
◆ News and Views From St. Paul's ◆

Vol. 12 Issue 9

September, 2009

Upcoming Events

- September 2: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
7:00 PM, **Choir Rehearsal**
- September 5: 5 PM, **Last Service for the Summer at St. Matthew's**
- September 6: Pentecost 14
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's
- September 8: 6:00 PM, Archdeacon Stringfellow to visit with the Vestry
- September 9: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- September 13: Pentecost 15
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's
Bishop Paul's visitation
5:00 PM, Vespers Service and Light Supper
- September 14: 5:30 PM, Vestry Meeting
- September 16: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
Healing Service and Holy Eucharist
7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- September 20: Pentecost 16
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's
- September 23: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- September 27: Pentecost 17
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's
- September 28: Noon, Daughters of the King
- September 29: 6:30 PM,
Finance Committee Meeting
- September 30: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal

Bishop Paul To Visit St. Paul's On September 13TH

The Rt. Rev. Paul Marshall, Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem, will make his Episcopal visitation to St. Paul's on Sunday, September 13th. Bishop Paul, as spiritual leader of the 68 congregations, which include some 18,000 baptized members in 14 counties of eastern and northeastern Pennsylvania, will preside at the worship service of confirmation, reception and reaffirmation of baptismal vows. A reception will immediately follow the service, after which Bishop Paul will meet with the Vestry.

Prior to his election and consecration as Bishop of Bethlehem in 1995, Bishop Paul served as a professor at Yale University Divinity School and director of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. He has written extensively both for scholars and clergy and for the general reader. Many residents of northeastern Pennsylvania know Bishop Paul through a monthly column he writes for the secular press, which is circulated by newspapers to some 400,000 homes. In one article he wrote: "I believe that discipleship in Jesus Christ pleasantly surprises us with answers to who we are and why we're here. I believe that is one of the most exciting things about the Christian gospel for people in our society today. The church is my first love because the power of the gospel is the most real thing I know...."

Please be sure to join us as Bishop Paul presides at this meaningful service in the Christian life of the individuals being confirmed and received, as well as for the entire congregation who will reaffirm their Baptismal Covenant, which represents the bond between all baptized and God.

Crafters Corner to Return in October

Our local crafters and many new faces will be reopening the door to St. Paul's Crafters Corner Store this fall. Watch for more details later in September. Plan on joining us once again for good food, friends and original crafts and gifts. *Esther, Rita and Sandy*

Envelopes for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund are available at the back of the church and will be included with the Sunday bulletin on the 13th. These may be turned in at the time of the offertory and will be given to Bishop Paul. Individuals wishing to donate to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund before or after his visit may send their contributions to St. Paul's for forwarding to the Bishop's fund, or may donate on-line through the Diocesan web site (www.diobeth.org).

Good bye: God be with you

Fellow English majors may remember that “good bye” was a shortening of the phrase God be with you, and as I say good bye, I am invoking that original meaning. Of course, God will be with you! That our God is one who is with us is the foundation of the Judeo-Christian faiths. Other gods were far off and played pranks on humans to amuse themselves. But our God is one who is alongside us, deeply with us in all times and all places.

This time of transition at St. Paul’s provokes both stress and opportunity. So much is unknown. Once change is accomplished, the struggle is over, and we adjust to the “new normal.” But getting from where I am to where God is calling me next involves silence, study, conversation, risk, and recovering from reading the signals wrong! I don’t know what my next ministry will be. Like you, I am trusting God is with me as I wait. The Jesus who offers himself as MORE is with you and me as we wait and work in our times of transition.

Transitions are closer together than ever before! That’s one way of saying that we are living in a time of change. We see it most clearly in technology. There are lots of changes—in medical knowledge and care, for instance—that we celebrate. But the **idea** of change—change in the abstract—is not something we welcome. There is no doubt change is disruptive! Grief has taught me a lot about my own capacity for change—how deeply anxious I am with sudden change and what a challenge to faith and hope unwanted change can be.

An awareness I have come to treasure is God’s presence in this very anxiety. The psalms give us imagery of God as a rock, a fortress. When the ground seems to fall away from under my feet, I hardly dare open my eyes to see what I am sure is an abyss. What an experience of grace it has been, and is, to find that I am in the palm of God, safely held.

This is the God I pray will be with you.

Janet Watrous

Thanks for your faithful service, Ron!

Every week in the bulletin, there is a list of those assisting in the ministry of our Sunday worship. Every name changes except one. Every Sunday, there’s a line that says Camera and closing: Ron Chandler. I got the camera part, because there was Ron right up front, recording the service for our public access congregation. But what was *Closing* ?

It means that Ron checks to see that all our doors and windows are properly closed each Sunday. He also frequently checks during the week. Thank you, for your faithful care of God’s house and our safety.

Pastor Janet

Archdeacon Stringfellow To Meet With St. Paul's Vestry

[Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow](#) will visit St. Paul's to hold a special meeting with Vestry on September 8th. The Archdeacon's visit is intended to assist and encourage St. Paul's efforts to strengthen its identity as a community of faith. As stated in the Archdeacon's recent correspondence, "Over and over again, we see that outward-looking parishes with defined missions and programs accomplishing those missions grow, thrive and successfully proclaim the Gospel in deed and word.

Archdeacon Stringfellow will prepare for the Bishop's visitation on the 13th by talking to Vestry about such issues as our mission, ministry, outreach, education, finances, audits, buildings and grounds, and insurance. He will then share this discussion with Bishop Paul upon his return to Bethlehem so that the Bishop may identify issues for his upcoming meeting with the Vestry during his visit on September 13th.

Archdeacon Stringfellow began his tenure as Archdeacon on January 1, 2005. He was called from St. Luke's, Scranton, where he had served as rector since 1993. Ordained a deacon at Trinity Cathedral, Columbia, South Carolina, 1986, and a priest at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City, 1987, he served as a seminarian, deacon and curate from 1983 to 1993 at St. Thomas Church. The Archdeacon has a B.A. in English Literature and Political Science (Vanderbilt University, 1974), an M.A. in Shakespeare (Wake Forest University, 1976), an ABD in English Literature before 1660 (University of South Carolina, 1983) and an M.Div., magna cum laude, from General Theological Seminary in New York City (1986).

The Vestry looks forward to this opportunity to meet with the Archdeacon to discuss the forward movement of St. Paul's ministries.

Arts And Crafts Festival A Huge Success

Summer is waning and our 2009 Spirit of Summer wrapped up with another successful event. The Arts and Crafts festival attracted large groups of people to St. Paul's, including two bus loads of people from the Albany NY area, many of whom enjoyed tours of our beautiful church. Our Parish Hall, Guild Room, and Celtic Room were filled with crafters, many of whom were new to St. Paul's and are eager to come back for Crafters Corner Store in the fall. Our kitchen sold out nearly every morsel of baked goods that you all so generously prepared. Pecos Bill parked at the Chestnut Street entrance and served barbecue throughout the two day event.

Our raffle to benefit the library offered two spectacular chances to win. Carol Marker very generously donated one of her original Santa's Helpers for the first raffle winner, and a large basket of hand made creations by participating crafters went to the second winner. The raffle raised \$172 for the library and made two ticket holders very happy.

Thank you to all the hard working bakers, tour guides, and volunteers. Thanks to your dedication and hard work, in addition to the money raised for the library, we also raised \$925 for St. Paul's.

If you didn't get a chance to purchase your St. Paul's Rose Window Christmas ornament and note cards, they will be on sale again at the Crafters Corner Store, which will commence in October.

Thanks to all of you who made every aspect of the 2009 Spirit of Summer a success.

Sandy Schwab

Good News From The Search Committee

The Search Committee is back in high gear with the receipt of information on 3 new candidates. By the time you read this we will have checked references and be nearing completion of the telephone interview process. After that comes visitation to the candidates' parishes. We are moving quickly, but thoroughly and will keep you posted on our progress. *Sandy Schwab on behalf of your Search Committee*

It's Time To Go Electronic

Times are changing and so must we. Although a few currently receive their newsletter via email, nearly 250 are mailed each month. That adds up to a lot of postage over the course of a year. Commencing with the October newsletter you will be receiving your newsletter via email. Hard copies will also be available at the back of the church. Those who do not have email will continue to receive a copy through the mail. Our Church Directory is currently being updated to insure we have correct mail and email listings. For our friends who wish to keep current on the happenings at St. Paul's via our newsletter, please email us (stpaulsmontrose@epix.net) or call the church office at (570) 278-2954. If you do not receive your October newsletter in one form or the other, please be sure to contact Brenda Allen.

Community Vespers Service Celebrates One Year Anniversary

On Sunday, September, 13, 2009, the Ecumenical Vespers service will celebrate its first year anniversary. The community-wide service is held at 5:00 PM on the second Sunday of each month at St. Paul's Church, which is located at the corner of Chestnut and Church Streets, Montrose, PA. In observance of the anniversary, a jazz vespers is planned featuring Joe Weldon on keyboard, Chuck Pirone on drums, John Stellabat on bass, Jim Welch on trumpet and Bob Gates, saxophonist. A jazz vespers originated in 1961 in New York City at St. Peter's Lutheran Church by the late Reverend John Garcia Gensel designed it for those musicians who couldn't make it to Sunday morning services after playing late Saturday night gigs.

Alisoun Bertsch is the welcomer, and Doug and Gail Overfield are greeters. Please join us for a light supper served in the Parish House following the service. All are welcome.

Can Drive – September 12th

The Men's Group will hold its final can drive of the year on Saturday, September 12th, from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. We are collecting all aluminum beverage cans. We are also collecting plastic bottles that note on the side they are redeemable for 5 cents in NY. Please rinse bottles and cans and do not crush the cans. Bring your bags of bottles and cans to St. Paul's where some of our men will be at the Chestnut Street entrance ready to take your bags. It's easy, it's environmentally friendly and it raises money for St. Paul's Capital Fund. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Sock (833-4586) or Dick Schwab (967-2962).

Food Bank

Your behind the scenes Food Bank committee has received donations of 10 recycled cloth bags which we have labeled "St. Pauls" and "Food Bank" to use for our food collections. Bags are available for each family wishing to participate this way in the Food Bank Ministries. They are waiting for you to pick one up as you enter the Church where the Welcome Flag is waving. (next to the box for canned goods.) PS: You may continue as you were collecting before if it is working for you.

On the first Sunday of the month donations will be collected. We will deliver the food and cleaning supplies in a timely manner during that week.

I know from my own experience that I not only forget what Sunday Food Bank Sunday is, I also forget to collect items to bring to Church. How about you? We hope these bags will be a pleasant reminder of the needs in our Community. Each bag will have a suggested list of food and cleaning supplies inside. I am going to put the FOOD BANK AND "WRC" Women's Resource Center at the top of my grocery list. I hope it will be easier for me to make my "Good intentions" more FRUITFUL.

*Thanks and Blessings from your friend in Christ Rita L
(contact # 278-0205)*

St. Paul's Church School

The St. Paul's Church School program will begin again on Sunday, September 13th, after the 9 am service. The initial meeting will provide an opportunity for parents and children to learn about the coming year, fill out papers, and receive the calendar of events.

The program will contain four major components:

1/ Lessons from the Logos Productions *Worship For Life* curriculum. These lessons will be on the first two Sundays of each month and will be led by either Lynne Graham or Mike Shingler.

2/ Special Sundays are planned for the third Sunday of each month. Parishioners have already signed up to share a variety of talents, interests, and stories with the children. Some examples include drawing with Mr. Chandler, a nature walk with the Schwabs, and scrap booking with Mrs. Dewitt.

3/ Children's Sabbath will continue to be on the final or fourth Sunday of each month. Children live into their faith by participating as assistant lectors, ushers, and greeters. The children will also present a special anthem or song and be treated to a sermon directed to the young at heart!

4/ Junior Choir, coordinated by Dawn Washo, will be the first 10-20 minutes of each meeting time.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 278-2954 or come on Sunday, September 13th to sign up!

Rachel Bartron

Your Vestry At Work Summary Of The August 10th Vestry Meeting

The 2008 audit is underway and will be completed by the end of September

Colt-Sterret loan funds for the ramp have been received. This is a 3%, 10 year loan, with monthly payments of \$359.37. There is no penalty for early repayment.

The purchase offer on the proposed rectory has been accepted, housing inspections have been completed, authorization was given to pursue mortgage financing, with down payment funds to be derived from the housing DIT (funds from the sale of the old rectory). This withdrawal will reduce our interest earnings by less than \$3,000.

The Vestry reaffirmed its charge to the Search Committee to find a full-time rector

The Vestry will meet with Archdeacon Stringfellow on September 8th

Bishop Paul will visit St. Paul's on September 13th for confirmations and receptions

The Vestry authorized the Senior Warden to contact the Diocese for supply clergy to fill in following Pastor Janet's final service on September 6th until the arrival of the new rector

Complete minutes of the meeting are posted on the bulletin board in the Guild Room.

Submitted by Sandy Schwab, Clerk to Vestry

Rectory Update

Junior Warden John Finlon and Treasurer Dick Schwab met with the Diocesan Standing Committee on August 17th and gained approval to seek mortgage financing for the purchase of the new rectory. The Diocese reviewed St. Paul's budget, along with other financial information, as well as the specifics of the proposed rectory and our reasons for opting to purchase the rectory versus paying a housing stipend. Thank you Standing Committee and thank you John and Dick. We are one step closer to having a home for our new rector.

Should We Have a Bazaar?

We have learned a lot about having events like this. One of them is that clean-up can be time-consuming and expensive. Is there a solution to this? We could rent out tables, and everyone would have his/her own little yard sale and be responsible for his/her little clean up.

We find that we need a lot of public relations work: posters, articles in newspapers, word of mouth, and what else? We also can have raffles and silent auctions. These are usually kind of fun.

We can also have great stuff to eat. Chili is great. So are hot dogs.

Baked specialties and other homemade edibles are terrific!

However, the real reason to have a bazaar is to bring people together to work for the church. Can we do this too? I think we need some answers. Please, talk to me and Rita and Sandy about this. We need to make a decision soon.

Jane Chandler

Adult Forum: Your Life, Your Church begins September 20.

The Adult Forum will begin a new program on the Sunday after Bishop Paul's visit. Jennifer Gamber, a member of the The Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the Rev. Bill Lewellis, Canon for Communication, have put together a very fine book, Your Life, Your Church, an invitation to the Episcopal Church. The choice of the word "invitation" is quite intentional, because this is not an introduction to the Episcopal Church, but an invitation to grow in faith through the life and liturgy of our church. Lay leaders will introduce the book, with various members of the class leading the discussion of each chapter. We are hopeful that one of the authors will visit as well! *Cont...*

We will need to know who is planning to be part of the Adult Forum for this course so we can order the books! There will be a sign up sheet at the church entry and in the Parish Hall for the next two weeks. Don't miss this opportunity!

Music Notes

It's September, which means the choir will be getting back into its traditional role of leading the musical worship during the service. I'm looking forward to working with all of the current choir members once again, as well as hopefully some new members. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays starting at 7 PM and going until approximately 8 PM. Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 2nd, in preparation for the Bishop's visit. That Sunday, we'll also meet in the parish hall at 8:30 to warmup and run through the anthem for that Sunday's service.

One thing that's new to the music ministry at St. Paul's is our CCLI license and subscription to Song Select. This allows us to print unlimited copies of up to 200 songs/year from the CCLI library, which means we have access to over 10,000 songs now. A large portion includes contemporary Christian music like that you'll hear on KLOVE (88.3 FM is the Scranton Station). Artists such as Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, and countless others, their songs which have such a wonderful message in their lyrics that fits the biblical teachings, and will give a nice "twist" to the musical offerings. In addition to the traditional choral folios we've performed, we'll be occasionally doing a contemporary tune for an anthem. Our first, which will be on the last Sunday of September, is entitled "How Great is Our God", by Chris Tomlin. Here's a link to Matt Redman singing it on youtube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b11k_Q1n-QU It has the lyrics as well as some nice photos of God's creations. We've had David Chandler join us on guitar and Gwendolyn Zimmerman play her djembe to supplement our choir in the past and we look forward to having them as well as possibly some other guest musicians join us this year.

The youth choir is also welcome to use the CCLI license; just contact me for more information.

Scott Zimmerman

We Want More

If you were at Church on Sunday, August 23rd, you heard the sermon that Pastor Janet gave. It related to the 2 young girls who were to be baptized (Juliette Simone, and Mary Lewis), and their families and to us as members of St. Paul's. Pastor Janet spoke of Jesus telling his disciples that he can give them more. Do we want more from Jesus? This question should be answered with, "Yes, we want more!" We at St. Paul's should want more.

We are in a period of transition as our Search Committee continues their search for a new Rector of St. Paul's. We are asking Jesus to guide our Search Committee. Yes, we want more! We want to continue the services and programs we have been doing over the past 3 years; we want to provide a rectory for a new minister to live in; we want to continue the positive thinking we have come to believe we can accomplish, and we want to grow, not only in numbers but in spirit.

We have at St. Paul's a dedicated and working Vestry, Property, and Finance committees along with the Search committee. All believe that we can grow with the support of **all** the members of St. Paul's. Yes, we want more! and yes we can do more! You may be asked to take up some of the duties of visiting the sick, making phone calls, helping Brenda in the office and continuing to support our church financially, etc. With God's help and yours we will continue the works of Jesus through our ministries.

We do not know when the search committee will present their candidate to the vestry, but we do know, they will pick the best candidate, and that will be the ideal candidate for St. Paul's. Continue to pray that they receive guidance from God. Yes, we want more dear Lord!

As we want more for our children and our two new baptized members of St. Paul's, we want more from Jesus so we can continue to grow. Do not think negatively, but positively. We have a wonderful Church! Jesus said, "ask and you shall receive". We are asking, and we believe we shall receive what is best for St. Paul's.

Maggie McGee Sock

Because I have been given much. . .

The contrast that the two lives that the funerals in the news have celebrated this month made me think of this hymn. I looked the lyrics up on the internet, and I present them to you here:

*Because I have been given much, I too must give.
Because of thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live.
I shall divide my gifts from thee with every brother
that I see,
who has the need of help from me.
Because I have been sheltered, fed by thy good care .
. .*

*I cannot see another's lack and I not share.
my glowing fire, my loaf of bread--my roof's safe
shelter over head,
that he too may be comforted.
Because I have been blessed by thy great love dear
Lord,
I'll share thy love again according to thy word.
! I shall give love to those in need. I'll show that love
by word and deed,
thus shall my thanks be thanks indeed.*

I know that I have been give much. I was blessed genetically to get a good brain for mathematics and for the English language. I know I never felt complete until I had followed **both** roads (I'm sorry Robert Frost, but I did come back).

I have been blessed as a wife and a mother. I have a great husband who is very supportive of me. I have two sons who are self-supporting, but who still like to come home.(Yes, there is light at the end of the tunnel.)

I was also blessed with enough foresight to have a tax shelter. And I was equally blessed to have retired as a Pennsylvania teacher, and they have a great retirement system. I may not be rich by the world's standards, but by my own standards, my life is rich to overflowing.

I have not forgotten that I have great friends. I think these are what make my cup overflow. God has given me a fantastic life. I have been **given much**, and I too, **must give**

Lancelot Andrewes - And -



King James I

Lancelot Andrewes is commemorated in the church calendar on his birthday September 25th. Andrewes was known for his preaching and his monumental scholarship, but is remembered primarily for his work on the commission, appointed by King James I, to produce a new, authoritative translation of the Bible.

At the time, three translations were in general use but it was agreed that a new translation was needed to eliminate problems within each of these.

The first Bible in English had been hand-written in the 1380's by John Wycliff. With the invention of the printing press a hundred years later, other translations were produced, notably by William Tyndale, Miles Coverdale and John Rogers. The most widely used in King James' time was the Bible produced by the church in Geneva under Coverdale's leadership. In fact, Shakespeare quoted thousands of times from the Geneva Bible.

Part of the motivation for King James' initiative were the marginal notes printed on the pages of the Geneva Bible. Many of these notes were sufficiently controversial as to be distracting, and together with various mistranslations, made a new, standardized translation imperative.

Lancelot Andrewes was one of 54 scholars appointed to the commission. These fifty-four were among the most notable biblical scholars and linguists available. Of this original group, only 47 actually served. Andrewes had served as Bishop of Chichester, Ely and Winchester; and as prebendary* of St. Pancras in St. Paul's, and Southwell Minster.

Each member of the commission had special language skills, but Bishop Andrewes was not only a master of English prose, but was learned in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and eighteen other languages.

The commission was divided into six groups, each assigned a section of Scripture. Two committees met at Westminster, two at Cambridge, and two at Oxford. They began their work in 1604, and as each completed its translation, it was reviewed by the others. The King James Bible was completed in 1611, and slightly revised in 1629, 1638, 1762 and 1769. Even though the commission had intended to avoid mistranslation, many words were printed in italics, because an exact English equivalent could not be found.

The commission used, among other sources, a translation of the Old Testament produced by the Masorites, Jewish scholars responsible for making copies of the Hebrew Scriptures. The Masorites were so meticulous that they kept count of the words, and even the letters used in the Scriptures. For example, would you have guessed that the letter 'a' is used in the Hebrew Scripture, 42,377 times?

The King James Bible is the result of incredible diligence among the scholarly groups. It was four years before their work went to the printers. Considering the frustrations and vexations of committee work, the effort can only be considered superhuman, and at the very least, divinely inspired. Surely its impact on Christianity, and on the world, cannot be overestimated.

And if Lancelot Andrewes' importance was not thoroughly established in the production of the 'Authorized Version', he is also credited with the design of the academic cap, still used by Cambridge Doctors of Divinity: The "Bishop Andrewes Cap"! (See his portrait.)

*prebend: The allowance granted a canon or member of a chapter

Submitted by Edward A. Stark, with help from the Internet.

The Pool Of Abraham

My summer vacation travels have taken me far, virtually, that is, thanks to the resources of the World Wide Web. A few days ago I came to the hometown of someone regarded by most Westerners as their spiritual father, the venerable Abraham. I didn't know I was visiting such a significant spot until I noticed the signpost pointing to the Pool of Abraham. The city that I was in is now called *Sanliurfa*, so how was I recognize this to be the "Ur of the Chaldees" that I had learned to associate with the name of our Founding Father? What an unexpected surprise! And just beyond the very impressive pool was the birthplace, the "Cave of Abraham", visited every day by knowledgeable tourists. I dug out the local travel brochure and read: "*Sanliurfa is perhaps a rare city that had been honoured with the footprints of so many Old Testament prophets like Jethro, Job, Elijah and Abraham. Sanliurfa was known as Edessa in ancient times. The city also was the home of Moses, who lived in this region for seven years before returning to Egypt.*"

I was visiting the land of *Kurdistan*, which is often in the news today, but the reason I was here was because several of my teachers had learned a great deal about our spiritual forebears during their time in this area. I was doing my homework before the new semester began. I read on:

"Straddling the frontiers of Turkish, Kurdish and Arab culture, Urfa [aka Sanliurfa] is an ancient metropolis whose origins date back to Assyrian times. Located on a strategic pass connecting Anatolia with the Assyrian capital of Nineveh, Urfa (then known as Urhai) was an important outpost for Hurrians, Hittites and Assyrians. By 200 AD, Edessa [Sanliurfa] was one of the first predominantly Christian cities, and over the centuries it served as a hotbed for Nestorian and Jacobite Christians, who were regarded as heretics by the majority of the faith."

Well, there we have some textbook history. Isn't it amazing how we keep hearing echoes of our Sunday School lessons and weekly homilies as we study our faith in depth? Where else would we encounter Jethro, Nineveh, Hittites, or Edessa? But how do we learn to experience what travelers and pilgrims encounter along their itinerary? Here's a notation from a contemporary travel diary:

I crouched my way to Abraham's birth cave, which was now occupied by only three men. The cave was no larger than a walk-in closet, and only half as tall. Unable to stand up straight I knelt down by the men, who were sharing glasses of water collected from a trickling spring. The spring waters of Abraham's cave are said by some to have healing powers, while others claim that drinking from the spring that once sustained the prophet will bring wisdom and luck. When it was my turn to approach the spring, I ran my hands under the water, cooling my skin. I pressed my damp hands to my forehead and cheeks, wanting to experience the ritual without risking an assault of Urfa's notorious water-borne illnesses. Whether or not this place was truly the birthplace of Abraham, the experience was indeed moving. I could only savor the moment....

There's an entirely different quality to this passage, it's something other than a textbook or a brochure. It is through accounts like this that we begin to experience a new depth of understanding as we read. This is what we've been doing in our discussions at the Adult Forum. And as we learn to read in this "holy" fashion we begin to encounter another aspect of life, something understood and cultivated by people like our holy father Abraham. What a surprising discovery awaits us at the Pool of Abraham!

Submitted by David Plank

The Psalms

Well, We're back ... studying the psalms. I've read that there are some eastern religious groups that require candidates to the priesthood to MEMORIZE all 150 psalms. Another group reads all 150 psalms each week. I have a desire to LOVE the psalms. I'm reading one psalm every day for a week. There is a commentary that I read periodically. Is there anybody out there who LOVES the psalms? I'm trying. Started psalm 51 in August this week.

Physical update: My surgeon has given me a clean bill of health. Thanks for the prayers. The physician's assistant responded to a question I had when I asked if anything could have gone wrong. He responded that there was a twenty-three year old girl who had an enlarged pituitary gland and that the tumor was entwined with the pituitary gland. When they tried to remove the tumor they "influenced" the pituitary gland. (Remember, the pituitary gland is the traffic cop for the endocrine ductless system.) She now is on meds for the rest of her life. Again, thanks for your prayers!

Welcome to the second half of my life. Having a surgeon successfully cleaning up my pituitary gland is a good reason for restarting my life. To remind me of this seminal event I have decided to let my beard grow. Each time I glance in the mirror I'll be reminded. Deo gratias.

As I thought about this article I had this vision of a blank page. What could I say that would be meaningful to anybody? I didn't have writers' block, I just asked, "Why write **anything**?" Then I realized it is cathartic. Writing clarifies what I'm thinking (or not) at the time. Some (most?) of the time my writing is indicative of fuzzy thinking. We all pat children on the head and say, "Good job!" regardless of the real value of the attempt. God does that to me all the time. I've been told that it's my intention that counts.

Back to the psalms. You can talk to me during coffee hour, but I'd like to know if there are others who "don't get" the psalms. Preferably, I'd like to know if there are those who "get" the psalms. (I guess that covers everybody.)

Thomas Merton in his book, "Praying the Psalms" notes, "Indeed, if we seek only to 'get something out of them' we will perhaps get less than we expect, and generous efforts may be frustrated because they are turned in the wrong direction, toward ourselves rather than toward God." Hmm, maybe I'm pointed in the wrong direction.

Submitted by Al Leigh(BoSA (Brotherhood of St. Andrew) = f(study, prayer, service) "Bringing men and boys to Christ." Join us.

*****Correction*****

The Women's Resource Center collection and the Food Collection will both be on the 1st Sunday of each month. It will be much easier to remember this way. Sorry about the confusion.

You can bring items any time of the month, but after the first Sunday, the items collected will be taken to the Women' Resource Center and to the Food Pantry in Montrose. Your donations are welcomed. We thank Mary Zalewski and Joan Hamilton for taking the items to the designated collection center. Your support helps many who are less fortunate than ourselves.

July 31, 2009 Financial Summary**Income**

Pledges Realized	\$35,736.50	
Plate Offering	\$3,716.67	
Easter/Special Offering	\$816.00	
Flowers	\$1,203.68	
Outreach	\$10,119.96	
Memorial Fund	\$395.00	
Capital Fund	\$540.00	
Other	\$981.56	
Accessibility Ramp	\$5,588.08	
	Total Offering	\$59,097.45
Investment Earnings	\$97,170.13	
	Total Income YTD	\$156,267.58

EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2009**\$237,748.00****Expenditures**

Worship	\$3,370.66	
Flowers	\$1,063.06	
Education	* \$347.55	
Outreach	\$26,576.74	
Administration	\$13,975.17	
Maintenance and Contracted Services	\$17,837.90	
Capital	\$46,219.14	
Wage and Salary	\$30,186.08	
Withholding and Benefits	\$13,830.00	
	Total Expenses YTD	\$153,406.30
	* \$120.00	
	Disencumbered	

September, 2009 Lay Ministry Schedule

Altar Guild

6: Helen Viteritto
13: Esther Welden
20: Alice Wood
27: Bernie Zalewski

Camera and Closing

Ron Chandler

Coffee Hour

6: Sandy Schwab
13: Sherri Warriner
20: Mary Zalewski
27: Else Brunner

Greeter

6: Jennie Bowen
13: Else Brunner
20: Margaret Burgh
27: Nancy Finlon

Counters

6: Karen Wolfson and Dick Schwab
13: Jane Chandler and Ed Stark
20: Warren Morgan and Nancy Finlon
27: Sandy Schwab and Bernie Zalewski

Eucharistic Minister

6: Bernie Zalewski and Bob Arnold
13: Margie Baker and Jennie Bowen
20: Jane Chandler and Alma Shingler
27: Brenda Syle and Mary Jane Syle

Lector

6: Bernie Zalewski
13: Mary Jane Syle
20: Mary Zalewski
27: Margie Baker

Usher

6: Al Leigh
13: Hap and Tom Syle
20: Bob Arnold
27: John Finlon

St. Matthew's – 5:00 PM

Lector

5: Mary Jane Syle

Usher

5: Hap Syle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
60 Church Street
Monroese, PA 18801
(570) 278-2954