

The Abundant Life

June 7, 2018

For Sunday, June 10th

From the Rector

God Seeks

The first couple had a problem.

They were settled in the special garden God designed for them. The man was to farm and tend the garden. He had been encouraged to eat his fill from every tree in the Garden of Delight, but one. Of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he was forbidden to eat.

But, both the man and woman ate its fruit. This was the beginning of brokenness. The disobedience, the hiding, and the blaming we read about each compound the broken relationship with God.

The intimately crafted man and woman were made as perfect helpmates for each other and as a delight for the creator. Their eyes that have been opened with the knowledge of good and evil and they are overwhelmed with the responsibility.

In this picture of the first broken relationship, God is very present. I see the recrimination and the disappointment, but I see something else as I imagine this drama. I imagine the Lord God seeking these beloved humans.

Imagine God going for a walk in the cool evening breeze expecting to meet with this delightful man and woman. They're not at the usual spot. "Where are you?" God calls.

Despite all the harsh words for the serpent, and later for the man and the woman, the Lord God seems reticent to send them away. In fact, the Lord God sews leather clothes for them and dresses them.

The seeking God we read about in this story is replicated throughout the Scriptures. In Revelations 3:20, Jesus is still seeking, "Look! I'm standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me."

Those who are seeking and those being sought gather around the table of Jesus this weekend.

Join us.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Genesis 3:8-15 Common English Bible (CEB)

During that day's cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden's trees. The Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

The man replied, "I heard your sound in the garden; I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself."

He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree, which I commanded you not to eat?"

The man said, "The woman you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?!"

And the woman said, "The snake tricked me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the snake,

"Because you did this,
you are the one cursed
out of all the farm animals,
out of all the wild animals.
On your belly you will crawl,
and dust you will eat
every day of your life.

I will put contempt
between you and the woman,
between your offspring and hers.
They will strike your head,
but you will strike at their heels.”

FAITH BUILDING

Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Library

The Episcopal Cafè

June

6/10 Look Beyond the Story- Reflection on Genesis 3: 8-15.
Led by Gary Scott [1] [Read about it](#)

6/17 Riddles: A Reflection on Ezekiel 17: 22-24.
Led by Craig Ewing [2] [Read about it](#)

6/24 The Time is Now! Reflection on 2 Corinthians 6:1-13.
Led by Bro. John Charles [3] [Read about it](#)

Tuesdays — Accepting God’s Gift of Faith

Tuesdays @ 7PM in Library:

The Great 50 Days of Easter! This series will celebrate the 50 days of Easter incorporating elements of Lectio Divina, Hymns, and Baptismal Covenant

June

How Can We Make Christian Decisions in the 21st Century: Applying Faith Tools in making difficult decisions on current issues

6/12 Scripture/Tradition/Reason. Led by Fr. David Caffrey

6/19 Virtues. Led by Bro. John Charles & Audrey Spencer

6/26 Via Media (The Middle Way). Led by Jerry Di Noto

Women of St. Paul's

You are invited by your chapter of the Daughters of the King to explore DOK's commitment to our parish in prayer, service and unique evangelism. We are beginning study sessions that will let you discern if our Rules of Prayer and Service may be your choice to deepen your spiritual life as a member of a lay women's religious order; our disciplines support our small, serious but joyful community of like-minded women. Please call for further information if you are interested in such a ministry: Sharon Strong 760.285.8910 or Bonnie Stroock 760.799.9336.

A Change in How To Send Us Mail

As of June 30th, we will no longer use a Post Office Box to receive mail. All mail should be sent to our street address where we will soon have a locked mailbox. Many parishioners have their pledge payment sent directly from their bank to the Post Office Box. If this is the case with your pledge payment, please notify your bank right away to begin using our street address, 125 W. El Alameda, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

The Diocesan School for Ministry

Explore the Diocesan School for Ministry

- * Would you like to delve deeper into your faith?
- * Would you like to join a community of adult learners?
- * Would you like to take the next step on a path of discernment?

Attend a class at the School for Ministry in Ocean Beach to explore these avenues, and to broaden your understanding of our faith, scriptures and traditions. This theological training program equips and inspires people who want to know more about Christianity, deepen their faith and expand their connection to others. The following classes begin in August: Hebrew Scriptures, Ethics, Anglicanism, and Church History.

To learn more and register go to this [4]website.

Hospitality Ministry

We hope you will join us for coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall after either service on Sunday.

This Sunday, both Coffee Hours are sponsored by Nathan Ensign, our Director of Music. Please join us after the 8:00 service or 10:30 service for coffee, treats and conversation.

There are many upcoming opportunities for you to sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour after either the 8:00 AM or 10:30 AM service. The sign-up notebook is on the table as you enter the Parish Hall.

Communion at Windsor Court

The next communion service at Windsor Court is Wednesday, June 13th at 10:15 am. The priest and the residents are always happy to have parishioners attend.

“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.” This is a single session class with Fr. Andrew. In this informal setting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about St. Paul’s and learn how to become a member. This month’s session with Fr. Andrew will be Sunday, June 24th at 9:15 AM, in the Parish Office’s Conference Room.

Icon Writing Retreat

Icon Writing Workshop is a five-day (June 25th-29th) retreat instructed by Teresa Harrison, at St. Paul’s Cathedral, San Diego. Participants will learn the prayerful practice of painting or writing a Byzantine-style icon. The emphasis will be on the step by step process of painting an icon, using

Jo Sonia acrylic paint and 23 carat gold leaf, as well as on the spiritual practice of allowing God to work in us and through us. The course per-person fee is \$435 and includes all supplies, five full days of instruction, and lunch. To RSVP please contact Julie McMinn, jemcminn@gmail.com.

The Parish Life Book Club

The Parish Life Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Library and new members are always welcome. For July 3, 2018, Book Club has selected Exile by Richard North Patterson. A journey into the lethal politics of the Middle East, Exile is an intricate tale of betrayal and deception and a moving love story. Book Club is a group of people who enjoy reading and talking about the books they read. The Book Club will not convene in the months of June and August. For more information please contact Alan Zimmerman at alanzimmerman@icloud.com.

St. Paul's Camping Ministry

The weekend of July 13 - 15 this summer, our church campers are going up to Hurkey Creek campground near Lake Hemet. Cost is low, \$10 a person, but so are the temperatures - 25 degrees cooler than in Palm Springs! Basic cabins are available at \$100 and we plan to fish! Contact Bonnie Stroock to reserve – 760.324.7949

Report Clergy 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 John Seitman, 858-793-4555 or Equilla Luke, 760-583-0485.

Compassionate Care Task Force

Our diocesan task force on compassionate care for victims of clergy sexual misconduct seeks to connect with those who have experienced misconduct. If you have reported clergy sexual misconduct and have information about the reporting or post-reporting experience that could be helpful to their work, please refer to the task force members, all of whom are listed on the diocesan website: [5]Task-Force. Information on how to report misconduct is [6]available here.

Church Office Hours

The Parish Office hours are changing for the summer. Beginning the week of Memorial Day, the Parish Office will be closed on Friday afternoons, beginning at 11:30 AM and will be unavailable for walk-in business. These hours will remain in place through the Labor Day weekend.

If 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?

[7]Print a copy

Sunday Worship Childcare

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

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

Local: 760.320.7488 // Fax: 760.416.2441

Email: clergy@stpaulsps.org Website: www.stpaulsps.org

125 West El Alameda

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References

1. http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1285
2. <http://jeffhowardblog.blogspot.com/2012/06/sermon-ezekiel-1722-24-riddles.html>
3. <http://fatherdave.com.au/now-is-the-time-a-sermon-on-2-corinthians-61-13/>
4. <http://www.edsd.org/school-for-ministry>
5. <https://edsd.org/equipping-leaders/safeguarding/task-force/>
6. <http://edsd.org/equipping-leaders/safeguarding/reporting-misconduct/>
7. <https://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/The-Abundant-Life-May-31-2018.pdf>