



CAMP FAITH 2018 AT JOHNSON'S FARM

Camp Faith 2019

Camp Faith, the day camp for Camden youth run from St. Paul's Church, is again looking for campers ages four through twelve for the summer of 2019. The camp will run from July 8th through August 9th; no fee is required. It is an opportunity for young people to make friends, learn independence and leadership skills as well as Bible knowledge and traditions of the church. In addition to their time at St. Paul's, there will be weekly outings to such places as the Neshaminy Pool in Neshaminy, Pennsylvania, the Johnson Farm in Medford or an afternoon bowling.

In 2018, eighty children registered and were supervised by twelve counselors; we anticipate similar numbers for this year. Many of our campers have become counselors and have assumed leadership positions at St. Paul's and other institutions. It is among this group that the church motto, "Faith in

Camden," begins; we hope for vigorous support from our St. Paul's families!

Of course, the camp needs supporters within the community to retain its record of success. Of the approximately \$28,000 needed for the program, half the necessary funds will go toward staff salaries and stipends, including camp directors, a registrar, a kitchen manager and the counselors. Including incidentals such as supplies and daily cleaning, the cost will be approximately \$400 per child.

Camp Faith is one of our signature yearly offerings to our community. Please stop by the church office to pick-up an application or consider supporting our effort toward our young people. Help make "Faith in Camden" a reality for the youngest members in our community!

St. Paul's Church 422 Market St.

Box 1551, Camden,
New Jersey 08101

IN THIS ISSUE

Working in the Kingdom

Page 2

Looking Forward: Project Interaction

Page 3

Announcements

Page 3

ICE CREAM TIME AT CAMP FAITH



Working in the Kingdom

Whether we are retired or inhabit the working world, many of us are accustomed to projects that have a beginning and a conclusion, usually involving deadlines, where there are rewards and consequences for completing work "on time". We observe these time constraints because there is other work to be finished and a limited amount of people and resources to complete it.

The work of the kingdom is categorically different because we are using a different idea of time. Part of the reason is that the reign of God has already begun with the appearance of God among us in the person of Christ Jesus, but that reign has not been fully restored, an event that becomes a dominant theme the deeper we enter the time following Pentecost. It is this tension between "already" and "not yet" that drives the way we think and the ministries we do, that we are on the threshold of something that is more wonderful than we can imagine, but in the meantime, there is plenty of work to be done: preparing for Camp Faith, cooking for our brothers and sisters on Sunday, talking with those hungry for food and companionship. We live into this tension in the rhythm of our work and prayers for our brothers and sisters not only because there is an endless amount of "kingdom work" remaining, but because it helps many of us resolve the ways we internalize that tension.

Our peculiar way of life as Episcopalians lies in the way we are drawn to tension, not seeking easy answers to thorny questions but living with those questions and trying to understand what they say about us. Michael Ramsay, the former Archbishop of Canterbury and one of the great thinkers of the modern church, once said, "We are not sinning if we are unsure of the answers to hard questions. We are sinning if we do not think or care". Putting the issue into more personal terms, he was unafraid to speak of the tensions within his own faith:

Christian Faith has been for me a constant process of wrestling, of losing and finding, of alternating night and day. For me the struggle is not between faith and unbelief so much as within faith itself. Faith is a sort of adventurous conflict in the midst of which certainty deepens. When the certainty passes, as it does for me, into a sense of peace and serenity, it is none the less a costly peace, a peace at the heart of conflict.

Many of us would echo Ramsey's sense of "alternating night and day" in our lives and how it informs our own ministries. The most important work we do is born of a creative tension, where we are able to ask why things are the way they are, and to answer that question with a response rooted in commitment to faithful work in the world. It is in that spirit that I look forward to the continuing ministry for which this parish is justifiably proud, and to note that we indeed "get it" in how deeply we search out our own faithful responses to the work to which God is calling us. I have been humbled to see that work done with a joyful heart at St. Paul's. It is indeed a "costly peace" for many of us, but we have the privilege of offering our own vision of the kingdom in our own time and place, a vision of hope embodied in a changing and growing community. It is a deep privilege to be with you all and I look forward to deepening our faith lives in service to our neighbor and the entire faith community.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many Thanks

Kelly and I would like to thank all who contributed their time and wonderful food to the reception following the 11:00 mass on June 2. I spoke that day of transitions, of meeting each other prayerfully in our journeys; the welcome we have received has been moving indeed for us and we are grateful to be in a parish that treats friend and stranger so warmly. St. Paul's is a unique place in my experience in many ways; your welcome should be a lesson for all of us.

In the coming months, my hope is to have more conversations with you, to come to know your stories in an effort to know the larger story of this remarkable parish. I hope you will feel free to share a few words (and maybe a cup of coffee) with me. I'm eager to know each of you and hope that we can be as free with our stories as we are with ourselves on Sunday mornings.

Fr. Mark

Fundraising at the Victor

Please join us on June 13, 6-9pm, for our gala fundraiser at the Victor! Tickets are \$25 and proceeds will benefit the church. Make sure your friends know about this opportunity for great food and scintillating company, specialties of the folks at St. Paul's!

Mid-Week Mass to begin in August

Beginning on August 14, we will have a mid-week healing mass on Wednesdays in our sanctuary at noon. These services will be a shortened version of our celebrations on Sundays, allowing people to attend mass during their lunch break. My hope is that people who work downtown will want to know what we are up to at St. Paul's, while we provide anointing and healing prayers for all who attend.

Project Interaction: Looking Forward

"The mystery of the poor is this: that they are Christ and what you do for them you do for him."

Dorothy Day

Recently, I was given a brief history of Project Interaction written by Fr. Martin Gutwein on the thirtieth anniversary of its formation. I found it remarkable reading, not only in the willingness of many to recognize a common need among suburban and inner-city parishes in South Jersey, but to understand that it is "kingdom work" in which we are engaging. This knowledge seems to have been present from the initial stages and it is moving indeed to see how initial "bumps" in the relationships were overcome to an understanding that all who participate have a chance to encounter Christ on the margins and among the dispossessed.

On June 11, we have another opportunity to meet as a consortium of parishes to address issues of common interest and to plan for the fundraiser in the fall. I hope you will join with all of us in prayer and gratitude for these relationships; they are a gift to St. Paul's, as I believe we are a gift to them, and my hope is that we can carry a spirit of common purpose into the future.

St. Paul's Church

422 Market St.
Camden, NJ 08102