



PARISH NOTES

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 12, 2012
Vol. 53, No. 22

FEBRUARY 12

Instructed Eucharists Conclude

Ever wonder about how the shape of our liturgy developed, or how its flow is meant to reflect our own spiritual lives?

On Sunday, February 12, in all three morning services the Rev. Alan Gates will offer teaching and reflection on the Holy Communion. This is the final part of a three-week series of Instructed Eucharists that began on January 29.

The Bible Makes Sense Book Study: Final Session

We began our study of *The Bible Makes Sense* by asking the following questions: What associations come to mind when you think of the Bible? Is it a book of answers to life's problems; a good luck piece to ensure God's blessing?

In the concluding session of our study we will explore the history of reform and renewal of God's people when their study of Scripture waned. We will also make explicit the presuppositions Walter Brueggemann offers for reading the Bible. Associate Rector Richard Israel leads the final session of this eight week course on Sunday, February 12, at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room. All are welcome!

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12

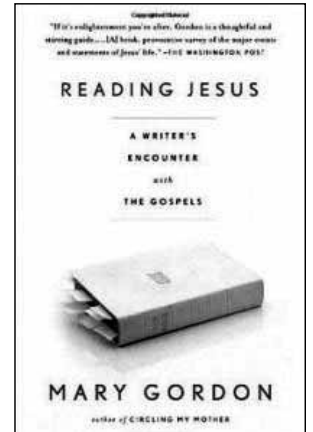
ST. PAUL'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE

Book Discussion: *Reading Jesus* by Mary Gordon

Our next book discussion in our Year of the Bible series will be Wednesday, February 15, at 7 p.m. in the Brooks Room when Kate Gillooly will lead a discussion of *Reading Jesus: A Writer's Encounter with the Gospels* by Mary Gordon. Copies of the book are available for sale in the Parish Office for \$15 each.

In this book, author Mary Gordon examines the basic stories of the Bible from the perspective of both writer and person of faith. She shares her wonderment, her struggles, her insights, and her questions, and in so doing, invites us to the same task. It is at once intimate, self-revealing and searching. It is inspiring.

Please plan to join us whether you have finished the book or not. For more information, please contact Kate at (216) 932-5815, ext. 212 or kgillooly@stpauls-church.org.



Apply to Vote Early and Support Issue 15

St. Paul's GCC Core Team urges St. Paul's members to vote yes on Issue 15, the renewal levy that funds health and human service programs in Cuyahoga County that will be on the March 6 ballot. We believe the levy renewal is vital to maintaining a "safety net" for our county's most vulnerable residents. Since the 4.8 mill levy is a renewal levy it will not increase your taxes, but it will provide \$139.7 million per year for four years to meet critical needs in our county.

Each Sunday, come by the table in the Old Narthex after the 9 a.m. service or the table in the New Narthex after the 11:15 a.m. service to get an application for voting by mail. Given the fickle nature of March weather, GCC is encouraging people to vote in this manner. A collection box is available for your completed application or you can mail it to the Board of Elections yourself if you prefer. Your ballot will be mailed to you at the address you put on your application.

Art Show Participants: Submit Work Beginning February 18

The St. Paul's Members' Art Show opens Friday, March 9 in the South Wing Gallery! Every member, 18 years of age and older, is invited to participate and help showcase the many gifts of our church family. The Gallery committee will receive members' works at St. Paul's Coventry House on two weekends – Saturdays, February 18 and 25, 1 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, February 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have questions or would like to discuss your ideas with a committee member please call Suzanne Smythe, (216) 561-6623, or check the South Wing Gallery Web page at www.stpauls-church.org/gallery. There you will find submission forms and other details.

Cheers and Jeers in the Psalms

“Read MARK!” was the exhortation at St. Paul’s during Advent. We were invited to make a communal discipline of reading through Mark’s Gospel in December, and we did. Members of the staff wrote short essays for each day’s reading, available as an online blog or as a set of take-home reflections. Many of you said you found it a meaningful form of devotion and study.

Now we have decided to follow the same discipline in Lent, this time reading the Psalms. This will be different. The Gospels provide narrative and a story line. The Psalms are poems and hymns, and will provide us a very different experience.

In my commentary during last Sunday’s Instructed Eucharist, I pointed out that the Psalter was a kind of hymnal for ancient Jewish temple worship. The Psalms is the only book of the bible which is reproduced in its entirety in our *Book of Common Prayer*, such is its communal and liturgical quality. And yet they can also be a profoundly personal vehicle for individual reflection and prayer. They express a wide range of emotion and yearning. If we read through them for long we are bound to be brought up short by a verse which suddenly seems to express something we hadn’t even known we felt until we heard it verbalized.

I still recall a morning in the seminary chapel in 1985 when, with the rest of those gathered, I heard myself recite: *Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.* [Ps 80:7] Tricia and I had just learned that she was carrying our first child. In that moment, this verse expressed my deepest prayer. I copied it out on an index card and put it on our dresser for the months before Philip was born. Of course, a quarter-century later I am more likely to be struck by a different verse: *Now that I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me!* [Ps 71:18] It’s a book for all seasons!

N.T. Wright has written a moving invitation for us to pray the Psalms:

“They are inexhaustible, and deserve to be read, said, sung, whispered, learned by heart, and even shouted from the rooftops. They express all the emotions we are ever likely to feel (including some we hope we may not), and they lay them, raw and open, in the presence of God, like a golden retriever bringing to its master’s feet every strange object it finds in the field. ‘Look!’ says the Psalmist. ‘This is what I found today!’ ... The Psalms join together what often look to us like polar opposites as we come into God’s presence. They pass swiftly from loving intimacy to thunderstruck awe, and back again. They bring together sharp, angry questioning and simple, quiet trust. They range from the gentle and meditative to the loud and boisterous, from lament and black despair to solemn and holy celebration.”

[N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian* (Harper, 2006), pp. 151-152]

I look forward to reading through the Psalms in Lent, and to reading the daily reflections which have been penned on these verses by your fellow parishioners. I hope you will make that one of your own Lenten disciplines this year.

Faithfully and expectantly,



The Rev. Alan Gates, Rector

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

On Sunday, February, 19, we will celebrate our partnership with this organization. Please join me and give generously to Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD)!

ERD is an international relief and development agency and a compassionate response to human suffering on behalf of The Episcopal Church of the United States. For more than 60 years, ERD has served the needs of the poor and vulnerable, in the United States and in over 100 countries worldwide.

Not only has the diocese of Ohio been a major supporter of this organization, but St. Paul’s Episcopal Church continues to have a huge role. Our work to heal a hurting world is guided by the principles of compassion, dignity and generosity.

ERD takes its mandate from the words of Jesus, found in Matthew 25: 37-40, calling us to feed the hungry, care for the sick and welcome the stranger.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” — Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

Thank you, Kirby Colwell,

Diocesan Coordinator,

Episcopal Relief & Development

A Thank You to the Miles Park Science Fair Judges

The recent Science Fair at Miles Park Elementary School was a big success, thanks to the following St. Paul’s members who came to help with the judging -- Sally Bosley, Bill Carter, Judith Claghorn, Bob & Polly Herman, Ray LeZak, Lynda & Chuck Mayer, Elizabeth Moosbrugger, Peggy Patch, Pete Richards, Pete Scriven, Nancy Sherwin, Sabrina Vanden Broeck and Joan & Bob Warmeling. The principal and staff at Miles Park were very appreciative of this great support from St. Paul’s.

ACTION ALERT:

GCC Needs You on February 20 at Fairmount Temple!

Greater Cleveland Congregations will host an Accountability Action Assembly at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple (23737 Fairmount Blvd., Beachwood) on Monday night, February 20, at 7 p.m. At this Assembly the GCC Criminal Justice Issues team will ask the candidates for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor to commit themselves to positions GCC believes will promote a climate of justice in the county. These positions include:

- Providing adequate representation for the accused
- Ending the practice of “over-charging” in felony cases
- Making maximum use of diversion and treatment programs for non-violent offenders
- Protecting the rights of children in the juvenile justice system.

We are also encouraging GCC members who have requested ballots by mail to bring their ballot to this Assembly and help us provide a visual sign of our collective power as a faith-based organization by showing a packed sanctuary of voters concerned for justice and preserving the “safety net” for the most vulnerable in our county by supporting Issue 15, the County Health and Human Services Levy.

At the GCC Delegate Assembly that called for this February 20th Action, GCC member congregations made a commitment to bring over 700 people to Fairmount Temple and to sign up more than 1,500 early voters from our congregations. Please sign up to attend the February 20th Action Assembly at the GCC table in the Old Narthex where you can also get an application for a mail ballot. Car pools from St. Paul’s will be available on February 20. For more information, call the Parish Office (216) 932-5815.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012 THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SERVICES

Instructed Holy Eucharist, 7:45 a.m.

The Rev. Alan Gates, *Celebrant & Preacher*

Instructed Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.

The Rev. Lisa Hackney, *Celebrant*; The Rev. Alan Gates, *Preacher*

Instructed Holy Eucharist, 11:15 a.m.

The Rev. Richard Israel, *Celebrant*; The Rev. Alan Gates, *Preacher*

Holy Baptism & Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.

The Rev. Lisa Hackney, *Celebrant & Preacher*

READINGS

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

FELLOWSHIP

8:00—9:00 a.m. Parish Breakfast

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

9:00—11:00 a.m. Preschool Session

10:00—11:00 a.m. Grades K-2: Godly Play — *Parable of the Great Pearl*

Grade 3-6: Workshop Rotation — *Twelve Who Changed the World*

Grade 7: *Why Does God Let Bad things Happen?*

Grade 8: *Lead Worship at St. Luke’s Cleveland*

Grades 10-12: *Movie Discussion*

11:00 a.m.—noon Preschool Session

6:00—8:00 p.m. Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS

10:00 a.m.

Adult Forum: *The Bible Makes Sense* Book Study — Led by the Rev. Richard Israel (Dining Room)

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Flowers on Sunday are given in loving memory of Sarah Patterson and Matthew Johnstone Spence by Sally and John Morley; and in loving memory of Bill Barney by Katy Barney.

APOSTLESHIP

Donate Items for Armed Services Care Packages

For several years, members of the Armed Services Outreach Group (ASOG) of the Global Mission Action Group at St. Paul’s have “undertaken to extend the pastoral support of the parish to those parishioners, relatives, and friends who are serving on active duty in the Armed Services, as well as their families and loved ones.” The group sends care packages personalized with items requested by family members, plus items from the Office of the Bishop Suffragan for Chaplaincies.

Care packages for those in the Armed Services on our prayer list will be sent later this winter! All parishioners are invited and encouraged to help provide contents for these care packages during the month of February. Pick up a list of suggested items in the Old Narthex and place your donations in the bin drawer marked “Armed Services Care Packages.”

If you prefer to let ASOG do the shopping, please make checks out to St Paul’s with “Armed Services Outreach” written on the memo line. Give your check to Gail Emmet in the Parish Office or put it in an envelope and place it in the Global Mission Action Group mailbox.

If you know of someone in the Armed Services who should be included on our Prayer List and parish care packages, please contact Kathleen De Boer at (216) 932-0166 or Harry Farmer at (330) 467-2275.



PARISH NOTES

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2747 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

TIME-VALUED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

ON MY MIND...

Bonds of Prejudice and Fear

February 13 on the church's calendar is the Commemoration of Absalom Jones, first African-American priest in the Episcopal Church.

Jones was born in 1746, a house slave who was sold to a Philadelphia store owner at the age of 16. Having already used the Bible to teach himself to read, Jones went to a Quaker school at night. He used his earnings to buy his freedom, but only after purchasing his wife's freedom and that of their children.

He served as a lay minister for the Black members of St. George's Church, increasing the Black membership to a point that alarmed parish leaders. When the Vestry voted to banish the Black members to a segregated upstairs gallery, Jones and his friend Richard Allen organized a separate Society. The congregation was admitted to the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in 1794, the members stating their intent "to arise out of the dust and shake ourselves, and throw off that servile fear that the habit of oppression and bondage trained us up in." Absalom Jones was ordained priest in 1802. He was a patient but tireless reformer, an earnest preacher, and a devoted pastor.

Each year our diocese holds an Absalom Jones Celebration. The event will be held this year at our neighboring parish of Christ Church, Shaker Heights, on Sunday,

February 12, at 5 p.m. The preacher will be the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina and one of the foremost preachers of the contemporary church. Bishop Arthur Williams will celebrate.

During the recent political fray, boisterous partisans have several times been heard to take up the chant to send the President "back to Kenya." The racism inherent in that cry is deeply troubling. It is a reminder (as if we needed one) that such racism is still a curse in our land – sometimes subtle and subconscious, sometimes shouted right out loud. The Absalom Jones Celebration hosted by our friends at Christ Church provides an opportunity to listen, pray, and speak a continuing word of reconciliation.

Faithfully and fondly,

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
[Lesser Feasts and Fasts, February 13]

WHO WE ARE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

2747 Fairmount Boulevard,
Cleveland Heights, Ohio
44106

tel (216) 932-5815

fax (216) 932-8257

web www.stpauls-church.org

emergency-only cell phone

(216) 496-8037

Our Mission

St. Paul's is a living, evolving community of Christian people who worship together according to the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. We seek to know God and God's will for us; to care for each other; and to support each other in the exercise of our ministries among our neighbors and in the wider world.

Parish Notes

Deadline for submissions is **Tuesday at noon**, 12 days before the Sunday publication date.

Items may be edited for space and/or clarity.

Kim Fry, editor

(216) 932-5815 ext. 214

kfry@stpauls-church.org