

The Abundant Life

February 2, 2012 For Sunday, February 5th

From The Rector

Healing Old-School!

We are now in the 5th Sunday after the Epiphany and we are still in the 1st chapter of Mark. Although this is the shortest Gospel, we sure spend lots of time in the first chapter.

In our bible Study this Wednesday, someone suggested that the first verses in this passage, about the healing of Simon's mother-in-law, was a synopsis of the whole gospel. (He had been reading the New Collegeville Bible Commentary.) Jesus raises up a woman who was as good as dead and restored her, not only to physical health, but to a new role of service.

I think he is on to something.

I often look to the commentary of Brian Stoffregan for an aggregate of thoughtful reflections. One item this week was from Malina and Rohrbaugh's Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels, page 368. It was about the cultural difference between disease and illness at the time of Jesus. Illness spoke not to the medical condition of the person, but to the changed relationship to the community brought about by the condition. In addition to being medically sick, people were also cut off from the community. Illness described that state of being excluded from society and worship.

In this weeks lesson from Mark, Jesus heals old-school. That is, his healing is as much or more about restoration of relationship than about the elimination of the presenting condition. This is where touching comes in. Jesus touched many of the people he healed. He took the woman's hand and lifted her up and led her back to relationship with the family. He renewed her role.

It is a great reminder to me that I need to concentrate on the relationships. Sometimes I get focused on the details of a problem or situation and ignore how people are affected.

Join us this weekend for worship that is about our relationship to one another as well as to our praise and thanks to God.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus left the synagogue at Capernaum, and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Death in the Parish

Robert Conover died Saturday, January 28th at Eisenhower.

Bob and his partner Tom have been regular at the 4 pm service for several years.

May he rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him.

A Funeral with Holy Communion will be Friday, February 3, at 11 am with a reception following.

Robert V. Taylor,
Spiritual, But Not Religious?

Robert V. Taylor

Spiritual, But Not Religious?

Is there a meeting point?

February 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Are you Spiritual or Religious? Or both? Ever increasing numbers of Americans identify themselves as "Spiritual but Not Religious." What are the implications of this? Is there a meeting point in which the religious and spiritual discover common ground? Will spirituality claim a larger footprint in our common life?

Engage in this conversation following Robert V. Taylor's talk Tuesday February 7th at 7 PM at St. Paul's. Robert V. Taylor is a nationally known speaker and social justice advocate. He chairs the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation in New York City and was founding Chair of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, WA. He served as Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle, 1999-2008. and is an openly gay South African Episcopal priest. To receive a free subscription to Robert's weekly inspiration message - Wake Up Call! - please add your name and email address to the sign-up sheets located in the Parish Hall. Learn more at [1]www.robertvtaylor.com

Robert is our Speaker in Residence in early February. In addition to his program on the 7th, he will be the preacher for our weekend worship services on February 4-5.

St. Paul in the Desert Presents:

Music of the Night, "A Broadway Extravaganza"

On Sunday, February 19th at 4:00 p.m. - St. Paul in the Desert presents "Music of the Night, A Broadway Extravaganza." It stars "The Female Liberator," Linda Gentile, performing music from Phantom of the Opera, Les Mis, and many other favorites. Donations graciously accepted.

Faith Building

"Sundays at 9:15"

In The Library

Feb. 5

Enriching our Prayer Life

We welcome back, The Rev. John Harper, Deacon, from the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. John continues what we began last month, and will explore with us a broad spectrum of types and traditions of prayer—spoken and non-verbal, traditional and contemporary, from Christian and other faith practices. The final project will be for us to create our own distinctive versions of the Prayers of the People.

●with John Harper

Feb. 12 & 19

The Pastoral Epistles

This is study into the Epistles of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. These non-Pauline epistles offer a view into the structure of the Early Church communities and the duties of those in charge. Presented by Jerry Di Noto, Ph.D, with a video presentation by Prof. Bart Ehrman.

●with Jerry DiNoto

Feb. 26 & Mar. 4, 11, 18 & 25

Lenten Wilderness Journey Baptismal Understanding

●with The Faith Formation Team,

Victoria, David & Jerry

"Thursdays At 7"

Feb. 2

The Historical Jesus

In the first two DVD presentations, Dr. Bart D. Ehrman will reconstruct the life of the historical Jesus: Who was he and what did he actually say and do? In other words: "Will the real Jesus please stand up!" AND, in the final presentation, Dr. Ehrman will help us explore 'Jesus the Apocalyptic Prophet'. Marcus Borg's book, 'Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time', will provide a helpful background to this series.

●with David Abernethy-Deppe

In the Library

Feb. 9, 16 & 23

21st Century Christian Response to the World

Senior Warden Craig Ewing will lead a three week discussion on how we look at the world as faithful Christians and rational 21st century thinkers. Join us as we explore common ground between faith and understanding.

●with Craig Ewing

Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Lenten Taizé Prayer Service

●with Nathan Ensign.

DINNER IS SERVED...ON FEBRUARY 25th!

One of St. Paul's "not to be missed" events is the Episcopal Church Women's annual Spaghetti Dinner, on Saturday, February 25th from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The proceeds benefit outreach projects and special needs of the church.

Tickets are on sale NOW following all church services. Last weekend, more tickets were sold than ever before on the first weekend of sale. So don't wait to buy your ticket, there are a limited number available. Adult tickets are \$8.00. Children between the ages of 3 and 12 are only \$3.00. Children under 3 free.

The delectable menu is spaghetti with choice of meat or vegetarian sauce, tossed garden salad, and bread. A variety of beverages will be available.

Any "White Elephants" in the Room?

The White Elephant Sale at the ECW's annual All Parish Spaghetti Dinner, is always a "can't miss" event. So it is around this time that the ECW sends out an SOS to be on the lookout for any white elephants near you. Among the popular items are electronics, books, linens, dishes, lamps, vintage toys, gently used stuffed animals, candles, and decorative pieces. The dinner is February 25th, so it's time to find a white elephant or two to donate. Donations, valued at \$5.00 or more, are gratefully accepted. Items can be left at the church, marked for the sale, beginning on February 6th.

No White Elephants stomping around your house? Then consider donating homemade baked goods to support ECW. The Bake Sale, with its enticing display of cookies, cakes, pies and breads, has always been a culinary hit and great

financial boost to ECW. Contributions of bakery items (none that need refrigeration) should be brought to the church between noon and 4 p.m. the day of the sale. Non-sugar treats are also appreciated by many.

Roy's Desert Resource Center & Desert SOS

Hap Blaisdell, strongly encourages volunteers to use the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall to help him manage the number of volunteers he would like to see each week for Desert SOS. Hap says a minimum of 6 volunteers at Roy's each Monday night is ideal. If fewer than six volunteers sign up, the workload is overly burdensome. The sign-up sheets are in the binder on the entrance table to the Parish Hall. Contact Hap for more information at 760.323.5726.

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Cold Toes at Desert SOS - Roy's Resource Center has made a plea for covered shoes, boots and tennis shoes for their clients. Many clients have no shoes. If you have unworn or nearly new shoes that could be donated bring them to the church office or place them next to the Desert SOS basket.

If you would prefer to make a financial donation for shoes, make your check payable to: St. Paul's, and in the memo area, write: SOS SHOE Fund. Contact Hap for more information at 760.323.5726.

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ONE Extra Item...Brings Smiles to the Homeless - Purchase one extra item during your weekly grocery shopping to donate to the Desert SOS Dessert Ministry of St. Paul's. Dessert is provided every Monday evening. A box of cookies, doughnuts, fruit, cheese or other special treat would be so appreciated by people who ask for so little. Contact Hap for more information at 760.323.5726.

Announcements

Need to Print a Copy of

The Abundant Lite?

[2]Click here to receive a Printer Friendly (text only) version.

A Holy Communion Service is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th, at 10:15 a.m. at Windsor Court. The Rev. Dick Merrill will preside and welcomes

assistance.

Family and

Children's Ministry

. . . will meet Sunday, February 12th after the 10:30 a.m. service in the Godly Play room off the parish hall. For additional information, call Bonnie Stroock at 760.324.7949.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet every Wednesday, in February from 10 to 1 p.m. in the Chapel of Hogarth Hall.

Our peace-filled stitching circles provide members with a major sense of fulfillment and spiritual sustenance in creating prayer shawls to comfort those in need or in celebration. For more details contact Valerie Ferguson at 760.799.5927, Barbara Hawkins Villani at 760.322.3987, or Audrey Spencermorris at 760.835.5506.

St. Paul's To Be Honored

Well in the Desert Luncheon, Magic and Music will be held, Sunday April 1, from noon - 2:30 p.m. at Spencer's Restaurant. The Church of St. Paul's is being honored with WID's Visionary Award. Contact [3]www.wellinthedesert.org or 760.323.8353.

Camp Stevens

Annual Women's Retreat

March 9-11

Join women from around southern California for a rejuvenating weekend in the mountains of San Diego, as we reflect on the seasons of our lives and the rhythms we experience. Led by the Rev. Kay Sylvester, the weekend features organic meals, spiritual reflection, hiking, music, and time to chat with new friends, or explore nearby quaint Julian. All activities, materials, meals and accommodations are included in the retreat fee of \$140. Visit [4]www.campstevens.org/register or call 760.765.0028 for more information.

Coffee Hour

The Hosts for the 8:00 a.m. Coffee Hour are Ana Mercado and Kevin Kirkpatrick. The Host for the 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour is Catherine King.

To sign-up to host a Coffee Hour, please use the binder located on the entrance table in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact, Ray or Cheryl Kelley at 760.778.1725.

Sign Up for Flowers,

Coffee Hour and

Desert SOS

To make it easier for parishioners to sign-up for Flowers, Coffee Hours, and the Desert SOS Dessert Ministry, the sign-up sheets are in binders that are on the entrance table in the Parish Hall. The 2012 binders are filling fast, so if you have a special date that you want to commemorate, be sure to sign up early.

Bullies Not Welcome Here

At St. Paul in the Desert we want to welcome all worshipers to a place that is free of violence and bullying.

Physical, verbal or emotional violence against others or against oneself is not acceptable.

[5]"It Gets Better" is a series of video messages to encourage Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender youth and let them know that they are loved as they are.

[6]"A Blessing for Those Who Are Bullied" was written by the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, a Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

It is not enough to say "NO" to bullies. It is important to stand up for people and to provide resources for those who have been the targets.

Report Sexual Misconduct

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, please be reminded that our diocese values the tenet of our baptismal covenant to "respect the dignity of every human being." Part of the way we live into that

is to train people in the prevention of sexual misconduct. Another part that goes hand-in-hand with training is reporting incidences of sexual misconduct. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes, takes reports seriously and investigates them thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced sexual misconduct of any kind, please contact Bishop Mathes immediately: bishopmathes@edsd.org, 619-481-5450.

The Bishop's Appeal

The Bishop's Appeal supports the mission of the diocese through gifts that are used for support of our ongoing programs and ministries: congregational support

and development, leadership development, pastoral care, ministry development, and Christian formation. 100% of your gift goes to supporting our ministries. To make a gift, go to the secure website at www.edsd.org or mail to: Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, 2728 Sixth Ave., San Diego, CA 92103.

The St. Paul Columbarium Niches are over 60% sold out. If you are interested in a specific niche, please do not wait to purchase it or reserve it. Deposits are required for all niche reservations. Please contact Jonathan Abernethy-Deppe, at 760.320.7488, ext. 224 for further information.

St. Paul in the Desert's Directory is being Updated - The information we have in the computer, on each of our parishioners, will be printed in the new St. Paul Directory. If any of your information has changed in the last two years, please give us your updated address, telephone, and email. If you are in any doubt that your information is correct, please fill out the form in the pew pocket and place it in the plate or email valerie.winters@stpaulsps.org

We would rather receive your information again, than have it wrong in the directory.

References

1. <http://www.robertvtaylor.com/>
2. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/The-Abundant-Lite-January-26-2012.txt>
3. <http://www.wellinthedesert.org/>
4. <http://www.campsteves.org/register>
5. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPZ5eUrNF24>
6. <http://scg-wakeupcall.blogspot.com/2010/10/blessing-for-those-who-are-bullied.html>