

ST. PAUL'S MESSENGER

VOL. CLXXVII.. NO. V

WINDHAM CENTER, SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2010

PRICELESS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



SUNDAY
OCTOBER
3RD
NOON

A regular part of my daily routine is my walk with Jenny, my black lab. According to the story I heard, she was found with no collar or tags walking on a busy road in Louisiana and sent to a shelter. I was told there are so many stray dogs in that area that the shelters only hold the dogs for 48 hours. Fortunately, Labs4Rescue stepped in and saved her, treated her for heartworm, and finally arranged for her to live with me. Whenever I see Jenny doing her happy walk in the woods I remember that every day of her life is a day of borrowed time.

Those of you who have met her know what a blessing she is to me. Daily she demonstrates unconditional love and patience, and she gets me out every morning to discover something new in the woods. She teaches me to appreciate every day, to live as if I too am on borrowed time. She helps me feel connected to the natural and non-human world. I know that many of you share similar bonds to your animals.

Once a year, in commemoration of St. Francis who enjoyed a special connection with animals and the natural world, we mark our own connections with the animals in our lives with a special celebration. This year it will be on **Sunday, October 3 at Noon**. Jenny, KC and I invite all of you to bring your own animal companions—or some symbol of them if they don't travel well—to the Vicarage, 100 Mullen Hill Road. We will have a short service to bless the animals who daily bless us, and then share a simple lunch of soup and treats for humans and animals. We'll be outside, under a tent if it rains, so bring a lawn chair if you want to sit. Invite your friends and neighbors—any animal lovers you know—and feel free to come even if you don't have animal companions in your life at this time.

The Vicar's Page

TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIBLE STUDY THIS FALL



Wish you knew more about the Bible? About Jesus and what he taught? About the meaning of such terms as Gospel or Kingdom of God? Want to step more deeply into the Christian life? This fall there will be two opportunities to gather with others for conversation about scripture, specifically the Gospel of Mark. Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels & also the earliest. It was used as a source by the writers of Matthew and Luke and so is a good foundation for any study of the Gospels. We'll be using a short commentary by Marcus Borg entitled *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark*.

The reviewers say: "Borg reminds us that the gift of Mark's Gospel comes from the revelation of its meaning rather than from the literal translation of its text. *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark* is a must-read for those who long to understand more fully the Kingdom of God and the person of Jesus as Son of God." -- John Bryson Chane, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C.

"Marcus Borg guides readers through Mark's Gospel with wisdom and insight. Borg's perceptive literary, historical, and theological observations accompany readers on their path through the Gospel. Laypersons and religious professionals alike will appreciate this accessible, engaging journey through Mark." -- Greg Carey, Professor of New Testament, Lancaster Theological Seminary.

"The biggest mysteries of the Bible are the ones of the men behind the pens. *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark* investigates the gospel of Mark, one of the most crucial books of the Bible and how it came to be. With much historical sources, *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark* seeks to understand Mark, and through that, gain a greater understanding of the Bible." -- The Midwest Book Review

The plan will be to read about 15 pages of Borg and about three chapters of Mark each week for six weeks and to gather for discussion. We will follow this plan in a new group on Tuesday evenings, and in our ongoing Thursday afternoon Bible study, although the afternoon group may choose to go at a slower pace. The books will be available before the first class for \$15.00 each, or they can be ordered from Amazon. Please join us!

Tuesdays September 14, 21, 28 and October 5, 12 and 19.
7:00 pm in the Vicar's Office.

Thursdays, September 9, 16, 23, 30 and October 14 and 21,
2:00 pm in the Vicar's office.

Coming this Fall: Celebration of Creativity

In John's Gospel, Jesus says he came so that we could have life and have it abundantly. Abundant life is creative life. In my experience the people of St. Paul's are a creative bunch. So let's celebrate our creativity together.

Like a Parish Art Show, only with a broader focus, St. Paul's Celebration of Creativity weekend is scheduled for November 5, 6 and 7. An opening reception on Friday evening will feature finger foods from our creative culinary artists and perhaps live music. Examples of parishioners' art and craft work will be displayed throughout the building. Saturday—a Village Coffee Day—we will open the Church to the community so they can enjoy our creative efforts, perhaps including more music, and/or poetry/prose readings. Sunday's Eucharist will provide a liturgical expression of creativity, perhaps with original music or contributions from some of our many musical members.

So get busy with your creating, and prayerfully consider what you are able to contribute. Also, start to think about how to display some of the less tangible examples of the ways in which we live creatively. Perhaps now is the right time to take a picture of your gardens in full bloom.

Save the dates, and sign up to join the creative folks who are putting on this event.

THANKS for all the calls, e-mails, cards, good wishes & heavy duty prayers. We are blessed with a parish family that knows no equal. Improvement is slow, but steady. We are hoping for the best possible outcome & your support is essential. **JANET AND DAVE HAINES**



**NEXT
VESTRY
MEETING
SEP. 16
7 PM**

by Marion Beausoleil

NOTES

St. Paul's vestry met in August with an eye toward planning church sponsored "happenings" for the year. We certainly have a creative parish! So many ideas, so few open slots on the calendar! As noted by Bill Long in his article, St. Paul's has committed to fielding a team for "Relay for Life." As Father John wrote, we are planning an "arts weekend" in November to spotlight the many artistic talents of our parishioners. A drumming circle evening (or two or three perhaps) in the dead of winter to heat things up? Also on the potential agenda are a C.S. Lewis presentation, a commemorative service once or twice during the year to focus on those who have died during that period of time, a movie night viewing Bishop Douglas' installation... and the list goes on. "Get-Out-Of-St Paul's" gatherings are over for this year but will return next summer!

Some statistics compiled by Janice McKusick and sent to Diocese House in Hartford showed we had an average of 75 people in attendance on Sundays in 2009 (that was the average for ALL CT Episcopal churches so "little" St. Paul's was right up there!) and we reported 118 active baptized members and 23 active but not recorded members.

Keep attendin' Sundays and you won't miss out on what's gonna' be happenin' at "little" St. Paul's in Windham Center, the place to be!

PARISH LIFE: Coffee hour hosts are needed for the next few months. Don't feel like doing it alone? Pair up with others and remember -- it doesn't have to be anything fancy!

**Village Coffee Resumes
September 18**

On the first and third Saturdays of each month, 8:30 to 10:30, the Parish Room will be open and the Coffee Pot will be on. Bring a treat to share if you wish, bring the morning paper if you must, but more importantly, just bring yourself and your neighbors. No program, no agenda, just a chance to sit and chat and recreate a slice of village life we have lost, like the local pub or general store. Village Coffee is Free and open to all—parishioners, community residents, lone-some travelers, everyone!

WAIM NOTES

by Beth Russel

After being St. Paul's WAIM delegate for 3 years, I have decided to resign from my post. I have increasing demands on my time and cannot give this role the necessary attention it deserves. However, leaving is a difficult decision. Working with our community and representing our congregation has been a fulfilling experience. My passion for this service comes from the unique opportunities that occur while working at WAIM. I came into contact with people from other faiths who were inspiring with their kindness and dedication to helping others. I also had the pleasure of enjoying my fellow parishioners during our WAIM workdays. Despite the fact we were given awkward tasks, we still shared solid belly laughs, a bit of singing, and the goal to be useful. Perhaps the most profound moments were those I spent with WAIM's clients who reminded me to have a grateful and gracious heart. Due to all these reasons, I encourage you all to consider helping at WAIM. I know finding time on a Saturday can be difficult, but the potential benefits far outweigh the inconvenience.

I would not have been able to accomplish anything without your support. You have made my job easy with your generosity and commitment. Thank you!

Walk in Light,
Beth Russel

CAMP WASHINGTON 2010

By Alex Benini

My week at Camp Washington was awesome. I did archery, swimming, fishing and made friendship bracelets. My favorite was archery. I got two bulls eyes! I loved sleeping over in a cabin all week with my counselors and new friends. My favorite friend was Andrew. My favorite counselor was Ian. He really likes music just like me. We both love the Beatles. I can't wait to go back next year.

RELAY FOR LIFE

by Bill Long

St Paul's has joined the Windham Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. The event is sponsored by Windham Hospital and will be held at the ECSU Sports Complex Oct. 16-17. The event runs 24 hours to show support for cancer survivors who must face this disease 24 hours a day. It is also a way to memorialize those friends and family members that we have lost to cancer. Our commitment is to field a team and have at least one member of the team walking on the track each hour of the 24 hour period.

Last year this relay raised over \$180,000, making it the most successful nationwide relay (on a county per capita basis) for the third year in a row. Monies raised support ACS activities including research & supplying wigs for people undergoing chemotherapy in our own community.

If you are interested in joining the team, registration requires a minimum donation of \$10. The deadline for registration is Sept. 8, you will receive a Relay T-Shirt with your registration. You can register in one of two ways. The first way is by joining on-line at www.relayforlife.org/windham.ct. The web page has a "join" option at the top. When you select join, you then search for our team, the name and format is ST Paul's Windham Center - the search feature on the web site is very particular. Continue to follow the prompts until the form is completed and submitted. The second way is to fill out a form manually, give it to me & I will submit it. I will have forms at the parish picnic and in the parish hall starting this week.

For those interested in helping to sponsor our team through donations, this may be done on-line or via check. Thanks for your interest, I will be providing updates as things progress.



UPCOMING CALENDAR



Wednesday, 9/1	7:00 pm	Contemplative Eucharist
Thursday, 9/9	2:00 pm	Afternoon Bible Study Resumes
Tuesday, 9/14	7:00 pm	Evening Bible Study Begins
Thursday, 9/16	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
Saturday, 9/18	8:30am	Village Coffee Returns
Saturday, 10/2	8:30 am	Village Coffee
Sunday, 10/3	Noon	Blessing of the Animals
Wednesday, 10/6	7:00 pm	Contemplative Eucharist
Saturday, 10/16	8:30 am	Village Coffee
Saturday, 10/16	PM	Relay for Life Begins
Sunday, 10/31	9:30 am	Commemoration, Recently Departed