

The Abundant Life

January 11, 2018

For Sunday, January 14th

From the Rector

The Reason for the Season

In the weeks after the Epiphany we read about vocations and callings - epiphanies. Jesus has an epiphany after his baptism. Scripture this week gives us the epiphanies of Philip and Nathaniel. Wikipedia gives us helpful [1]secular and spiritual definitions of what has occurred.

Commonly these are insights or revelations that offer clarity and lead to change. An epiphany “allows a problem or situation to be understood from a new and deeper perspective.” The emphasis is that epiphanies build on significant prior knowledge.

The epiphanies we read about come to two people in the context of deep experience and pondering. They had been wondering about who would be the one to fulfill the Scriptures they read. How would God act to save them? They were not seeking “Jesus,” but when they met him, the pieces came together and they understood – they had an epiphany. They followed Jesus.

These Sundays are the time when we read about several epiphanies. Jesus becomes known and followed as a result. Some are initiated by healing, some by preaching, and some by people once excluded being restored to family and community.

Not everyone who was healed had an epiphany. However, the people who observed or heard about what Jesus had done often found God’s Spirit bringing them to a new awareness of God’s activity in the world.

There is no formula for having an epiphany, but basic spiritual practices can set the stage for them. Regular worship and prayer, regular reading and reflecting on the stories of our faith, regular engagement with people who are seeking, struggling, or hurting are practices that encourage deepening of faith.

Rarely, do people report an epiphany of, “God spoke to me.” More often, the deepening insight and increasing awareness do not come after any specific

encounter, but seem to be cumulative. I have looked back at times and said, “Wow!”

Join us in the spiritual practice of worship this weekend. I wonder what epiphanies God has in store.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

John 1:43-51 (CEB)

The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph’s son, from Nazareth.”

Nathanael responded, “Can anything from Nazareth be good?”

Philip said, “Come and see.”

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

Nathanael asked him, “How do you know me?”

Jesus answered, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.”

Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are God’s Son. You are the king of Israel.”

Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! I assure you that you will see heaven open and God’s angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Son of Man.”

MLK Day – Event and Volunteers!

St. Paul's will be hosting Palm Springs' annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 14th. The program will include community speakers, exhibits, and refreshments, and all are encouraged to attend. In addition, the Public Arts Commission will present its annual "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Excellence in Arts Awards" to students at Palm Springs High School. The students were asked to submit artwork in the medium of their choosing and convey through creative expression, the positive impact Dr. King's life has had in present day America when it comes to realizing a more equitable society. The exhibition will be on display at the church during a special reception, sponsored by Spencer's Restaurant. Everyone is invited to attend.

Hospitality Ministry

Please join us in the Parish Hall after each Sunday service for coffee and refreshments.

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour!

Help Us in Preparing for the 2018 Budget

The budget for 2018 is nearing completion. Only with your support can we sustain the ministries that define St. Paul in the Desert — our beautiful music, our compassionate outreach to the community and our devoted pastoral care. Our principal revenue each year comes from your pledges. If you haven't already, won't you pledge to St. Paul's today so that we can move forward confidently into 2018 with a fully funded budget? There are pledge cards available in the pew rack or you can pledge online at our site. Click [\[2\]here](#) to go to it.

Helpers Needed!

It is time to take down the Christmas decorations! If you can help us out on Saturday, January 13th, please let us know by calling the office – (760)

320-7488.

"St. Paul's 101" – Welcome!

If you want to join St. Paul's or learn more about the parish, come to "St. Paul's 101." The next single session class with Fr. Andrew is Sunday, January 21st, at 9:15 am in the Conference Room in the Parish Office. In this informal setting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about St. Paul's and learn how to become a member.

School for Ministry

The School for Ministry (SFM) is a theological training program for anyone interested in learning more about Hebrew Scriptures, Christian Scriptures, church history, liturgics, pastoral care, global Anglicanism and more. It is open to all adult learners: people considering ordained ministry, as well as people interested in deepening their knowledge and understanding of these topics. Auditing classes is welcomed and encouraged, as is visiting for one class to see how you like it.

The Spring 2018 semester begins on Saturday, January 13 and continues every Saturday until April 14.

For additional information, click [\[3\]here](#).

Next Taizé Service

Our next Taizé service will be Thursday, February 1st at 7:00 pm.

"Church lights dim, dozens of candles flicker, beautifully chanted prayers, a time of silence. All help guide the soul to rest in God." For more information, contact Nathan Ensign at 760.320.7488 x225.

Save the Date – Bishop's Visit – March 25, 2018

The Rt. Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori will preside at Baptisms/Confirmations/Receptions and Reaffirmations.

Accepting God's Gift of Faith Program 2018

Are you:

- * Worshipping with our community and ready to take a further step into becoming an Episcopalian through Baptism and/or Confirmation?
- * Already an Episcopalian and have been inactive and want to reconnect?
- * Confirmed in another denomination and want to be received into the Episcopal Church?

Then our Accepting God's Gift of Faith Program is for you!

Instructional preparation for candidates will include seven consecutive two-hour Sunday evening sessions (6-8PM) beginning February 4th, through March 18th. If you are interested in more information or wish to become a candidate or a sponsor, contact Jerry Di Noto at 760.320.7488 ext. 224 or Fr. Andrew at 760.320.7488 ext. 223.

Parish Life Book Club

The Parish Life Book Club meets on the first Tuesday each month at 1:00 PM in the Library and new members are always welcome. For February 6, 2018, the Book Club has selected *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers. This book is a modern classic and the compassionate glimpses into its characters' inner lives in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s are enduring, powerful and timely.

The Book Club is a group of people who enjoy reading and talking about the books they read. For more information contact Jackie Freeburn at jfreeburn@dc.rr.com.

Piano Concert

On Sunday, January 28th at 4:00 pm, we will present Craig Sheppard, pianist, in concert. Since 1993, Sheppard has been Professor of Piano at the University of Washington School of Music in Seattle and during his career, he has presented concerts throughout the world. His program will include works by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, and Debussy among others. A reception to greet our artist and one another will follow in the Parish Hall. This concert is presented thanks to a generous donation in memory of Ruth Kraus.

Communion at Windsor Court

The next communion service at Windsor Court is Wednesday, February 14th at 10:15 am. The priest and the residents are always happy to have parishioners attend.

Save The Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018

A Women's Spiritual Retreat presented by the Daughters of the King at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. For women from St. Margaret's, St. Paul's and St. John's – limited to the first 50 attendees. We will focus on prayer, reflection, journaling, meditation, listening and worship. RSP to Robin Nugent at rpnenninger@gmail.com or call her at 513.673.9568. Registration closes on January 14, 2018.

FAITH BUILDING

Sundays @ 9:15 am

AT ST. PAUL'S IN THE LIBRARY – The Episcopal Café

January

“Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace”
A series of meditations and discussion on Violence and Nonviolence.

1/14 Healing Our Social Wounds–Led by Alan Zimmerman

1/21 The Vow of Nonviolence—Led by Jerry Di Noto

1/28 ANNUAL MEETING—NO SESSION

Tuesdays @ 7PM

AT ST. PAUL'S IN THE LIBRARY

Tuesdays @ 7PM in Library

January

Spiritual vs. Religious

A series designed to address issues and areas of Religion and Spirituality.

1/16 Walking the Talk. Facilitated by Br. John Charles Westaway.

1/23 Seeking Meaning in Religion. Facilitated by Audrey Spencer.

1/30 Am I Spiritual and Religious? Facilitated by Jerry Di Noto.

Report Misconduct

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, our diocese trains people in the prevention of misconduct and encourages all to report misconduct. All reported incidences are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced misconduct of any kind, please contact Mr. John Seitman, jseitman@pacbell.net, 858-793-4555 or the Rev. Janet Wheelock, jwheelock@edsd.org, 952-240-8067.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are 9 am – 4:30 pm Tuesday through Friday. The office is

closed on Mondays.

Should you call on Monday when we are closed to the public, please leave a message. In case of an emergency, a priest will return your call.

Print a copy of The Abundant Life?

[4]Print a copy

Sunday Worship Childcare

Childcare is available for both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. services.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to join our circle on Wednesday's from 10 am-1 pm in Hogarth Hall. Whether you wish to learn to knit or crochet or are an expert needleworker, we welcome you. Needles, hooks and yarn are provided. Please drop in to create and enjoy our prayerfully made creations.

Bullying Behavior
Not Welcome Here

At St. Paul in the Desert we 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 because of our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. Please let Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself be your guide.

"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.

“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.

The Church of St. Paul in the Desert

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References

1. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epiphany_\(feeling\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epiphany_(feeling))
2. <https://stpaulsps.org/pledge-card/>
3. <http://edsd.org/who-we-are/school-for-ministry/>
4. <https://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/The-Abundant-Life-January-4-2018.pdf>