

# SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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## LET'S GO HOME

James-joseph-jacques Tissot was a french painter, engraver and enameler who was born in 1836 in Nantes, France and died at Buillon Abbey, near Besançon in 1902, at the age of 65. Tissot was best known for his portraits of late Victorian society. Among his works was a series of paintings depicting scenes from Jesus' parable of the Prodigal son, from Luke 15, entitled, "The Prodigal Son in Modern Life." He portrayed this epic spiritual journey as if it took place in contemporary (Victorian) times.

The detail presented here is from the painting called "The Return." It depicts that very moment when the broken and penitent son is back in the loving embrace of his father. I am moved deeply by the son, ragged and bare footed, on his knees before his father, and the father bent by the weight of age and stooping down and embracing his son who "was dead and is alive again; [who] was lost and is found." (Luke 15:24)

Even though my own father passed away over 11 years ago I still miss him terribly. When life seems to spin out of control, when daily challenges are especially weighty and my spirit begins to sag under them, I admit to wishing for his paternal embrace and reassuring word. As my father, he embodied a sense of security. When he was around, to guide and support me, I knew that no matter what, things would be OK. I no longer have him to lean on and look to. I haven't had that for a long time. But, I still miss it.

When I see this painting I am reminded not only of my father's love, but of *our* Father's love. I am

reminded that my *true* home was never *really* with Fritz Haffenreffer, my Dad, but has been and will be forever with God. And, if I might admit to one more thing, I can tend to forget that. When life is burdensome and I become motivated more by fear than by faith, I can forget for a moment where my *true* home is.

Lent will soon be upon us. And with it comes an opportunity to remember together where *our* true home is. Life with all its distractions can disorient us.

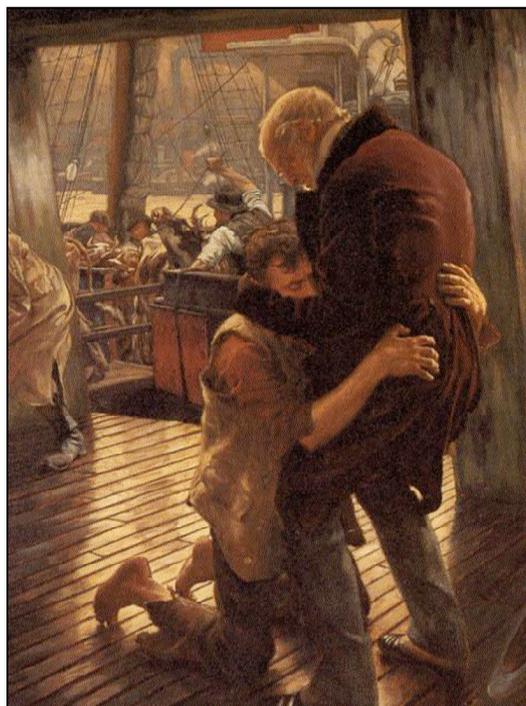
We can get caught up in the pursuit of things that don't really matter and forget the importance of those things that do. During Lent we hear our God calling to us to come home.

Home is where our true joy is found. It is where we are our truest selves. And home with God is where we rekindle that bedrock truth that we are God's children—loved to the very core.

The great Christian author, C.S. Lewis, once wrote that apart from entering into a relationship with God, which he calls a kind of "dance", "There is no other way to the happiness for which we were made. . . . If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that

has them. They are not a sort of prize that God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very centre of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not, you will remain dry."<sup>†</sup>

During Lent, we are invited to come home and get wet. Through the renewal of our baptism—whether through worship, Bible study, or the sharing of the sto-



Detail from James Tissot, *The Prodigal Son in Modern Life: The Return* (1882)

*Continued on next page*

ries of our faith—our faith can be strengthened and renewed. And like a prodigal son or daughter who has drifted away from the source of love and warmth, we will together journey back home and there rediscover the joy in knowing who we truly are: beloved children of the most high God.

Let's go home.

*Pastor Hugh Haffner*

† C.S. Lewis, *C.S. Lewis on Joy*, compiled by Lesley Walmsley, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998), 31.

### **FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP: GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH AND GRACE**

This coming Lent, St. Paul's will be offering several opportunities to grow together in faith and grace. In addition to our weekly emphasis during our Sunday worship services, our Lenten emphasis will come in three interrelated parts:

**Part I: Sunday Evening Video Series: Great Souls—Disciples of Christ Who Have Changed the World.** On Sunday evenings, from 4:30 to 6PM, starting on February 25 and running through April 1, we will have a video series that will explore the lives of 6 modern disciples. Using DVD documentaries, we will explore the lives of the German pastor and theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as well as some of the following: Evangelist Billy Graham, the late Karol Józef Wojtyła (known to the world as Pope John Paul II), Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu (Mother Teresa of Calcutta), the Russian novelist and dissident Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn, and former South African President, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. While we may make changes to the people presented, the point of this video series is to explore how each person's faith in Jesus shaped the life they lived and their impact in the world. Three of these—Mother Theresa, Solzhenitsyn, and Mandela—received Nobel Peace Prizes. At our first meeting we will begin with Bonhoeffer and use parts of his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, to explore the notion of Christian discipleship. This first session will be from 4:30 to 6:30PM, as the video we will be watching is longer than the rest. After that the sessions will run from 4:30 to 6PM. Lite refreshments will be offered. This is a great opportunity for our youths, too!

**Part II: A 6-week Bible Study called "Growing Disciples"** will take place during Lent. While Pastor will lead the study on Wednesday mornings (10:30AM to noon, starting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21 and run-

ning through April 28), we are hoping to find people willing to host the 6-week Bible Study in their homes. All Study Leaders will receive materials and some brief training on different ways to lead the study. These small group studies could take place on any day at any time, at the convenience of those attending. Anyone who is willing to lead one or more weeks of the study, and/or are willing to host a small group in their home is urged to contact Pastor Hugh as soon as possible. A sign-up sheet with places and times will be posted in the Fellowship Hall by February 11.

### **Part III: Soup and Salad and Evening Prayer**

As we did last year, our Wednesday evenings in Lent (Feb 28, March 7, 14, 21 and 28) will begin with a light supper starting at 6:00PM. Here we will have an opportunity to share our faith journeys around soup and salad (or whatever our talented cooks want to bring). If you would be willing to share your culinary gifts with others, please contact Jim Newmark (860-231-2769).

During the 5 Wednesday Night Lenten Services, which will start at 7PM, in addition to enhancing our worship life together by exploring the new setting of Evening Prayer in our new Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), five fellow members will share their faith story. Come and hear what God is doing in and through your fellow disciples in Christ.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that every member of St. Paul's will heed the Lenten call to discipleship by participating in one or more of these opportunities.

If you would like more information, or if you are willing to volunteer as a leader or host, please feel free to talk with Pastor Hugh.

God bless our Lenten journey as we *grow from membership to discipleship*.

#### **Lenten Opportunities for your Calendar**

**Sunday Video Series:** Great Souls: Disciples of Christ who have changed the world. Sundays during Lent from 4:30 to 6PM

**Weekly Bible Study:** Growing Disciples: Wednesdays from 10:30 to noon. Other times and places to be announced.

#### **Wednesday Evenings**

Soup & Salad: 6pm

Evening Prayer: 7:00pm

## CALUMET NEWS....

Calumet has programs for adults and families as well as summer camp for kids. Some highlights include an Ididarod for youth in February, a Knitters Weekend in March, Mother's Day for single moms and kids in May, Spring Fling! For youth in May, the Northeast Lutheran Motorcycle Retreat in June, a Fourth of July chicken barbecue and concert, and the Giant Church Picnic at the end of August. Details of these and other events can be found on a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

There are also Summer Camp for Kids brochures hanging off that bulletin board as well. It is getting toward the time when summer camp fills up and the choice of dates disappears. Sign up now.

St. Paul's offers some campership money to youth who attend summer camp at Calumet. Contact Art Bruce (257-7327) for details.

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### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Glen Warstock	18 Winnie Sawrun
2 Sandra Colpitts	22 Olga Babel
5 Peter Lupoli	Kyle McDonald
8 Doris Bunnell	23 Diane Bayek
Debbie Viola	25 Bob Prill
15 Tim Bruce	27 Sandra Schultz
16 Kyle Parsons	28 Sara Colpitts
17 Federico Preuss	Walter Rupp



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### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY CHANGES (ADDRESS)

Anderson, Edith                      65 Constance Leigh Drive, Apt 601  
Newington, CT 06111 Phone: SAME

Anderson, Vicki                      new phone # cell 860/808-6424

Krug, Don & June                      38 West Wynd Terrace  
Middletown, CT 06457              Phone: 632-7608

**NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR 2007** will be available soon. Please let us know if your address, phone number or any family information will change.

# February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Thurs. Grp., 10-2PM Cub Scouts, 6-9PM PE-downstairs	<b>2</b> AA, 10AM	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Holy Comm., 8 & 10:30AM SCS 9AM, Adlt. Disc.: 9:15AM Choir, 9:45	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Youth Team, 6:30PM Outreach, 7PM OA, 7:30PM	<b>7</b> Bible Study, 10:30AM Choir, 7:30PM AA, 7PM	<b>8</b> Thurs. Grp., 10-2PM	<b>9</b> AA, 10AM	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Celebration Sunday*</b> Holy Comm., 8 & 10:30AM* SCS 9AM, Adlt. Disc.: 9:15AM Choir, 9:45	<b>12</b> Cub Scouts, 6-9PM PE-Downstairs	<b>13</b> Worship & Music, 7:30PM OA, 7:30PM	<b>14</b> Bible Study, 10:30AM Choir, 7:30PM AA, 7PM ♥	<b>15</b> Men's Breakfast @ Denny's, 7:30AM Thurs. Grp., 10-2PM Epistle deadline	<b>16</b> AA, 10AM Youth Winter Trip-Bierbaum, Bennington, NH	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Holy Comm., 8 & 10:30AM* * Baptism-William Perry SCS 9AM, Adlt. Disc.: 9:15AM Choir, 9:45	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> OA, 7:30PM	<b>21 Ash Wed</b> "Growing Disciples" Bible Study, 10:30AM Holy Comm., 7PM Choir, 8PM AA, 7PM	<b>22</b> Thurs. Grp., 10-2PM	<b>23</b> AA, 10AM	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Holy Comm., 8 & 10:30AM SCS 9AM, Adlt. Disc.: 9:15AM Choir, 9:45	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Par. Admin, 6:30PM Ch. Council, 7:30PM OA, 7:30PM	<b>28</b> "Growing Disciples" Bible Study, 10:30AM Lenten Supper, 6PM Evening Prayer., 7PM Choir, 8PM AA, 7PM			

**ST .PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR FEBRUARY**

**ACOLYTES:** Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Feb 4 - Erica DeBlois
- 11 - Amanda Piscitello
- 18 - Katie Grottke
- 21 - Jay Viola
- 25 - Gretchen Schultz
- Mar 4 - Roxanne DeBlois

Feb. 21  
Ash Wed., 7PM

**ALTAR GUILD:** Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Feb 4 - Ann Baledes, Elaine Strecker
- 11 - Jennie Dotts, Betty Lamo
- 18 - Ann French, Winnie Sawrun
- 21 - Anderson Ash Wed., 7PM
- 25 - Carol Farley, Debbie Howe
- Mar 4 - Patty Bengtson, Bernice Noeker

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

- Feb 4 - Patty Bengtson 8AM, Jim Newmark 10:30AM
- 11 - Art Bruce 8AM, Jerry Vaillancourt 10:30AM
- 18 - Mark Bierbaum 8AM, Steve Harz 10:30AM
- 21 - Kathy Coyle
- 25 - Emily Lourigan 8AM, Mary Procyk 10:30AM
- Mar 4 - Patty Bengtson 8AM, Kathie Daly 10:30AM

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Feb 4 - Kathy Daly
- 11 - Curt Leonard
- 18 - Penrose Wolf,
- 21 - Emily Lourigan
- 25 - Helen Peterson
- Mar 4 - Dick Agne

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

Month of February: Emily Lourigan, Pam Speno

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:** Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- Feb 4 - Helen Peterson & Harriett Fritsch
- 11 - Pam Speno & Carol Farley
- 18 - Danielle & Serge DeBlois
- 25 - Margaret DeBlois & Carol Farley
- Mar 4 - Mary Procyk & Tracy Newmark

**FINANCE:** Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Feb 4 - Jerry & Sally Edison
- 11 - Lois Woy
- 18 - Helen Peterson
- 25 - Harriett Fritsch
- Mar 4 - Betty Lamo

**LECTORS:** Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Feb 4 - Lillian Doerschler
- 11 - Louise Lostocco
- 18 - Winnie Sawrun
- 21 - Kathy Coyle Ash Wed., 7PM
- 25 - Joshua Viola
- Mar 4 - George C. Howe

**NURSERY:** Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- Feb 4 - Russ Correll, Kaitlin Anderson
- 11 - Joshua and Amanda Viola
- 18 - Kimberlee Rupp, Stephanie Lohmann
- 25 - Crystal Brozynski, Roxie DeBlois
- Mar 4 - Russ Correll and helper

**USHERS:** Penrose Wolf, Coordinator, 8:00AM (529-9537)

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

Month of Feb Brian and Sue Beckwith 8:00AM  
Don Krug, Walter Rupp 10:30AM



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*SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Wethersfield, CT 06109  
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# SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **CHURCH SCHEDULE**

- Worship: . . . . . 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Church School: . . . . . 9:00 a.m.
- Adult Study Class: . . . . . 9:15 a.m.

## **OFFICERS AND STAFF**

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor .....Office: (860) 529-5397  
 Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360  
 pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org

Council President .....Brian Beckwith  
 Treasurer.....Russell Correll  
 Financial Sect'y.....Mary Procyk  
 Minister of Music .....Melissa Cheyney  
 Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Ruppard  
 Office Secretary .....Marianne Doolittle

### **REMINDERS:**

**Feb 21 Ash Wednesday-Holy Communion, 7PM**  
**28 Lenten Supper, 6PM, Evening Prayer, 7PM**

**February 2007**