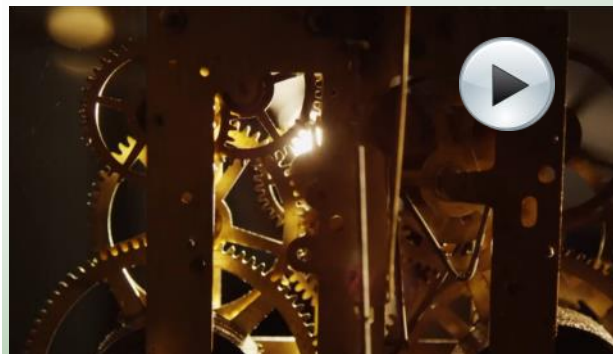
.....the one third of humanity that does not have access to the gospel, for zealous preachers of the word, that by the Holy Spirit, they that they would become strong in their faith, grow in numbers and be a light to those around them.

.....For guidance: that God will inspire all who are confronting the powers of evil and help them to bring freedom to those entrapped by addictions, prejudice, human trafficking or violence.

.....**Peace Among the Nations**.



Many Parts, One Purpose



Different parts . . .
unique purpose . . .
intricate detail . . . all
function together to make
the whole. The designer
made each part - from the
seemingly insignificant to
the most visible - to work
together in perfect unity.



Just For the Joy of It!

(And Christian Fellowship)

Random Fact of the Week!

Did you know ... that Galileo's middle finger (pictured) is considered a secular relic?



 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 -