

*Transforming
Lives Through
Jesus Christ*

SWORD POINTS

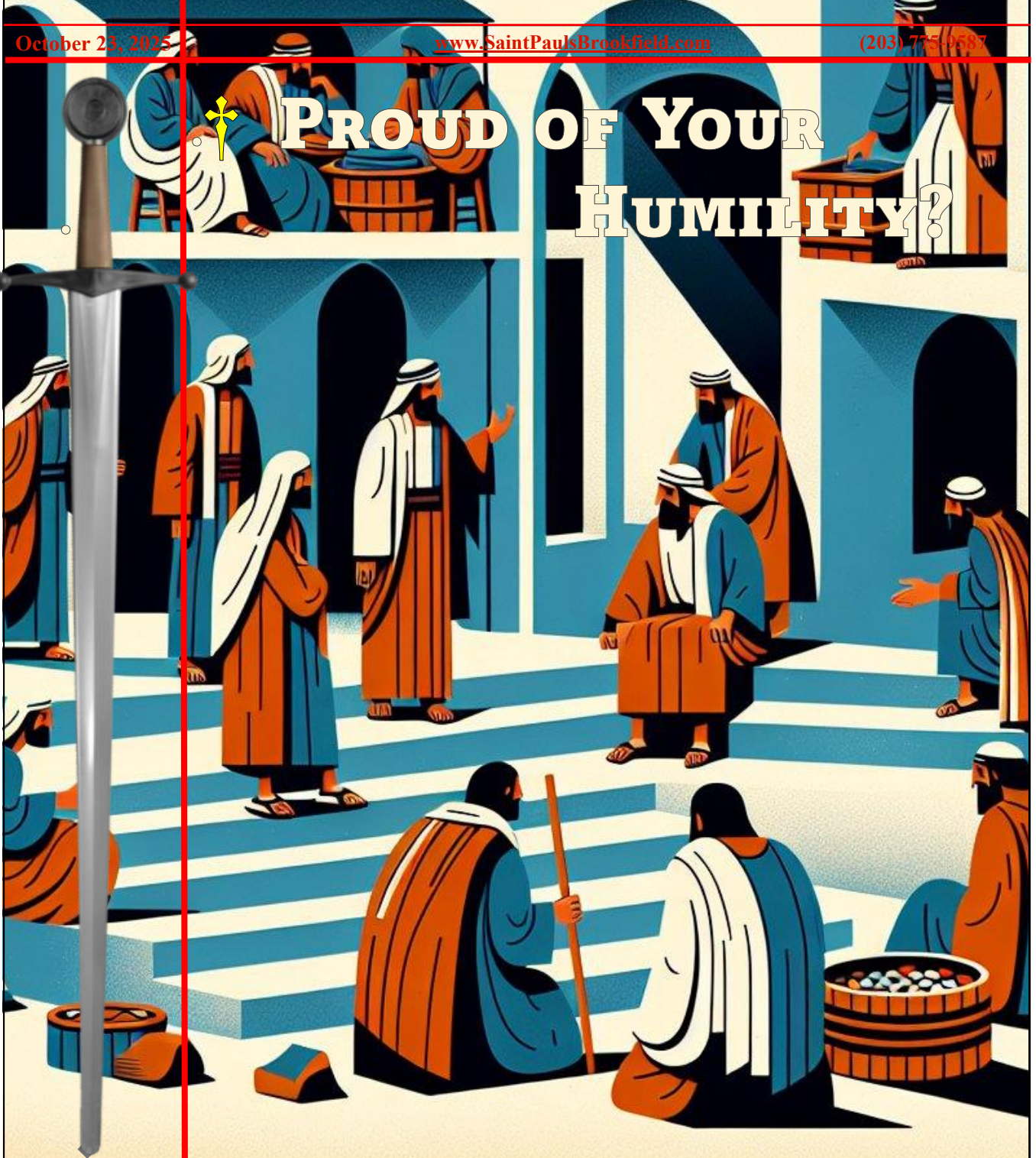
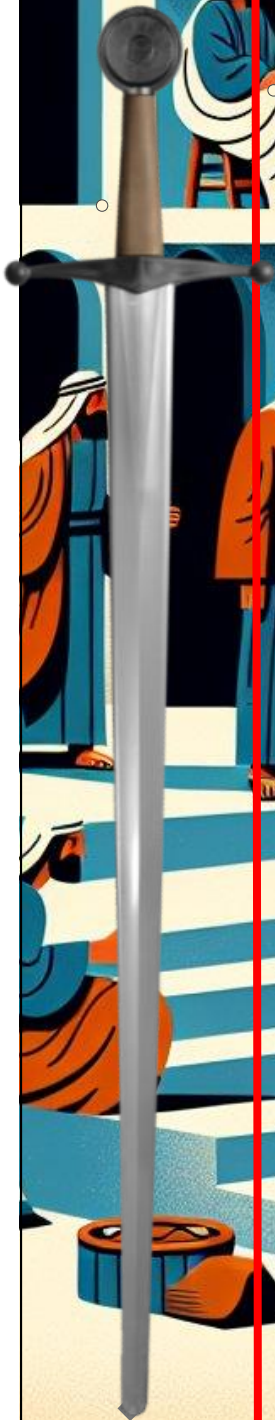
October 23, 2025

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

(203) 755-9587



PROUD OF YOUR HUMILITY?



† A Tale of Two Prayers

Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee standing by himself is imprisoned by his piety and for all his tithing and fasting and righteous living he is farther away from God than the tax collector standing far off. The tax collector in the company of thieves, rogues and adulterers is equally imprisoned by his impiety but closer to God because of his humility (or is it shame?) which is entirely appropriate for the life he lives and the company he keeps. Of course, he is still far off, physically and spiritually, despite being justified for knowing who he is. He will never be able to lift his head or give his breast a break until being justified goes beyond saying I'm sorry. But the parable is not about the tax collector nor does it encourage us to "go and do likewise." The parable is about people whose pride in practicing religion makes the practice of religion meaningless despite all the effort put into ordering life by religious practices. One cannot be close to God standing by oneself. So perhaps being close to God is to live like a Pharisee and pray like a tax collector?



Hudson River Walk

Saturday, October 25th, 1:30 pm

**THIS
WEEK**



Join us for a special parish "Walk across the Hudson" on the World's Longest Elevated Pedestrian Bridge between Poughkeepsie & Highland, New York. The walkway is 1.28 miles long (2.56 miles round trip) and offers spectacular views. After our walk we'll stop at a local restaurant for some refreshment. Contact Ron Switzer (rjswit@msn.com) for more info or to carpool.

WALKWAY



**OVER
THE HUDSON**

We pray that God may "...increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity..." Cultivating our habits of prayer, study, being a part of a worshipping community, and generous giving can be important steps on the path of our daily journey to grow nearer to God.



† Socks & Toiletries for the Homeless

As the temperature drops and the seasons change remember homeless people are on their feet all day, and the only pair of socks they own are very likely to be threadbare. Once again, this year we are collecting socks and toiletries for the men's homeless shelter throughout the winter months. Place donations in the bins in the back of the church or Crocker Hall.

† This Week at St. Paul's

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| Thu, Oct 23 | - 9:30 am | - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room |
| | - 7:30 pm | - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| Fri, Oct 24 | - 10:00 am | - Friday Walking Group, Fairfield Hills Loop, Newtown |
| | - 3:00 pm | - Diocesan Convention, Bristol, CT |
| Sat, Oct 25 | - 7:30 am | - <u>John 21:12</u> Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford |
| | - 8:00 am | - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall |
| | - 9:00 am | - Diocesan Convention, Bristol, CT |
| | - 10:00 am | - PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall |
| | - 10:00 am | - St. Paul's Quilters, Guild Room |
| | - 1:30 pm | - Hudson River Walk, Poughkeepsie, NY |
| Sun, Oct 26 | | The 20th Sunday after Pentecost |
| | - 8:00 am | - Traditional Holy Communion (YouTube Live) |
| | - 9:30 am | - Adult Class, Guild Room |
| | - 10:30 am | - Sunday School, Classrooms |
| | - 10:30 am | - Contemporary Holy Communion (YouTube Live) |
| | - 2 - 4 pm | - Trunk or Treat, Parking Lot |
| Mon, Oct 27 | - 7:00 pm | - Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall (YouTube Live) |
| Tues, Oct 28 | | Saint Simon & Saint Jude, Apostles |
| | - 9:30 am | - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room |
| | - 7:00 pm | - Scout Troop #5, Meadow |
| Wed, Oct 29 | - 10:00 am | - Holy Communion & Healing (YouTube Live) |
| | - 11 to Noon | - Drive-Thru Food Collection #145 |
| | - 7:00 pm | - Ladies Evening Zoom Bible Study (Zoom) |
| Thu, Oct 30 | - 9:30 am | - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room |
| | - 7:30 pm | - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| Fri, Oct 31 | - 10:00 am | - Friday Walking Group, T.B.A. |
| Sat, Nov 1 | - 7:30 am | - <u>John 21:12</u> Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford |
| | - 8:00 am | - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Guild Room |
| | - 8 - 2 pm | - Blood Drive, Crocker Hall |
| Sun, Nov 2 | | All Saints Sunday |
| | - 8:00 am | - Traditional Holy Communion (YouTube Live) |
| | - 9:30 am | - Adult Class, Guild Room |
| | - 10:30 am | - Sunday School, Classrooms |
| | - 10:30 am | - Contemporary Holy Communion (YouTube Live) |

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.

Sunday, October 26th

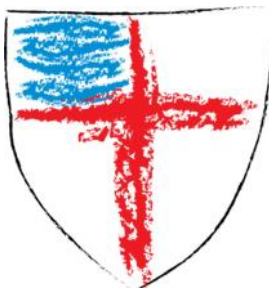
2:00 - 4:00 pm.

**Trunk
OR
Treat**

To sign up as a trunk or for more information contact Emily Perry



Candy donations are always welcome and may be dropped off in the bins in the back of the church.



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

(Episcopal Dictionary)



† **Laity**

/ ley-i-tee /

Laity - The people of God. The term is from the Greek laos, “the people.” The laity has been defined negatively to indicate Christians who have not been ordained. However, all baptized Christians are the people of God, the church, a royal priesthood, a holy nation ([1 Peter 2:9-10](#)). All baptized persons are members of the Body of Christ, the church, but with different functions and ministries ([Romans 12:4-8](#); [1 Corinthians 12:12](#)). All Christian ministries and vocations represent specific ways of living out the baptismal covenant (see *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), pp. 304-305). The ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons (BCP, p. 855). The ministry of the laity is “to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church” (BCP, p. 855). Clericalism unfortunately caused some to view the ordained as the only real ministers of the church and to regard the laity as inferior to the clergy. Increasing appreciation of lay ministry has accompanied a renewed emphasis on the significance of baptism, and a growing understanding that the various ministries of the church can support and uphold one another. The ministries and orders of the church are to be complementary, and not mutually exclusive. Accordingly, the 1979 BCP encourages the participation of all orders of ministry in the worship of the church.



† **Adult Class Studying Faith**

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.



† This Date on the Church Calendar

Thursday, October 23rd

Saint James of Jerusalem

Brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and Martyr, c. 62

In the Gospel according to Matthew and in the Epistle to the Galatians, the James whom we commemorate today is called the Lord's brother. Other writers, following Mark's tradition, believe him to have been a cousin of Jesus. Certain apocryphal writings speak of

him as a son of Joseph's first wife. Whatever his relationship to Jesus - brother, half-brother, or cousin - James was converted after the resurrection. Eventually, he became Bishop of Jerusalem.

In the first letter to the Corinthians (15:7), Paul says that James was favored with a special appearance of the Lord before the ascension. Later, James dealt cordially with Paul at Jerusalem, when the latter came there to meet Peter and the other apostles. During the Council of Jerusalem, when there was disagreement about whether Gentile converts should be circumcised, James summed up the momentous decision with these words: "My judgment is that we should impose no irksome restrictions on those Gentiles who are turning to God" (Acts 15:19).

Eusebius, quoting from an earlier church history by Hegesippus, declares that James was surnamed "the Just." He was holy, abstemious, did not cut his hair nor oil his body, and was continually on his knees in prayer, interceding for his people. "As many as came to believe did so through James," says Hegesippus.

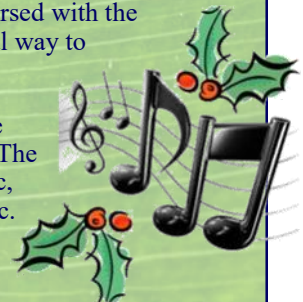
James' success in converting many to Christ greatly perturbed some factions in Jerusalem. According to Hegesippus, they begged him to "restrain the people, for they have gone astray to Jesus, thinking him to be the Messiah . . . We bear you witness that you are just . . . Persuade the people that they do not go astray . . . we put our trust in you." They then set James on the pinnacle of the temple, bidding him to preach to the multitude and turn them from Jesus. James, however, testified for the Lord. Thereupon, they hurled him from the roof to the pavement, and cudgelled him to death.



† Lessons and Carols: Save the Date!

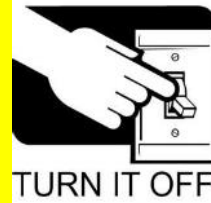
Our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this beautiful service which consists of Scripture readings about the birth of Jesus interspersed with the singing of traditional carols led by our choir. What a truly wonderful way to prepare your heart, mind, and voice for Christmas!

Or better yet, if you like to sing, you are welcome to join our special choir for this service. Rehearsals are on the following three Mondays from 7-9 pm: Nov 24, Dec 1 & 8; and Thursday, Dec 11. The only prerequisites are as follows: 1) you like to sing Christmas music, and 2) you like to be around people who like to sing Christmas music. No previous participation in the music ministry required! Please contact Kirsten Peterson to join: kirpeterson@comcast.net.



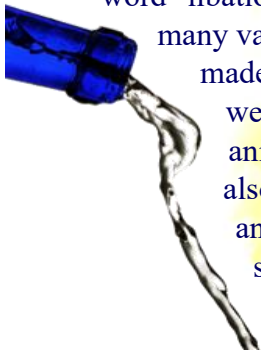
† Good Stewardship Begins At Home: *Our Home*

Please remind all who use our home to be good stewards by turning off lights, closing curtains, turning down thermostats, cleaning up after themselves and locking doors when they are leaving, especially as fuel prices continue to steadily increase.



Like a Libation

The second letter to Timothy describes a trial against Paul, probably in Rome. He fully expects a death sentence and is resigned to it. He interprets it as a sacrifice, indicating this by his choice of the word "libation." There were



many varieties of offerings made to gods. There were sacrifices of animals, plants and also liquids like wine and oil. Fluid sacrifices were called libations.

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin!

God picks you from the patch and brings you in.
(John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.
(Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling face.
(Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.
(Matthew 5:16)



† Prophets of Old

Joel

c. 400 BC

Not much is known about Joel, who probably lived after the return of the Jews from exile in Babylon. The Book of Joel seems to build on the work of some of the other prophets, so this prophet may have been one of the last to write.

The Book of Joel is unusual. It is like a reconciliation service. Joel calls the people - even the oldest and the youngest, even brides and grooms - to fast and assemble in prayer. The fast may have been called in connection with the Jewish New Year and Day of Atonement, a traditional time of fasting in sorrow for sin.

Joel wrote that repentance must be from the heart, not just for show. He encouraged people not to tear their clothing, which was a customary way to show sorrow, but to open their hearts to change and to trust that God will honor their sincere sorrow for sin. Then Joel records an extraordinary promise. "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old shall dream dreams, and your young shall see visions."



† **Finishing Well**

[Joel 2:23-32](#) - [Psalm 65](#) - [2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18](#) - [Luke 18:9-14](#)

When we look at our lives, what is important is not how we began or even what we have done. What is important is what remains when our lives end. The challenge we face is to finish well. In order to finish well, we must begin somewhere and make choices while living. Those choices, however, only have lasting value if we stick to them until the end.

As finite human beings, at one time or another, our thoughts naturally drift to the unsettling fact that the world might have to exist without us. That is not a shock. The problem is that it is hard to imagine the world without *me*, or that once we are gone, the world will continue without taking notice. Naturally, an important question arises: What is it for which we will be known or remembered? The longer we live, the longer the list of possibilities grows.

At various times we may have aspired to write a book, win a prize, be rich and famous, exercise great power and influence, be morally outstanding and a model citizen, or even offer some great act of mercy or compassion. But history has taught us that all of those are but fleeting memories that will not even reach the flames of the Last Day. The trophies in the attic are a hidden and forgotten testimony to athletic glory. A dissertation containing unpronounceable words collects dust on the back shelf of academic achievement. A



yellowing ordination certificate at least gives us access to the Church Pension Fund. The fact is that in the end, as good as all these are, they will not last - they are not of ultimate value. What matters is to stand before the grave and say, no matter the circumstances, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

In his closing

Lance Grandahl/
Unsplash

letter to his spiritual son, Timothy, St. Paul used the image of a race to describe the successful completion of his ministry. In the context of St. Paul's letter and in the church, the race is more like a relay, with each generation running a leg, the success of which includes the handing off of the baton to the next runner. The baton is faith in Jesus Christ. The next runner is our child, genealogically or spiritually, as in the case with St. Paul and Timothy. The desire of our heart should be that our children will take hold of the baton of faith and run hard with it.

If we can come to the end of our leg of the relay and successfully hand off the baton, then we will have completed the race and given others something of eternal worth. With God's help, we will have finished well indeed.

Look It Up: Luke 18:9-14

Think About It: When we justify ourselves before God and people, we do it at the expense of our neighbor.

- by The Rev. Dr. Chuck Alley, *The Living Church*, 2025

✠ *Art in the Christian Tradition*

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector,

Engraved by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794-1872),
published Leipzig, by Georg Wigands, 1852-1860,
this plate conceived in 1854, *Die Bibel in Bildern*, Plate 200,
© Cologne, Wallraf-Richartz-Museum & Fondation Corboud

This engraving is taken from *Die Bibel in Bildern* (The Picture Bible) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, published in Leipzig in 30 parts between 1852 and 1860. Schnorr, a Lutheran, faced criticism at the time for straying too far from the simplicity and severity typical of biblical illustrations. As we see in this engraving, his work carries a certain liveliness - perhaps even a touch of humor - alongside a rich aesthetic and decorative flourish. The scene is striking: the Pharisee stands apart, self-righteous, his prayer echoing the words, "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector." With an air of indifference, he tosses a coin into the collection tazza. In contrast, the humble tax collector removes his hat, a gesture of deep remorse and humility.

The parable in Sunday's Gospel reading serves as a clear warning about how easily we can become caught up in our own self-satisfaction, measuring our holiness against others and feeling superior. Yet, like those in the parable, we are far from perfect. Jesus calls us to humility; not a false humility that diminishes our worth, but a true humility that recognizes our limitations. We are called to use our talents in the service of others, while also acknowledging where we fall short and seeking wisdom from those who know better. Jesus does not ask us to belittle ourselves, nor does he want us to exalt ourselves. He simply calls us to live in truth, recognizing our need for God's grace.



Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld was associated with the Nazarene movement. The Nazarene movement was a group of early 19th-century German and Austrian artists who sought to revive the purity, spirituality, and craftsmanship of early Renaissance and late medieval art, particularly inspired by figures like Fra Angelico and Raphael. Rejecting the academic classicism of their time, they aimed to infuse religious art with deeper emotion and sincerity, often using biblical and historical themes to convey moral and spiritual ideals. Schnorr combined classical compositions with a very expressive, almost theatrical quality. Schnorr's engravings are distinguished by their fine, precise lines and strong contrasts, creating a sense of depth and movement within each biblical scene. Unlike the more rigid and austere biblical illustrations of his time, his work exhibits a dynamic interplay of light and shadow, intricate detailing, and a richness of expression that brings each figure to life.

† Women's Wed Evening Bible Study

The Women's Evening Bible Study has started a new study on Wednesdays, at 7:00 on Zoom. The topic is Courage: people in the Bible who showed courage in difficult circumstances. We will see how each person met their situation, what role God played, and what we can apply to ourselves now. All women are welcome. For more information contact Kathy Whipple at kthyw49@gmail.com.



† St. Paul's Walking Group!

Our St. Paul's walking group is making a great strides! Their next walk will be on the Fairfield Hills Loop, tomorrow, Friday, October 12 at 10:00 am. We should plan to meet at 2 Primrose Street in Newtown. I will check the weather and send out an update e-mail if there are any changes before the meet up time. And don't forget, we are planning to do a walk over the Hudson River on Saturday, October 25th. If you know anyone else who might be interested in joining our group, please let me know and I will add them to the group list. Ron Switzer (rjswit@msn.com).



† Sunday School Info!

ATTN: PARENTS OF ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Sunday School classes have resumed. Bring your students to the classrooms by 10:30. Children will be returned to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Oct 26th 8 am - Durkin's
Nov 2nd 8 am - Bennett's
Nov 9th 8 am - Sarver's

10:30 am - Heidi Duckett
10:30 am - Barbieri's
10:30 am - Marcalus's



**COFFEE HOUR
HOSTS NEEDED**

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



† Thought for Reflection

- from Fr. John Morrison

"If security represents our highest aspiration, we may be owned and indentured by Aetna Life and Casualty; if pleasure is our priority, we may distribute our time and money in hedonistic pursuits; if scholarship rules, we will be properly pedigreed and securely settled in an academic environment. Even if the dream is unrealistic or temporarily on hold due to uncontrollable circumstances, it prods our consciousness, nurtures our fantasies, and inchoately sustains our will-to-meaning in the world.

The dream of Jesus Christ is the kingdom of God, and the committed Christian buys into his dream. Jesus' kingdom is not an abstraction, but a concrete, visible reality, forged by the personal commitment to act on his teachings. A commitment to Jesus that doesn't result in humble service, suffering discipleship, and creative love is an illusion."

Brennan Manning, *A Glimpse of Jesus: The Stranger to Self-Hatred*, p. 104

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." **do not reply, do not click links in the messages, mark** If there is any doubt about the veracity of a text or by e-mail at (priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com) or (dszen@yahoo.com).

Delete these messages, them as Spam or Junk. email, contact Fr. Nate the office



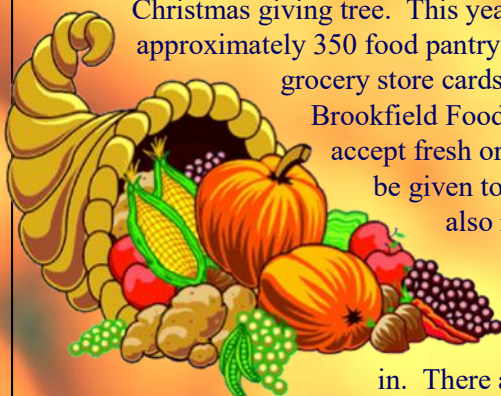
CAUTION!

There Seems to be a New Scam Every Week!



† Thanksgiving Food Donation

This is the time of the year when we talk about our plans for gathering donations for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets as well as the Christmas Giving Tree. Brookfield Social Services will again use a modified program to keep everyone safe. There will be no Thanksgiving baskets or Christmas giving tree. This year they are collecting \$30 gift cards for approximately 350 food pantry clients. For Thanksgiving, it will be grocery store cards - ShopRite, Big Y, Stop & Shop, etc. The Brookfield Food Pantry **DOES NOT** have the capacity to accept fresh or frozen turkeys, so the \$30 gift cards will be given to clients to purchase their own. We are also requesting non-perishable food donations. Please see suggested list below.



We will have a “mailbox” at the back of church for you to put your gift cards in. There are no sign up lists. You may also mail them to St. Paul’s or drop it off during the Wednesday Drive-Thru food collections. Please put it in an envelope and mark it clearly.

All Thanksgiving gifts cards and food donations are due in by Sunday, November 9th.



Thank you all for your continued support in everything St. Paul’s does. Our aim is for the people in need get the help they count on from their neighbors in town...that’s what St. Paul’s attempts in so many ways. God bless you all.

If you have any questions, call Bonnie Wanzer (203) 313-2814.

Thank you.

These are items donated in the past. These are suggestions only. Whatever you provide is greatly appreciated. Gluten free products are also appreciated.

Aluminum Turkey roasting pans
Canned Apple or Blueberry Pie Filling
Canned Pumpkin
Canned Vegetables

(Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Yams)
Chicken or Turkey Broth
Coffee (Decaf & Caffeinated)
Cron Bread Mixes
Cranberry Juice or Sauce
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Crispy Onions for Green Bean Casserole
Evaporated Milk
Gravy Mix (Bottled, canned, Packet)
Marshmallows (Small)

Napkins
Pie Crust
Stuffing mix or Stove Top

Baking items:
Flour, Brown Sugar, White Sugar, Spices for Baking, Vanilla Extract

After-the-Meal Essentials: Dish Detergent, Paper Towels

Oktoberfest 2025



† Paul's Laundry List 2 Timothy 4:6-8; 16-18

The lectionary skips verses 9 - 15. The laundry list of names and places and the cloak and books and parchments left in Troas make Paul's fighting the good fight and finishing the race sound a lot like ours. Granted Paul accomplished more than we have, but verses 9 -15 reveal the apostle who wrote most of the New Testament as a man who forgets his cloak in Troas, and asks a friend to bring it to him because presumably he's cold. But more important than identifying with his forgetfulness, we understand how faithful friends become the agents used by the Lord to rescue us from the lion's mouth. Paul, deserted by Demas and harmed greatly by Alexander, is rescued from evil attacks because of friends like Luke, who is with him, and Mark, who is useful, and of course Timothy who sends cloak and books and above all the parchments, which may have become the letter that includes the verses the lectionary people left out.





Take note

by Kirsten Peterson, Organist & Choirmaster

Greetings!

In Connecticut, we are certainly no strangers to storms that bring rain and thunder and bring down trees. The typical adage we hear is "the calm before the storm" but the calm after the storm is the one that's so welcome and quietly powerful.

Consider this story: A young Swedish man named Carl Boberg (1859-1940) was walking home in 1885 when he was caught in a storm complete with wind, rain, thunder and lightening. As the storm subsided, he was struck by the peaceful calm, the beauty of his surroundings, and the tolling of a church bell in the distance. That experience led him to write a 9-verse poem called "O Great God" (O Store Gud, in Swedish). It was published the following year in the *Mönsterås Tidningen* (Mönsterås News). A translation of the first verse is as follows:

*O great God, when I look at that world
As you have created with your word of omnipotence,
How your wisdom guides the threads of life,
And all beings are saturated at your table:*

*Then the soul bursts forth into praise:
O great God, O great God!
Then the soul bursts forth into praise:
O great God, O great God!*



Carl Boberg

If the sentiment sounds familiar, it's because we know this hymn today as "How Great Thou Art."

Boberg's words were set to an old Swedish folk tune and began to be sung at some Swedish churches. The popularity of the hymn led to its translation into other languages, most notably German, Russian, and eventually English (in 1925 by E. Gustav Johnson, a Swedish-American college professor in Illinois). But the story continues! You would think that Johnson's English version is the one we'd use today, but that honor goes to Stuart K. Hine, a British missionary (1899-1989) serving in Ukraine in 1931. At that time, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Republic, and Russian was the majority language. It is Hine's translation and reworking of the Russian version that we know today. He re-wrote some of the stanzas and even added some of his own original verses, including this one:

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

Michael Ireland offers the following explanation of how this particular verse came about:

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Choir Notes

It was typical of the Hines to ask if there were any Christians in the villages they visited. In one case, they found out that the only Christians that their host knew about were a man named Dmitri and his wife Lyudmila. Dmitri's wife knew how to read -- evidently a fairly rare thing at that time and in that place. She taught herself how to read because a Russian soldier had left a Bible behind several years earlier, and she started slowly learning by reading that Bible. When the Hines arrived in the village and approached Dmitri's house, they heard a strange and wonderful sound: Dmitri's wife was reading from the gospel of John about the crucifixion of Christ to a houseful of guests, and those visitors were in the very act of repenting. In Ukraine (as I know first hand!), this act of repenting is done very much out loud. So the Hines heard people calling out to God, saying how unbelievable it was that Christ would die for their own sins, and praising Him for His love and mercy. They just couldn't barge in and disrupt this obvious work of the Holy Spirit, so they stayed outside and listened. Stuart wrote down the phrases he heard the Repenters use, and (even though this was all in Russian), it became the third verse that we know today: "And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in."

Incidentally, the Hines had to flee Ukraine because of harsh actions by Joseph Stalin to suppress a rising independence movement. These actions resulted in the deaths of millions of ethnic Ukrainians in the early 1930s. The eerie similarity to what we see happening in Ukraine today is certainly not lost on me.

I thought it would be fitting to share this hymn in two contexts, both Ukrainian. One video is a simple presentation of the hymn sung in Ukrainian. The second is a performance by pianist Huntley Brown backed by a Ukrainian choir during a Franklin Graham Festival held in Lviv on June 20, 2015, a city that is fighting for survival today.

At some point in our lives, we've probably all witnessed God's calming presence following a storm, both literally and figuratively! As our struggles and unrest dissipate, may we too cry out "how great thou art!" And as we sing this hymn at the 8:00 service this Sunday, may we hold the lives of countless Ukrainians in our hearts and pray for God's peaceful calm to dissipate their storms soon.

Peace and blessings, Kirsten



Stuart K. Hine



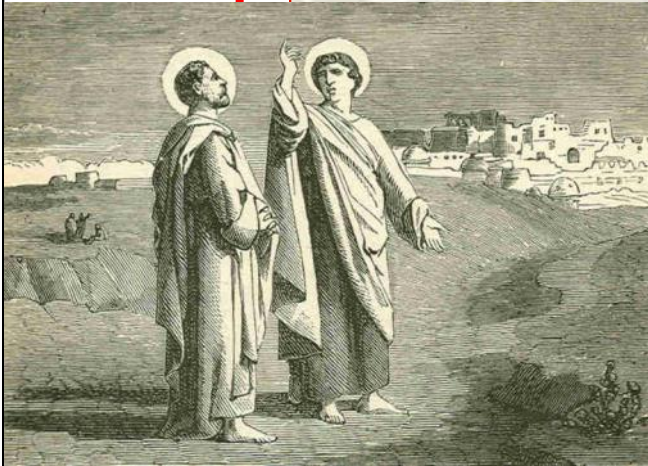
† This Date on the Church Calendar

Tuesday, October 28th

St. Simon & St. Jude

Apostles

The only thing the Gospels tell us about Simon is that he was one of the disciples, and that he was called “the Zealot” (Zelotes). John mentions Jude in his description of the Last Supper. The Epistle of Jude may be the work of the disciple Jude, who is the man



mentioned by John as the brother of James the Greater. Tradition has consistently associated Simon and Jude as apostles to Persia. Some accounts state that they were martyrs, a tradition generally accepted by the Western Church. The Monology of Basil, however, says that Simon died a peaceful death at Edessa. Jude, who was surnamed Thaddeus, has been confused with another Thaddeus, who was also said to have died a quiet death, either in Beirut or Edessa. Whatever the facts, accounts conflict and reliable data are lacking.

There are other scholarly questions about both men. One involves Simon’s appellation “Zelotes.” Whether in fact he had been a member before his conversion of one of the several factions called “Zealots,” or whether this title refers to his zeal for the Jewish law, is not known, but he has consistently been identified by it. For some centuries, and even to this day, Jude has been regarded in popular devotion as the “patron of desperate or lost causes,” but the basis of this tradition is obscure.

The Epistle of Jude concludes with this striking doxology: “Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time and now and for ever” (Jude 24–25).

† True Humility Rewarded

He that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (Luke 18:14)
It ought not to be difficult for us to humble ourselves, for what have we to be proud of? We ought to take the lowest place without being told to do so. If we are sensible and honest, we shall be little in our own eyes. Especially before the Lord in prayer we shall shrink to nothing. There we cannot speak of merit, for we have none; our one and only appeal must be to mercy: “God be merciful to me a sinner.”

Here is a cheering word from the throne. We shall be exalted by the Lord if we humble ourselves. For us the way upward is downhill. When we are stripped of self we are clothed with humility, and this is the best of wear. The Lord will exalt us in peace and happiness of mind; He will exalt us into knowledge of His Word and fellowship with Himself; He will exalt us in the enjoyment of sure pardon and justification.

The Lord puts His honors upon those who can wear them to the honor of the Giver. He gives usefulness, acceptance, and influence to those who will not be puffed up by them but will be abased by a sense of greater responsibility. Neither God nor man will care to lift up a man who lifts up himself; but both God and good men unite to honor modest worth.

O Lord, sink me in self that I may rise in Thee.

THE WAY



UP IS DOWN



DANBURY, CT
NOV 14

MATIN
TOUR



JESSRAYMUSIC.COM

Community Coffeehouse
WITH SPECIAL GUEST THOMAS AUSTIN



IJM

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Fri., Nov. 14, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

Tickets GA \$20, VIP \$30

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✠ News for the Church Plant!

Hello friends!

What a whirlwind it has been since our family's last newsletter! The last time we reached out was June, before we went back to America for the summer. As many of you know, it was an incredibly hard summer for our family, which we're still processing.

With so many personal and ministry changes to update you with, we've decided to break this newsletter into 2 parts. This first one will focus on ministry and all that God is doing in Cambodia, while the second (which we'll try to send in the next couple of weeks) will give a more personal update for our family. Thanks for

joining along!

We have some very exciting news to share with you all! We've been sitting on this news for a few months now, as the details were being worked out, but we're thrilled to finally be able to tell you! **After months of searching for a location for CCOP to grow into, we think we've found it!**

While our current location has been a gift to us these past 2 years, we always knew it would be a temporary place for us. There are a few factors that make the current spot challenging, but a short list would include:

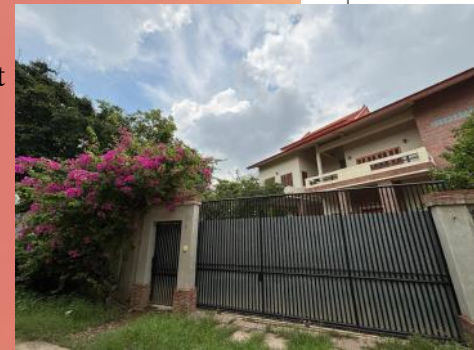
- 4th floor of building, no elevator
- \$2,500 per month rental price which is hard to justify with the allowed amount of usage
- Current rental property allows for use primarily on Sundays only.
- At our current rental site, no space to expand, as the building is at capacity.
- No kitchen/outdoor area difficult to find space for child-friendly community building events

Knowing this, since Spring of 2025, we've been searching for a place to meet the needs of our growing church. I think the location that we've found overabundantly meets those needs!

What the new building site offers:

- Ground floor access (for those with disabilities/injury)

(Continued on page 19)



The new property for CCOP Sen Sok, and an Early Learning Center for Cambodian children.



Currently, CCOP meets on the top floor of this building.

(Continued from page 18)

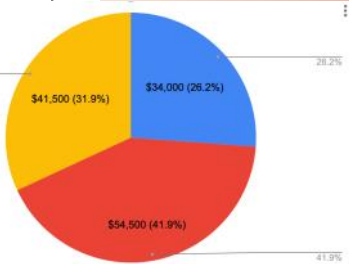
The McLaughlin's in Cambodia

- \$350 monthly rent once the building is funded and paid off (surplus tithe funds will be directed towards Khmer ministry)
- Kind and generous landlords (Khmer husband and wife who both worked for NGO's until retirement and want to see the property used to help develop Cambodia)
- Full access to building 24/7 so we could build in weekly events (Bible studies, Alpha Course, Celebrate Recovery, community events, Young Life)
- Shares property with Khmer school that we plan on partnering with in ministry
- Kitchen and large outdoor area to use for fellowship events and meals (sharing lunch with Khmer church)
- Located directly next to a low-income neighborhood with so many opportunities for Mercy ministry (English classes, health checks, etc.)

Hopefully that summarizes the VERY exciting potential for something like this in Cambodia. After meeting with multiple companies here, the estimated cost for a church building is \$130,000. We're partnering with the Anglican church of Singapore while raising funds for this project, and between their help (\$34,000 in blue) and the generous pledges from some churches and families in America (\$41,500 in yellow), we've already had \$75,500 pledged! That leaves only \$54,500 (red) left.



Early design of the church property that we're hoping to fund. The house on the right is preexisting, so the Anglican Church of Cambodia plans to convert it into an early learning center for Khmer children.



Would you like to join us in raising funds for this project? It would be a one-time donation, and all of the money you donate will go directly to this project (with only 1% to AFM admin fees). If you join us in this, you'll get to see and hear firsthand how God is blessing the

growing Church of Cambodia. We're so excited to see what He has in store!

If you'd like to support this exciting opportunity, click the link below, select #235, and make a note that says, "Church Building Fund."

Please let us know if you have any additional questions, and we look forward to talking more about this! We'll follow up with an email and/or text message in about two weeks.

Blessings,
The McLaughlins



This link contains all the directions for recurring monthly gifts through checking account, Credit/Debit, Paypal, and Check. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser.
<https://anglicanfrontiers.com/give/>.

If you choose to give online, under the dropdown menu select "W+B" (account #235).

Fun fact: Official legal documents are "signed" with blue thumbprints in Cambodia!



Israel - Walking in Jesus' Footsteps

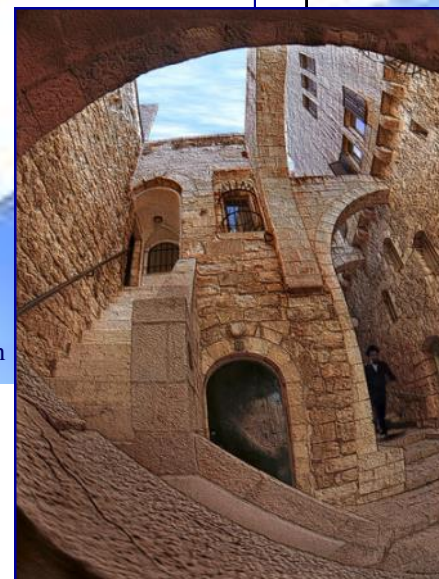
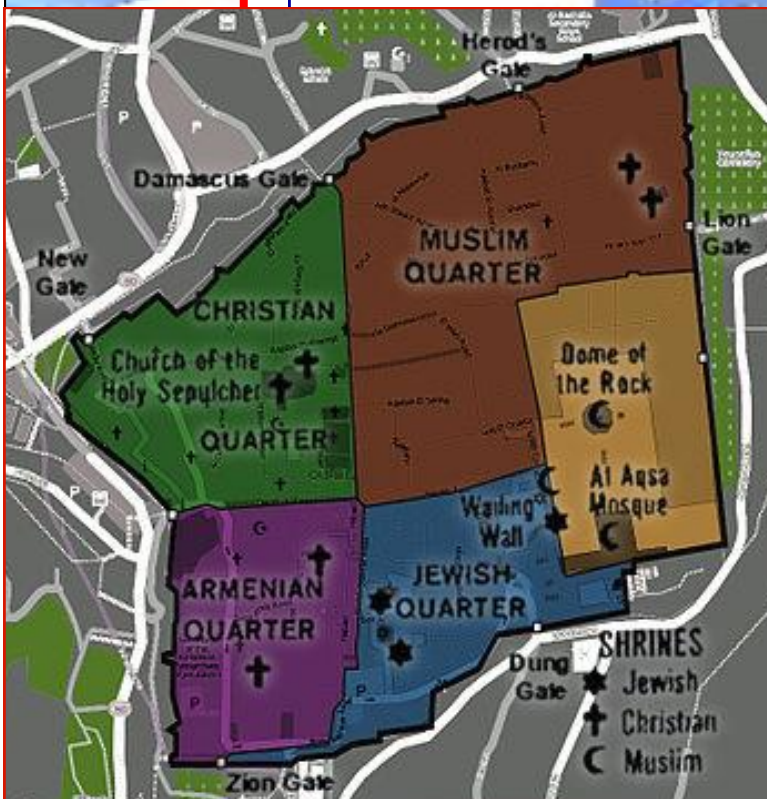


✠ The Old City Quarters ✧

Jerusalem is a unique city due to its geographical layout. Jerusalem is divided into two main parts; the old city and the new city. The entire portion of the old city is walled off, separating it from the new city which was built around it. The Old City is a sacred site to many religions.

The Old City is divided into four sections according to ethnic affiliation: The Armenian Quarter goes back to the ancient days and the beginning of Christianity. The Jewish Quarter is

where the Wall can be found; the Western Wall, the most sacred wall in the Old City, where Jews still read the Book of Lamentations. The Moslem Quarter is where the original Temple was located, now the Dome of the Rock, where, in the Jewish faith is the site of Abraham's sacrifice and where the prophet Muhammad ascended into heaven. The Christian Quarter is the location of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, site of Jesus' crucifixion and entombment. The divisions of the Old City looks much like a labyrinth with all the walls in the city. It covers a rectangular area of approximately 1

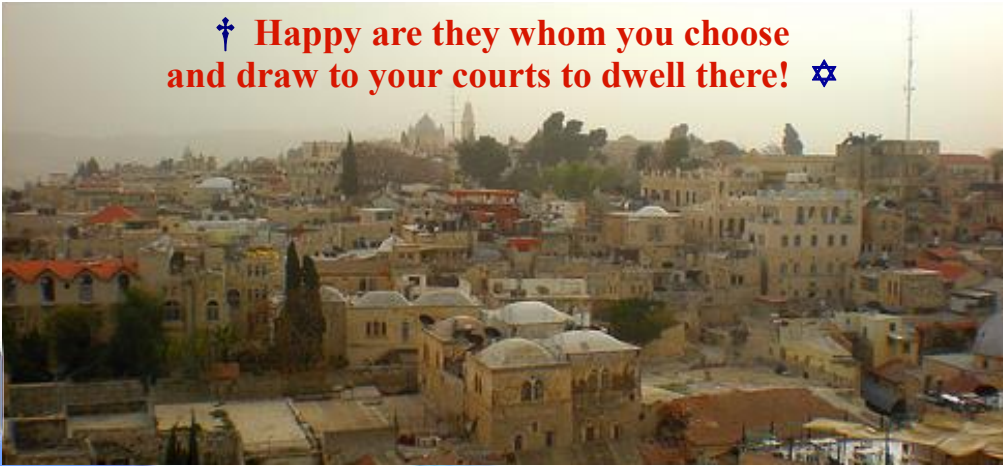


(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

The Old City Quarters

✠ Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! ☆



square kilometer. Its walls are about 12 meters high and 4 kilometers long. Eight gates, built in the second century and reconstructed in the sixteenth century, serve as entrances into the city. Until the late 1800s, these gates were locked at night to protect the city's inhabitants. The walls encompass a large portion of the city and carry significant meaning to civilians and religious followers alike. The city is steeped in spirituality. It is a multi-ethnic city with church bells ringing beside the shofar with a very international flavor. Most of the walls were constructed during the 16th century by the Ottoman Turks.



There is an inherent sanctity here for observant Jews which goes beyond religion; it is the well-spring of Jewish culture.





✝ 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 144 food drives since April 22, 2020! Last time we delivered food to the New Milford Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry & their Food Pantry and the Jericho Partnership in Danbury.

Our next food collection, will be Wednesday, October 29th and will support the New Milford Loaves & Fishes 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 vehicles and deliver food to the pantries.

Next Drive-Thru Food Collection Wednesday October 29th



*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.



† PraiseMoves Is Back!

PraiseMoves classes will be held on every Saturday in the month of October at 10 am in Crocker Hall (maybe an alternate location on one Saturday but it will be on the church campus). PraiseMoves is the Christian alternative to Yoga and designed to help with balance, toning and core strengthening – all while scripture is being spoken with every posture! All ages and athletic ability are welcome and all postures can be modified for any reason. Mary Perry, Certified PraiseMoves Instructor, will be leading the class - email her at maryperry2@me.com with any questions. All you need is an open heart to hear the word of God and a mat! Please sign up at the rear table in the



PraiseMoves

† Transforming Stewardship

"...for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:14

Pride and ego is the root cause of most of our sins. Thinking your time is so valuable, your talent is better than anyone else and your money gives you status is another way of making those things "gods" before God. Remember all those gifts were God-given. Stewards are humbled by God's abundant generosity and have hearts filled with gratitude.



Newtown

Echoes of España

with WSO Chamber Orchestra

featuring:

Nathan Howard & Nathan Meltzer



Ritual Firedance
Manuel De Falla

Carmen Fantasy
Pablo de Sarasate

Concierto de Aranjuez
Joaquin Rodrigo
And more

Waterbury
Symphony
Orchestra

Sun, Nov 2nd 4pm
Edmond Town Hall, Newtown

Featuring
our favorite
oboist,*
Kirsten
Peterson!



* Yes, Oboist is a word
= a person who plays
the oboe is best
referred to as an
oboist. No oboe
players were harmed
in the providing of this
answer



Saint Paul's Parish Chronic Pain Support Group

Compassion • Hope • Fellowship

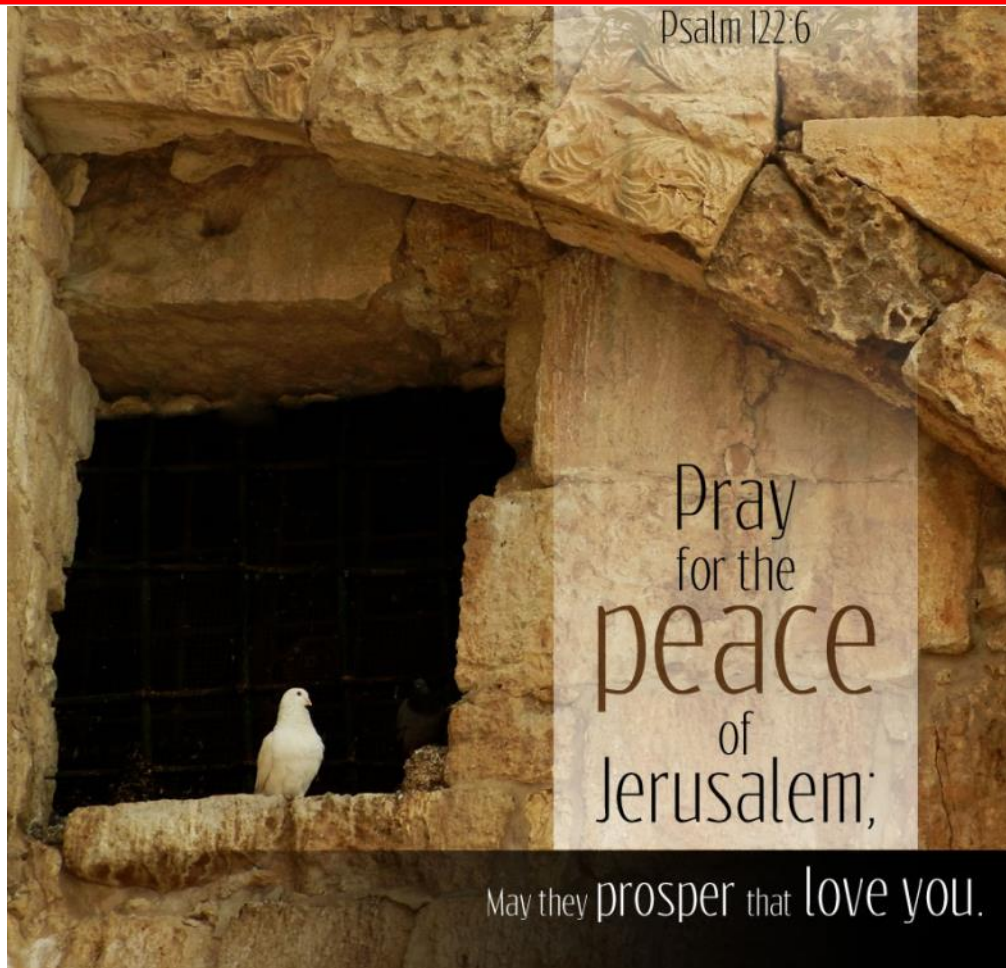
Next Meeting
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6th
11:30

St Paul's Parish • The Guild Room
174 Whisconier Rd. Brookfield, CT

Contact - chronicpain@saintpaulsbrookfield.com

*Pre-registration Required

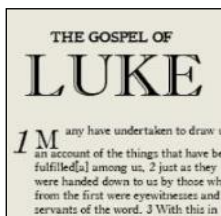
***Meets on the 1st Thursday of every month**



✠ Pharisees and Tax Collectors

Jesus strongly condemned religious hypocrisy. He illustrates this with a story that has lost much of its impact over the centuries. Partially because of the Gospels the name "Pharisee" has taken on a negative aspect. Actually, the Pharisees were the "good guys". They were a political group organized to defend the rights of migrant farm workers. Modern Judaism can be traced to the better ideals of the Pharisee movement.

In the first century tax collectors were not merely civil servants, they were mercenaries who actually bid for the right to extort from their fellow Jews. Jesus turned the tables by showing that the supposed "sinner" had more humility than the self-proclaimed "holy man."



Our Men meet weekly to 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.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



The Nicene Creed: Week 5

To commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter, bishop of Wisconsin, has written a series of reflections on the Nicene Creed and its relevance for contemporary Episcopalians. Over the coming weeks, we'll share his teachings, written mostly in a question-and-answer format.

Can't we just worship God without getting hung up with the Creed?

Again, that presumes some knowledge (creed) about God and what it means to worship that God rightly. In fact, part of what guided the developing understanding expressed in the Nicene Creed was the language of the church's worship.

In any event, within the Episcopal/Anglican tradition, eliminating or ignoring the Creed would not resolve things for those who don't like it. The rest of the liturgy is saturated with the same story and the same imagery.

Further, the Creed and worship are integrally related:

“Nicene Christianity has also understood orthodoxy in a richer and deeper sense: as right praise. To be orthodox is to strive to stand rightly with others before the mystery of the true God. To be orthodox is to join with a community of faith in adoration of God's doxa (glory), which already casts light on the day when God will finally make everything right. Belief is never correct when it becomes nothing more than a political mechanism to ensure the unity of an institution. Belief is right only when it points us in the right direction: to glorification of the true God, who promises not to give us a secret wisdom, but to be graciously present to us, even and especially where our vision and knowledge are weak.”

— John Burgess, ‘Going Creedless; The Christian Century, June 1, 2004, pp. 24-28



† 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.

GATHER

Your blessings and celebrate with thanksgiving.

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.**

Serer-Sine

Country: Senegal | Population: 1,828,000 | Language: Serer-Sine | Main Religion: Islam | Evangelical: 0.81%

The Serer-Sine, also known as the Sereer, have built their society upon strong family ties and tradition. They are subsistence farmers and herders, relying on good crop yields for a prosperous year. Most Sereer hold fast to traditional beliefs, even if they practice Islam or Roman Catholicism. The Sereer wear charms that they believe have the power to bless them. Muslims wear charms that include pictures of a holy man and Koranic verses, Catholic charms include a picture of Christ or a church leader, and animists wear charms that include parts of an animal or ancestor that died long ago. Unlike other people groups in Senegal, Sereer face little persecution for turning to other faiths. Pray this openness would allow the Sereer to find true freedom in Christ.



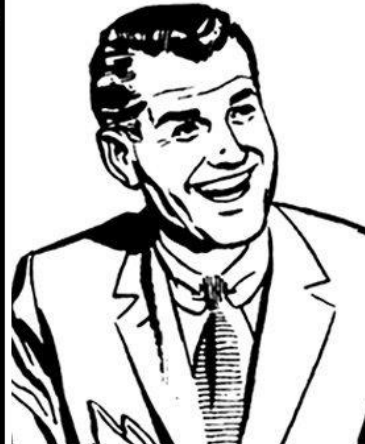


Don Winkley & Denise Adams celebrate tomorrow. Todd Rubsmmen opens presents Saturday. Steve Peterson & David Szen are a year old & wiser on Sunday. Robert Mayne blows out candles Monday. Have a blessed day everyone!



Presents

COFFEE WITH JESUS



Looking back, it's obvious how you've been with me over the years, Jesus.



Every step - and every misstep - of the way, Carl.

Missteps



I need to be more with you.



Be a whole lot less missteps that way, for sure.



©Radio Free Babylon® All rights reserved. Jesus never leaves. It's always us. Faithless. Fearful. And even when we're far away, he is working. Every misstep. Kind of amazing, really. We serve a God who takes our screw-ups and works them to our good. He has the Big Picture in mind always. A thing we cannot see. Until we look back. Then it's obvious. It's easy to praise a God who has everything under control. We just have to recognize that he does. When we're not misstepping.



Connecticut Master Chorale

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor
Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist
Connecticut Master Chorale Holiday Brass



Holiday Prelude Concert *"Season of Joy!"*

We welcome the coming holidays with a stellar collection of outstanding festive choral music. The diverse program includes selections for Winter, Advent, Hanukkah, and the New Year, with joyous carols, spirituals, gospel and more.

Sunday, November 23, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
164 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT

\$20 advance/\$25 door
(203) 740-9533 - www.cmchorale.org

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Jason D. Lewis Brookfield Memorial VFW Post 10201 and Auxiliary

Saturday, November 1, 2025

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

174 Whisconier Rd.

Brookfield, CT 06804

By Appointment Only

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

or

Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter StPaulsCT to schedule

Thank you for your support! The need is GREAT!

† This Sunday's Readings

(Click on the red links for the readings)

The Beauty of Humility

Joel 2:23-32

In our opening reading the prophet pictures a time of great abundance and gladness. All plague and famine are in the past. The Lord will be present to the people of God, and they will never again be put to shame. God will pour forth the Spirit on all peoples, creating prophecies, dreams, and visions. There will be signs in the natural world as well, on earth and in the sky, for this will be time of great transformation - a day of judgment as well as opportunity for salvation.

Psalms 65

A psalm of praise and thanksgiving to the savior, the mighty Lord, who creates the earth and causes it to bring forth abundantly.

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

In this epistle passage Paul, believing that his death is near, closes his letter to Timothy and looks forward with great faith to the heavenly kingdom. Paul is in prison in Rome, having already been put on trial once and barely escaping the lion's jaws. Although he may only be speaking figuratively, some form of martyrdom appears close at hand. Even his friends have deserted him. Still, he proclaims the gospel and is ready to be sacrificed, trusting that the Lord will soon appear. His perseverance becomes a pillar for the continuing faith of the church.

Luke 18:9-14

Our gospel lesson is the story of the Pharisee who trusts in his righteousness and the sinful tax collector. The parable illustrates repeated themes of the gospels: God's ways frequently reverse human expectations. It is God's acceptance and not human merit

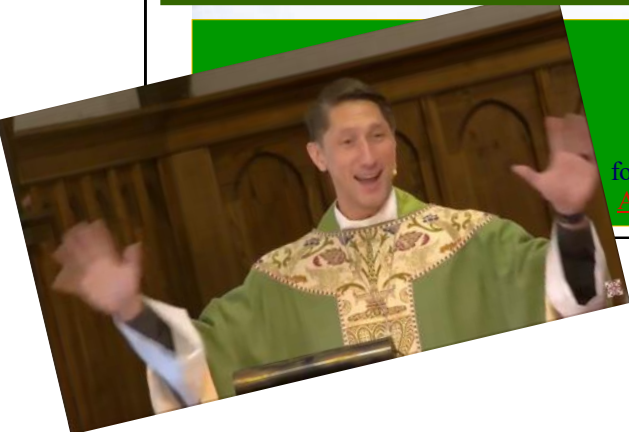
Luke 18:9-14

The bumper sticker we all should have on our cars is: "God loves you, so start living this love (and stop being a jerk)." This is the transformation the tax collector experiences in this parable.



† Sermon Shorts

“The Widows Win!” 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 Into Your hands we poor sinners humbly place our lives, confident of your care Lord, Jesus, as we pray for...

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

.....[Holy Spirit](#), West Haven; [St. Paul's](#), Westbrook.

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

.....Diocesan Episcopal Church Women & Diocesan Altar Guild. For local ECW chapters & parish altar guilds.

.....For the Peace of Jerusalem. - *Psalms 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, Cliff, Evelyn Kirner, Jane Sedor, Jim Beck, Larry Wanzer, Bob Finn, Mike, Paul Kovacs, Lois Hunt, Cathy Schrull, Peter Ruscoe, Walter, Elana and Veronika continued healing.

.....the people of [Ukraine](#); the people of the [Argentine Republic](#); the people of [Lebanon](#); the bishop, clergy and laity of the Diocese of Peterborough – The Church of England; and our sister and brother members of the [African Methodist Episcopal Church](#).

.....For growth in prayer: that the Spirit teach us how to pray so that we may deepen our dependency upon God and open us to the length and breadth of God's merciful kindness.

.....New Milford [Loaves & Fishes Hospitality House](#), which is the recipient of our food basket collections during the month of October.

.....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 bound by a spirit of self-righteousness: that God will free their hearts, break down the walls of prejudice, and open them to the dignity of each person.

.....[Center for Empowerment & Education](#), Danbury, an academic / social support partner of the Jericho Partnership.

.....[Diocesan Convention](#).

.....That we kneel before God every day, humbly recognizing that everything we have is a gift and asking God to guide us in the ways we use and share his many gifts.

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

.....For the homebound: that they may experience God with them and support from this Christian community.

.....For the helpers in combating human trafficking that they would be equipped with wisdom and compassion and covered in discernment and protection as they endure this work.

.....[Peace Among the Nations](#).



What If Church Never Happened?



Tempted to give up? Are you tired, discouraged or sick of trying, failing or fighting? You're not alone. Did you know Peter, the very guy who Jesus chose to build the church, almost gave up entirely? Watch the video to be encouraged to stick it out through difficult times and to find out what happens when you don't give up!



Just For the Joy of It!

(And Christian Fellowship)



Did You Know that the Rev. Paul Johnson, an Ohio minister who died in 2010, collected more than 3,400 [pencil sharpeners](#) and kept them in a small shed, outside his home in Logan, Ohio?



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 -