

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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October 2008

Volume 66, Number 9

JESUS' CUP OF SORROW— OUR CUP OF BLESSING

This month we are continuing our journey through our stained glass windows by taking a close look at one that is entitled, "Jesus' Cup of Sorrow." It depicts a golden chalice surrounded by a crown of thorns. It can be found, when sitting in worship, immediately to the left of the door leading to the Fellowship Hall.

When looking at this image, I am reminded of the struggle Jesus went through on the night leading up to his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. In a prayer to his heavenly Father, as he contemplated what he knew he must soon face—namely his arrest, a sham trial, his suffering at the hands of Pontius Pilate, and his execution on a cross—Jesus pleaded, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) (Some ancient manuscripts include the detail that, "in his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground." (v. 44))

For Jesus, the "cup" from which he had to drink was a cup of sorrow and suffering. As we get to know him more, and especially as we read of the last hours of his earthly life, we can't help but be reminded of that great passage from Isaiah that describes a "suffering servant" of God:

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was

the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. (Isaiah 53:2-4)

Recently I came across a song I have on my iPod by Sandi Patti called the Via Dolorosa. (Perhaps I will get up the courage to sing it in worship one day.) As I was searching for its lyrics on line, I found a short video on YouTube that showed parts of the movie, "The Passion of the Christ," as the song was sung.

The song describes Jesus' journey along the "Way of Suffering" in Jerusalem. It is stirring, even inspiring, *and* extremely hard to watch. It is a beautiful yet graphic reminder of how Jesus' cup of sorrow has become our cup of blessing. His death has brought us life. As the song expresses it:

Down the Via Dolorosa
called the way of suffering
Like a lamb came the Messiah,
Christ the King
But He chose to walk that road
out of His love for you and me
Down the Via Dolorosa,
all the way to Calvary.

You and I live in a world that desperately wants to sanitize the Jesus story, rendering him a wise sage, a Gandhi-like leader of a first century peace movement, or a spiritual being whose purpose was to demonstrate what it was like to live as a child of God—one of us, in other words, only more so. But while he was all of the above, none of that explains why we gather two thousand years later in his name. He wasn't merely a talented guide who came to show the way. He was (is) God's son, come to save us from Death and its minions. His sorrow, his sacrifice, has become our blessing and our life.

Pastor Hugh Haffrenreffer





OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

- 1 Patty Bengtson
- 1 LeeAnne Creevy
- 1 Monica Hupfer
- 2 Michael Coyle
- 5 Lynne Matteson
- 7 Kathy Coyle
- 7 Suzanne Farley
- 11 Danuta Turek
- 17 Penrose Wolf
- 20 Jody DiNatalie
- 22 Ann Baledes
- 23 Sara Huls Preuss
- 23 Richard Bonds
- 23 Anthony Todara Jr.
- 26 Holger Lundin
- 27 Crystal Brozynski
- 31 Sally Edison
- 31 Helen Hube

BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8 FROM 10:30AM TO NOON!

Come and join us on Wednesday mornings starting October 8 as we begin a new season of Bible Study. In an effort to “kick off” the new season, Pastor Hugh will be exploring his *Seven Most Favorite (and important) Bible Stories*.

We will explore stories both from the Old and New Testaments and see how they continue to speak to our lives to this day with hope, promise and renewal.

KNUTE OGREN TO PREACH AND LEAD STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP OCTOBER 12TH

Knute Ogren will be our guest on Sunday, October 12 at both the 8AM and 10:30AM services. He will lead us in a discussion of stewardship and our call to be intentional givers. Then, following the late service, all who would like to participate are invited to attend a workshop that Knute will lead on “planned” giving.

Now, before you say, “That’s not for me,” just consider this: If something were to happen to you today, God forbid, who do you want deciding what happens to your estate? The government? Knute is hired by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to help encourage people of faith to remember the Church and its important mission in the world with a percentage of their estate. A “legacy” gift will help ensure that the Church will be able to continue its ministries when we are no longer here to support them in person. The sad reality is that most people will be gifting their money to the government because *they do not plan*. Good stewardship calls us to be *intentional* about the gifts that God has entrusted into our care. If we are concerned enough to be good stewards during our lives, should we not also be good stewards upon our death? Helping too support a “mission endowment fund,” a fund that equips congregations for ministry without negatively impacting the operating budget, is an act of obedient faith and a sign of good stewardship.

Now for the really good news: The workshop is free and comes with no strings attached. And there will be a *free* luncheon provided, too. All we need is an approximate head-count so that we don’t purchase too little or too much food.

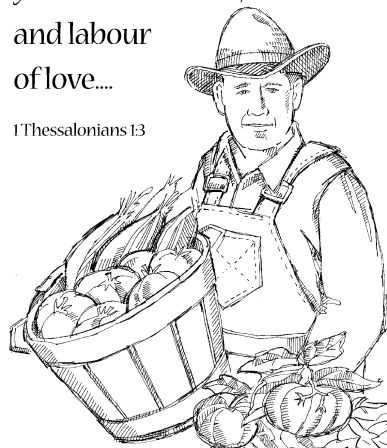
There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for your consideration.

Please mark your calendars so as to take advantage of this free, yet incredibly important opportunity.

The Stewardship Team

Remembering
without ceasing
your work of faith,
and labour
of love....

1 Thessalonians 1:3



OUR FARMERS MARKET

For several summers now, our congregation has been treated to fresh vegetables on Sunday mornings.

Bob Bowman, Dave Bayek and Art Bruce have brought in their produce grown in the Old Wethersfield garden plots. Thank you gentlemen for tending the farm and bringing us the delicious squash, tomato's, basil, cucumbers, etc.

Unknown too many, Bob Bowman also supplies fresh food to the Social Services Department of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill, grown on his multiple plots. By his own count, this summer he grew 767 squash and counting.



HELPING HANDS NEEDED

Are you handy with wood refinishing? The coffee tables and end tables that many of use on any given Sunday or special events held in the fellowship area need some TLC. Please contact the church office to make arrangements to have the tables restored to its natural wood beauty.

*We mourn
with you*



PASTORAL ACTS

We remember our loved ones!

Helen Houseman
July 3, 2008

Olga Babel
July 16, 2008

Richard Carlson
August 4, 2008

Dot Latham
September 10, 2008



Thank you to all who participated in our new church pictorial directory.

Everyone who participated will receive a free 8x10 and a directory.

Directories are estimated to arrive some time in November.

SURVEY REPORT

Last spring six members representing the Church Council and the congregation at large met under the leadership of Russ Correll to frame a survey of our members. The original reason behind the survey was to get feel about where do we need help, etc., the results then being turned over to the Church Council for review and possible action by Mutual Ministry, Worship and Music, and Christian Education committees.

In April, 200 copies of the survey were sent out and 70 returned. Our thanks to all the people of St. Paul's who took time to reply. We were at first overwhelmed by all the information and good ideas presented. There were also some criticisms and we are already working on how to make improvements. From the middle of May through July the survey team met weekly to analyze and categorize your responses. Thank you all for your honest comments. It was evident that much thought went into these replies. A summary of the recommendations will be made available to the congregation after approval at the next meeting of the Church Council and will be posted with the Church Council minutes.

In the next months the various committees of the Church Council will work to find answers to the hopes and concerns voiced by St. Paul's parishioners. We need to be an active community of faith and this can be done by actively working toward this end.

An important note: Our survey team was led by Russ Correll who was instrumental in getting the team started. Under his guidance we were able to complete the questionnaire on time. We shall be ever grateful for his wisdom and leadership while at St. Paul's.

Summary

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Several respondents noted that St. Paul's is a warm and friendly church. Concerns were expressed, however, over the loss of church members and our not attracting new members. Suggestions were made that we "reach out" more.

Pastor

Opinions on Pastor's sermons were mostly positive: Many commented that they were "outstanding" and some added an appreciation of their relevance to

daily life. Multiple comments expressed the concern that the sermons and the children's message were at times too lengthy. Pastor's worship leadership was overwhelmingly positive. There were positive comments from visitors and friends. A concern was expressed that some pastoral care needs were not being met. Included with this concern were suggestions that an assistant pastor and/or others within the congregation could help relieve some time constraints placed on Pastor and help improve the "delivery" of pastoral care.

Worship

Experience resulted in mostly positive answers. Mixed opinions on settings, ones used and frequent changes. Several indications were that the service was too long. Suggestions given on what to cut back to be closer to the "one hour" ideal time period. Selections of hymns received mixed comments. Some said there was too much "old music" and others thought there was too much "new music." Some indicated too many verses of some hymns were difficult to sing. Generally, music was rated most favorably. Suggestions ranged from alternate times for worship service; limit the frequency of communion; reduce announcement time (especially when item is in bulletin); making services more family friendly; make an effort to reduce the interruptions by children coming in and out during service.

Christian Education

Comments mostly positive from those who did respond. Concern was that there were so few children who did attend. Suggestions were for greater parental involvement and additional training of teachers. Most overwhelmingly agreed that a youth program was very important. There is a need for a greater commitment from teens and we need to find a way to draw them in. Positive answers to working with other churches.

Additional information to be included in the November Epistle.

Members of survey team:

Russell Correll; chair (*deceased*)
Melissa Cheyney Julie Perry
Lillian Doerschler Winifred Sawrun
Bill Fischer



Outreach Holiday Fair

November 15, 2008

9AM – 3PM

During the month of October the Outreach Fair committee and its members will be diligently preparing for the upcoming fair. If you (or someone you know of) would like to make a donation of: **Time, supplies, items to sell at a booth, etc....**

Please feel free to contact one of the chairpersons listed below:

Merchandise and supplies from area merchants would be welcomed as well.

Holiday Store: Jan Pergande (644-2888)

Offering gifts and decorations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays

Bakery: Cheri England (529-4620)

Homemade baked goodies of all kinds: Pies, breads, cake, cookies, candy, etc.....

Country Store: Carol Farley (828-5306)

Jams, Relish, cider, fresh fruits, lotion, etc.....

Crafts: Ellie Bengston (666-7877) & Betty Lamo (529-8469)

The Thursday morning group could use helpers for many tasks and or submit your own handmade crafts

Our Kitchen: Rick Seip (258-0636)

The kitchen will be creating homemade soups [one recipe calls for 24LBs of ground beef], plus selling Hotdogs, coffee, drinks

Jewelry: Deb Viola (529-5051)

Handmade and selected originals

Grandma's Attic: Deb Viola (529-5051) or Bill Fischer (721-9031)

Selected knick knack, decorative items, toys, etc.....

Books/Records/Tapes/CDs/DVDs/Artwork: Bill Fischer (721-9031)

Classical to modern day recordings will be accepted

The OFC is also looking for youths that are willing to share their musical talents during the lunch hours. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in performing, please contact one of the OFC members listed above.

The next OFC meeting is scheduled for: October 19, 2008 following the 10:30 AM Worship Service.

Proceeds for the fair will benefit these four charities: Wethersfield Social Services, Camp Horizon, New England Seafarers' Mission & Mercy Corps.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of offerings for this event.

The Outreach Committee

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR October 2008

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Oct 5 - Jamie Piscitello
- 12 - Celia Cheyney
- 19 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 26 - Amanda Piscitello

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Oct 5 - Anderson's
- 12 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe
- 19 - Mary Procyk
- 26 - Anderson's

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

- Oct 5 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
- Kathy Coyle - 10:30
- 12 - Mike Coyle - 8:00
- Art Bruce - 10:30
- 19 - Jerry Vaillancourt - 8:00
- Mary Procyk - 10:30
- 26 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
- Bill Fischer - 10:30

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Oct 5 - Lillian Doerschler
- 12 - Joan Kratzer
- 19 - Art Bruce
- 26 - Patty Bengtson

TAPING MINISTRY:

Crystal Brozynski, Coordinator, 828-5306

- Oct - Walter Rupp

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- Oct 5 - Margaret DeBlois & Carol Farley
- 12 - Cindy Seip
- 19 - Helen Peterson & Harriet Fritsch
- 26 - Mary Procyk & Tracy Newmark

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Oct 5 - Lillian Doerschler
- 12 - Art Bruce
- 19 - Mike Coyle
- 26 - Lillian Doerschler

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Oct 5 - Kathy Coyle
- 12 - Vicki Anderson
- 19 - Mary Procyk
- 26 - Sue Agne

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- Oct 5 - Amanda Piscitello
- 12 - AnnMarie & Kate Grottke
- 19 - Margaret & Erica DeBlois
- 26 - Matt & Julie Perry

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079

- Oct - Brian Beckwith - 8:00AM

- Walter Rupp & - 10:30 AM
- Jay Viola 10/5 & 10/12
- Russ Bengtson 10/19 & 10/26

October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Youth Potluck 5:30PM Confirm. Class 6:15PM 7 PM AA Choir 7:30PM	2 10 AM Thur. Grp. Stewardship Meeting 7PM	3 10 AM AA Lewis/Federici dress reh. 6 PM	4 Plant Sale Lewis/Federici wedding 4:00PM AA 7:30 PM
5 Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	6	7 Outreach Comm. 7PM Scouts 7:30 PM 7:30 PM OA	8 Bible Study 10:30 AM Confirm. Class 6:15PM 7 PM AA Choir 7:30PM	9 10 AM Thur. Grp.	10 10 AM AA	11 AA 7:30 PM
12 Knute Ogren Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Ogren Stewardship Workshop at 12:00PM	13 Columbus Day Office closed	14 7:30 PM OA Worship & Music 7:30	15 Bible Study 10:30 AM Confirm. Class 6:15PM 7 PM AA Choir 7:30PM Epistle Deadline	16 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Thur. Grp.	17 10 AM AA	18 AA 7:30 PM
19 Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	20 Bishop's Convocation Pastor Away	21 7:30 PM OA	22 NO BIBLE STUDY NO CONFIRMATION 7 PM AA Choir 7:30PM	23 10 AM Thur. Grp.	24 10 AM AA	25 AA 7:30 PM
26 Reformation Sunday Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	27	28 Parish Ad. 6:30PM Council 7:30PM 7:30 PM OA	29 Bible Study 10:30 AM Confirm. Class 6:15PM 7 PM AA Choir 7:30PM	30 10 AM Thur. Grp.	31 10 AM AA	

SAINT PAUL'S **Epistle**

SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

www.stpaulswethersfield.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Worship at 8:00 and 10:30AM
Education Hour at 9:00AM

OFFICERS AND STAFF
Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor.....Office: (860) 529-5397
Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360
pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org
Office ManagerJanet Vasel: *janet@stpaulswethersfield.org*
Council President.....Linda Anderson
TreasurerTom Grottke
Financial Sect'y.....Mary Procyk
Minister of MusicMelissa Cheyney
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Rupp

REMINDERS:

- Sat. Oct. 4** Plant Sale to support our Youth
- Wed. Oct. 8** Bible Study to begin
- Sun. Oct. 12** Special Stewardship Emphasis with Knute Ogren!