

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



September Issue

Aug 27, 2021

13 Pentecost, August 22 Sermon

A friend of mine called the other day and asked, “How are you?” Quite honestly, because she is quite a gossip, I didn’t really feel like telling her the truth. I gave her the standard answers to the question, you know: “Fine, Ok, Hanging in There, Very busy right now.” She paused and said, “Are you trying to convince me or yourself?”

Most of us have these kinds of conversations almost daily. And however we might answer, more often than not those conversations focus on the circumstances of life. We might be fine and busy, getting our work done, fulfilling obligations, volunteering our time, and caring for our families, but there is a difference, a vast difference between doing life and having life within us.

Doing life and having life; that’s the issue Jesus is concerned about in today’s gospel.

In fact it’s so important that it has been the subject of the gospel readings for the past several Sundays. And each week has brought us closer, we might say, to the unspoken question behind today’s gospel: IS THERE LIFE WITHIN ME?

Permit me to suggest that’s a hard question, and one which many will avoid

or ignore. They don't ask it because they may not like or may fear the answer. They will turn back and walk away rather than face the question. But "fine," "busy," "good," and "doing well" do not answer the question. They cover it up. The question pushes each one of us to discover the hunger within us.

What if Jesus were to come up to one of us and ask that question: "For what do you hunger deep inside of you?" Of course he already knows what that is, but he challenges us to know it, to name it. What would it be?

Perhaps it would be to be able to love myself more.

Perhaps it would be to have deep, inner peace.

Perhaps it would be to know I am and feel forgiven.

The list could be endless, but it is those kinds of things for which our souls, our essence deep within our being long.

Many spend a fair amount of time, energy and prayer trying to create and possess the life we want. In spite of our best efforts sometimes we live less than full lives. Sometimes the outside and the inside of who we are don't match up, and we ask ourselves, "What am I doing with my life?"

Today Jesus invites us to be fed within. Today he says, "Eat me, drink me."

He says this is the only way we ever have life within us. Jesus is very clear and blunt about it. His body is true food and his blood real drink. Any other diet leaves us empty and hollow, hungry and bereft of life. "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you." Those are some heavy duty, ominous words, words that haunt and challenge us to consider whether there is life within us.

So, in those times when our questions and feelings cause us to feel inadequate, empty, alone, without meaning, these are not so much a judgment on us, but a diagnosis of us. They are symptoms that there is something missing, some type of life that we do not have. And as is the case with so many in our world today, there is dying from the inside out.

Today Jesus tells us that there is treatment for the condition and food for our hunger.

In eating and drinking his Body and Blood, he lives in us and we live in him. We consume his life that he might consume and change ours. We eat and digest his life, his love, his mercy, his forgiveness, his way of being and seeing, his compassion, his presence, and his relationship with the Father. We eat and drink our way to life.

Who else makes such a promise?

Who else can provide us with such things?

Where else can we go to receive eternal life?

Let us never, ever fail to RSVP “Yes” when invited to this table. Let us be ever grateful for the heavenly food which helps us not merely to do life, but to have it, and have it in abundance.

Amen



Blackberry Jam for Air Conditioners

For everyone who loves summer fruit and who wants to find ways to enjoy that fruit when the season is long gone, your wish has been heard. Blackberry Jam has been made from the Central Valley berry abundance and is available to assist St. Paul's.

For a suggested donation of \$5 for an 8 oz jar and \$10 for a 16 oz jar you may enjoy the jam along with almond butter, or on pancakes, or as part of countless yummy recipes. All of the donations will go to St. Paul's to help replenish the savings account.



Contact Linda Lowe, 209-529-5467, 209-496-3937, or lwlowe@outlook.com First come, first served-availability is limited. Call or email today!

Education for Ministry

Education for Ministry (EfM) offers:

- Deepened relationship with God
- Opportunity to explore and understand your ministry as a lay person
- Knowing more about your Christian faith and tradition

Participants in the EfM program study the entire sweep of the Christian tradition from the earliest period to the present. Participants learn the disciplines of biblical study and interpretation, church history, ethics, and theology.

Conducted over four years the program provides:

Year One: The Hebrew Bible

Year Two: The New Testament

Year Three: Christian History

Year Four: Theology, Ethics, and Interfaith Encounter

Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides. Participants are responsible for setting their own learning goals and can expect to spend about 2½ hours each week in study and preparation. In the meetings members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions which the study materials raise for them. Through discussion and guided reflection, the meetings furnish an opportunity to deepen understanding of the reading materials.

Also important is the development of skills in Theological Reflection. The goal is to learn how to think theologically. By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, participants can learn about being effective ministers in the world.

This program will be conducted on Zoom where participants will gather

Continued on next page

weekly for 36 weeks; each meeting will be approximately 2½ hours in length. The program will commence on Thursday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$375 per year; the fee includes all books and course materials.

If you are interested in finding out more about this group, please email Derek Jones (Mentor) at derek147a@gmail.com and Marcia Traner (Co-Mentor) at marcial112L@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in a face-to-face group in the Modesto/Stanslaus County area, please contact Nancy Silva at nnsilvalcsw@gmail.com (209-484-5710).

Promises on Hand



Audrey Penn’s book *The Kissing Hand* features a young raccoon who’s nervous about the first day of school. Mom consoles him by kissing his palm, signifying her presence with him. The youngster can simply put his hand to his face any time he needs a kiss from her. If that isn’t tear-jerking enough, as the raccoon scampers to school, he returns to kiss Mom’s hand so she’ll have a Kissing Hand too.

That story reminds me of Matthew 28:20, when Jesus promises to be with us always, and of Psalm 23:4, which says, “I will fear no evil; for thou art with me” (KJV). God gives us a Kissing Hand through baptism, sealing us forever with the Holy Spirit and the mark of the cross of Christ.

Just as the raccoons cherish their kissing hands, may we cherish the promise of our Father’s eternal presence. Thanks be to God, whose “goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life” (Psalm 23:6).

—Julie Lee



Prayer and Praise 8-24-2021

☞ Please pray for Mike Statzer (husband of Jeni) he had rotator cuff surgery last Thursday to repair several tears. Pray for peace, success of surgery and for his pain to be at a minimum.

☞ Please pray for Lois Dailey (mother of a friend of Nancy Silva's) she has been put in hospice. Please pray for peace for Lois and her son Tim as they go through this trying time.

- ☞ **Update:** Marsha has been moved out of ICU and can now stand for short periods of time and will be transferred to a REHAB hospital soon. Mary-Catherine has already been transferred to a REHAB hospital, please continue to pray for their recovery. Please pray for Marsha West (David West's mom) and her friend MaryCatherine, they were in a terrible car accident and are both in ICU. Pray for healing and peace for the families.
- ☞ Please continue to pray for the Verges family as they struggle with the loss of Beverly Verges.
- ☞ Heart test went well but there is some difference of interpretation on severity of her heart valve, Cynthia Merrell (Mom of Brandi Anderson) will be traveling to Modesto in September to get a second opinion. Please pray for resolution of the differing opinions.
- ☞ Pray for Roger Ladd (friend of Brandi Anderson) and his family, Roger has stage 4 cancer and congestive heart failure. Pray for quality of life for as long as possible and comfort for the family as they navigate this journey.
- ☞ -Please pray for Ralph Wallace (brother of Linda Lowe) he is continuing to recover from the accident he had last fall and needs a new job.
- ☞ -Please pray for Fr. Nick as he goes through this difficult time in his life.
- ☞ Clare Jensen would like prayers for healing, comfort, and wisdom for her medical staff.

- ☞ Please pray for Paige Cano that her medical team will do the necessary testing to discover her health issues and plan for her restoration to health.
- ☞ **Update:** Beverly has been admitted to the hospital with a blood infection. Please pray for healing. Beverly has her second chemo treatment and port put in. Please pray for Claudia Miller's daughter Beverly who is fighting cancer. **Praise** for the great family and friend support she is receiving.
- ☞ Please pray for Barbara Poth and her son Kevin. Kevin has been diagnosed with liver disease. Pray for healing and comfort for his family.
- ☞ Please pray healing, peace, and relief from depression for Dianne (friend of the Peck's)
- ☞ Corrine Perez is doing much better but please continue to pray for strength and healing.
- ☞ Jeanette Comegys need continued prayers for her healing and strength. Also, please pray for healing, patience and strength for her father, George.
- ☞ Please pray for William Solazzo's daughter for the health of her and her unborn baby due 9/1.
- ☞ Mairine Iverson is doing well but the COPD is still causing some problems so continue to pray. She says that she is getting stronger every day and is thankful for all our prayers. Amen!
- ☞ Please continue to pray for Carol's Coulter's continued healing, comfort, strength, and peace.
- ☞ Please pray for comfort, healing, and an accurate medical diagnosis for Louisa Bryant.
- ☞ -Please continue to pray for Rj Moriconi as he recovers, strength, peace and that he is surrounded by God's love.

Please help us keep the prayer list up-to-date. If you have any prayers or praises you would like added or updated, please contact Jeni using the church phone number 522-3267.

If you have any changes to the military list, please contact Cherie Sheaffer.



Flag Pole Repair Surprise

Early in August David Lowe decided to fix the cord for one of the flag poles in front of the church. The cord for each of the flags is inside a cylinder that provides very little space to maneuver it so that the cord operates correctly. For the pole supporting the state flag, the cord was not threaded properly and didn't allow the flag to be at the top of the pole.

As David and I were attempting to work the cord into the clasp that controls the cord, a car parked near the chapel and 3 people walked around the church. As they came to the front of the church they noticed us by the flag poles. One of the men identified himself as a pastor from Mexico, visiting the couple. I chatted with the group as David continued to try to find the best way to correct the cord problem. It became evident that David was not getting very far. Each of the men attempted to use various methods to thread the cord through the clasp. After approximately 20 minutes the pastor was successful! The group was a true blessing! And we received an invitation to visit him in Cancun anytime! - Linda Lowe



Salvation Army Shelter Dinner Sunday September 18, 2021

The Salvation Army Shelter Dinner Team is planning the next dinner for Sunday, September 18th. The plan is to make and serve a version of Tamale Pie, green salad with extra vegies, fruit, chocolate chip cookies, and milk. During a short conversation with one of the staff members recently, I heard again how grateful the staff and guests are to have our team cook and serve dinner. The team can only do this ministry because all of St. Paul's is behind us. Many thanks for praying and supporting this ministry.

Anyone interested in helping prepare the meal please contact Linda Lowe, 209-529-5467, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com.

2021 Cookie Walk

St. Paul's will again hold the Cookie Walk fundraiser which was put on hold in December 2020 due to the pandemic. This event has been one of the major fundraisers for the church.



The event dates will be Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12. We plan to hold the event in

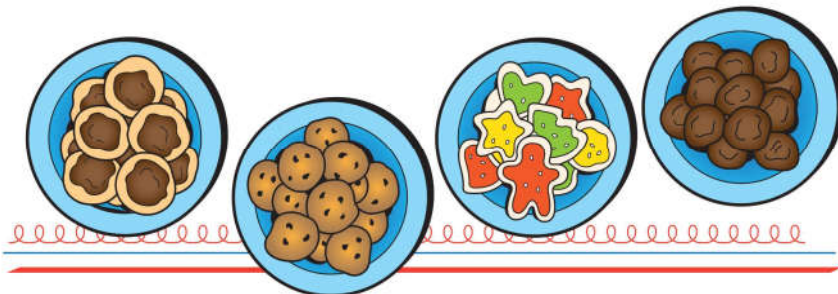
the Parish Hall, considering the logistics of a continued COVID issue.

The event committee has yet to meet but a date will be scheduled soon and a number of parishioners have already volunteered to be part of the planning committee. But, there is a need for event volunteers, cookie bakers, craft makers, and ticket sellers. We need your participation!

Based on past Cookie Walks, we will sell Christmas cookies which purchasers “walk the line” to select, sell baked items (like breads and cinnamon rolls), have a Café for drinks and sweets, and include approximately 8 booths for craft sellers, one of which will be for parishioner craft sales.

More information will be forthcoming soon via the Service Bulletin, Epistle, website, handouts, posters, announcements, and any way else we can get the word out.

Carolyn List and Claudine Romegialli, 2021 Cookie Walk Coordinators





Michael B. Curry, our Presiding Bishop
David Rice, our Bishop & **Anna Carmichael**, our Canon

Armed Forces



Tom Allen, Wyoming Air National Guard
Melissa Allen, U. S. Air Force
Brandon Alonzo, U. S. Air Force
Christopher Bradley, U. S. Navy
T. J. Browning, U. S. Navy
Jay Colón, U. S. Air Force
Brandon Cox, Texas Air National Guard
Cheryl Edelman, U. S. Army
Jenavieve Johnston, U. S. Air Force

Jorgito Fuentes, U. S. Navy
Nick Garber, U. S. Army
Johnny Olmos, U. S. Coast Guard
Brett List, U. S. Navy
Cole Medeiros, U. S. Navy
Nate Wallace, U. S. Air Force R
Carson Repan, U. S. Air Force
Jeffrey Kinnaman, U. S. Coast Guard

*Please pray for all of our sisters and brothers in Christ.
God of wisdom and love, help me and all others who are struggling with difficult circumstances find direction and strength to face our challenges. Give us the assurance that underneath us are your everlasting arms, which will sustain us through everything we face day and night. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

September Birthdays

Greg Maszta - 1
Jeanette Comegys - 5
Carol Heintz - 5
Tony Alonzo - 6
Hennie VanKonynenburg - 7
Diane Keller - 13
Barbara Vassel - 15
Maggie Su - 21
Paul Cassagio - 22
Bob Jensen - 23
Ellen Meyer - 28
Ronald Guider - 30

September Anniversaries

Chuck & Cherie Sheaffer - 9
Loren & Genanne Hill - 20
Bob & Clare Jensen - 25



If your birthday or anniversary is in September and you aren't listed here, please let Cherie Sheaffer know. We don't want to leave anyone out.

Upcoming Events

Church office hours:
The church office is closed
until further notice.



Special September Days

Labor Day - 6

Patriot Day - 11

Hispanic Heritage Month - 15 - Oct 15

First day of Autumn - 22

September 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	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		



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Episcopal-Church-of-Modesto-CA-106952012668211/>

Then click on videos.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Modesto CA

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBABwqOZphWFUZVjnc7eFqw>



[www.https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/](https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/)





The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

August 27, 2021, Volume 12, Number 9 September

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267, st.pauls_episcopal@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours: Closed till further notice

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Stewardship Campaign
Carolyn List and Stephanie Gilmer

Coffee Hour
Sara Heintz, sara19811007@sbcglobal.net

Finance Committee
Judy Teter, jlpt@sbcglobal.net

Safeguarding God's Children/People
Jeni Statzer and Stephanie Gilmer

Children's Sunday School
Zach Statzer, bigstatz16@gmail.com

Vestry Members

Senior Warden - Joyce Bell, 215-275-5502
bellj1@charter.net

Jr. Warden-Claudine Romegialli 209-489-8722
mrgialli06457@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Stephanie Gilmer, (*non member*)

Brandi Anderson

Eric Goossens

Sarah Heintz

Carolyn List

Linda Lowe

Jim Peck

Chuck Sheaffer

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist at 10 am in the church and live
streamed on Facebook

Children's Sunday School -cancelled till notice

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Visit and like us on Facebook

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

