

On The Mark

September 4, 2011
The Twelfth Sunday after
Pentecost

Get Set...GO!

Sunday, September 4, 2011

8:30 Cell
8:45 1st Service
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 2nd Service
12:15 Prophetic Team
5:30 First Sunday

Monday, September 5, 2011

Labor Day
Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011

9:30 Art Group
10:00 Holy Eucharist & Healing
12:15 Agape Luncheon

Wed., September 7, 2011

9:30 MOPS Open House

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011

8:30 Community Bible Study
(CBS) Training Day
7:00 Prayer

Friday, September 9, 2011

7:30 Christian 12-Step

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011

7:30 Men's CBS

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011

8:00 9/11 Memorial Service
Middlesex School
8:30 Cell
8:45 1st Service
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 2nd Service
12:15 Prophetic Team
5:30 Youth Group

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS

Ezekiel 33:1-11 (p. 836)
Romans 12:9-21 (p.1101)
Matthew 18:15-20 (p. 952)

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Psalms 103 (p. 587)
Romans 14:1-12 (p.1102)
Matthew 18:21-35 (p. 952)

September 11

Next Sunday is the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center.

At 8:30 a.m. there will be a brief memorial service at the 9/11 Monument located at the rear of Middlesex Middle School on Hollow Tree Ridge Road in Darien.

Gluten-free wafers are now available at all services at St. Paul's. Just ask the priest when you come forward to receive.

Tragedy, Comedy, Fairy Tale

Has anyone ever told you that your faith was a fairy tale? Most who would say this mean it as an insult, but there is at least one Christian writer who doesn't. His name is Frederick Buechner. Recently I have been reading an excellent book that he wrote called Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale, and it seems like each line has fresh insight into the reality of our faith in Jesus. This bit sticks out to me in particular:

"The Gospel is bad news before it is good news. It is the news that man is a sinner, to use the old word, that he is evil in the imagination of his heart, that when he looks in the mirror all in a lather what he sees is at least eight parts chicken, phony, and slob. That is the tragedy. But it is also the news that he is loved anyway, cherished, forgiven. That is comedy. And yet, so what?"

"So what if even in his sin, the slob is loved and forgiven when the very mar and substance of his sin and of his slobbery is that he keeps turning down the love and forgiveness because he either doesn't believe them or doesn't want them or just doesn't care? In answer, the news of the Gospel is that extraordinary things happen...Zaccheus climbs up a sycamore tree a crook and climbs down a saint. Paul sets out a hatchet man for the Pharisees and comes back a fool for Christ. It is impossible for anybody to leave behind the darkness of the world he carries on his back like a snail, but for God all things are possible. That is fairy tale. All together they are the truth."

May the God of fairy tales meet you wherever you sit today, in tragedy, in comedy, or somewhere in between. May you trust him to work the impossible in your life. May his grace and peace and love wash over you like you've never felt before.

Your brother,

Jordan

The Rev. Jordan Easley
Assistant

First Sunday

September 4, 2011 – 6:30 pm

Psalm Night

Come sing the most ancient songs and pray the most ancient prayers of our faith: The Psalms. Next Sunday evening at 6:30 pm we will have Taize worship, a beautiful modern chant of the psalms, and have a time of intercessory prayer interspersed with more psalms. Join us as we pray for our families, our church, our communities and our world.



Back to
School

Picnic!

Sept. 18,
2011

Two weeks from today, after the 10:30 service, please join us for our annual "Back-to-School PICNIC. We supply meat & buns, paper goods & drinks. You supply salads, side dishes, desserts – and the FUN!

Alpha
outside the walls



"Alpha is one of the most effective evangelism tools for the 21st century," says Rick Warren, and this fall, St. Paul's is hosting TWO Alpha courses **outside its walls**. One course will be held at the New Canaan YMCA; the other at the Norwalk YMCA. The Alpha course is designed to bring non-believers into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. So, if you are a Christian who has never seen Alpha in action, then consider joining us to help run it. Or, better yet, invite a non-Christian friend. Each course has different needs. If you want to help with Alpha in New Canaan, please contact **Leah Easley** at leaheasley1983@gmail.com; to help with Alpha in Norwalk, contact Lisa Schell (lisa.schell@me.com). For information about the Alpha program in general, check out www.alphausa.org.



On Saturday and Sunday, October 1 & 2, 1500 volunteers are needed to pack rice meals for the hungry.

This is a community event, set up at Middlesex Middle School – an opportunity for all the churches and other community groups. Sign up to participate begins today, September 4. Individuals may sign up; groups and families may sign up together, for two hour shifts.

Volunteers need to be in 3rd grade or above. The ratio for groups is:
Grades 3-6 – one adult to 3 students
Grades 8-9 - one adult to 4 students
Grades 10-12 – one adult to 5 students.

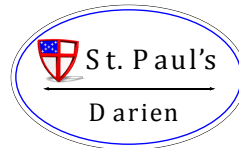
To sign up on line, go to www.fmssc.org and look for Darien MobilePack. OR, go to dariantimes.com and look for the link to Darien MobilePack. Scheduling is simple, but it is first come, first served for choice of the time slots.

Attn: St. Paul's ARTISTS!

Nigel Goodwin is a British actor and founder of *Genesis Arts*, an organization that encourages the artistic community in its quest to make good art to God's glory. He is a missionary to artists, a man who invites Christians and non-Christians alike into conversation, creating a safe space for them to be themselves, to ask questions about Christ, to gain a new understanding of how faith and art work together. Nigel is coming to St. Paul's on **Wednesday, September 28** at 7:30 p.m. So mark your calendars. This is a world class artist you don't want to miss!

Save the Date!

In the evening on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, Bishop Bill Murdoch of the Anglican Diocese of New England will lead a joint healing service for St. Paul Lutheran, Westport, and St. Paul's, Darien. Let our region be ignited with Holy Spirit power! Please pray, mark your calendar and bring friends. More details will follow.



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Noel Thomas (Assistant Sexton)

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Gail Paige Bowman
The Rev. Novella Lawrence
The Rev. M. Blake Greenlee
The Rev. Roberta Schneider
The Rev. Gabrielle Beam

Vestry

Sr. Warden – Tony Schell
Jr Warden - Joann Cerretani
Treasurer – Phil McClain
Clerk - Adelaide Waring

Class of 2012:

John Donovan (*Anglican Relations*)
Babs Ward (*Mercy*)
Julia Nichols (*Mercy*)

Class of 2013

Sandra Monahan (*Anglican Relations*)
Judy Robson
Polly Verrico (*Healing & Intercession*)

Class of 2014:

Steve Miserocchi (*Buildings & Grounds*)
Alberto Daniels (*MIC*)
Josephine Rojas (*Hospitality*)

To Know Christ
And to Make Him Known