

SEPTEMBER 2011

RISING



REV. WAYNE RUNNER, RECTOR

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

370 Main Street
Wakefield, RI 02879

401.783.2911

ascensionw@verizon.net

www.ascensionwakefield.org



A message from the Rector :

What a great summer we had here in South County! We were blessed to have a number of our winter Florida residents return to the Wakefield area and also to welcome some vacationers traveling through this area who stopped to worship with us.

Throughout the summer months life at Ascension continued to blossom just like the beautiful flowers that appeared on our altar each week. Our summer worship experience was enriched by the creative planning of our organist/choir director, Susan Vasques. Thank you to the people who shared their musical talents with us this summer. Speaking of worship I am so happy to report that our church attendance was very good during July and August. We easily averaged close to a 100 people each week. We also shared the special fellowship of Refreshments on the Lawn each week along with the Parish Picnic in August.



It truly has been a great summer and now we look forward to fall and a number of special events. On September 11 we return to our regular worship schedule:

Saturday evening, Holy Eucharist at 5:00 pm, Sunday morning Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 am, and Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:00 am. Also on September 11, the choir returns to our service, church school registration takes place, and a special Fall Gathering Coffee Hour will be hosted by the teachers and parents of the church school.

While summer is just about officially over there will still be some beautiful days ahead of us to enjoy. Take advantage of our wonderful area by going to the beach, sailing and of course, attending worship at the Church of the Ascension.

Fr. Wayne +



Church Women United
... Shirley Southwick

Are you familiar with Church Women United?

CWU is a racially, culturally, and theologically inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement working for peace and justice. It is not just a local group, but international, and will celebrate its 70th birthday in December.

There has been a CWU unit in South County for more than 50 years. Local churches that are involved include, Wakefield Baptist, Peace Dale Congregational, St. Peter's, Kingston Congregational, Church of the Ascension, St. Francis, Christ United Methodist, Christ the King, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Dunn's Corner Presbyterian, St. Thomas Moore and St. Augustine's.

In the past, South County CWU has sponsored the opening of the landfill, the local meals on wheels program and we are now arranging the local Lenten luncheons.

We also have three Celebration Days. during the year - World Community Day in November, World

Day of Prayer in March, and May Friendship Day. These celebrations are held in different churches and all denominations take part in the programs. All are invited!

Many of the churches send a delegate to our monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 ASM at the Wakefield Baptist Church. Bette Thresher and Shirley Southwick are long-time members and welcome anyone who is interested or who might have questions.

South County CWU is sponsoring a retreat on Saturday, October 15th. It will be held in the Land Trust building, 17 Matunuck Beach Road from 9 AM - 3:30 PM. A morning snack and lunch are included in the cost of \$40. The theme of the retreat is "Be still and know that I am God", and the leader is Madeline Nugent, an author on spiritual themes.

Please join us - we have lot of fun and we have much to share!

Don't Forget! "Connect" with our new Facebook Page! Be a *Friend of Ascension!*



It's easy to find. Click on the link from the Ascension website. Check it often for instant messages re: weather conditions and other "breaking news" or just to chat or comment. See you there!

"I'd Like to Meet With the Rector"

Fr. Wayne is available for meetings or pastoral visits on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Please call **783-2911** to make an appointment.

He is available for emergency care 24/7.

Emergency # 824-2308

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Reflections of Ground Zero ...

From Fr. Wayne

As a child I spent many summers in New York City visiting my grandmother. At age ten I often roamed Manhattan by myself. I guess I have always considered myself a "closet New Yorker". With the tragedy of September 11, I found myself with a tremendous desire to help in some way. My status of priest provided me that opportunity. On November 16, with the consent of the Bishop, I journeyed to NYC to minister to the construction workers, firemen, and police officers working around the clock at Ground Zero.

Saint Paul's Church which borders the property of Ground Zero, has been closed to the public and is the primary retreat location for all the workers. Many have called the chapel - *an oasis of heaven in hell*. I walked from where I was staying to the chapel. I noticed as I was about two blocks from arriving at the chapel I was beginning to taste dust in the air. There was also a strong odor of crushed concrete and death.

I arrived at St. Paul's about 2:45 pm. I was immediately struck by the iron fence out front that was covered from top to bottom with signs, cards, pictures, banners and numerous candles burning. I later found out that every hour a huge tarp was brought out and placed on the wall and within an hour it was completely covered with messages from those passing by. The side street next to the chapel had a large number of people quietly standing and straining their necks to see down the street. This is the only view of Ground Zero that can be seen by the public. Just that small portion of the destruction was enough to bring an eerie silence to the crowd of people.

Standing at the end of the block was a huge building, burnt black from top to bottom with no outside walls. It stood there surrounded by six to eight blocks of horrendous destruction not visible to the silent crowd.

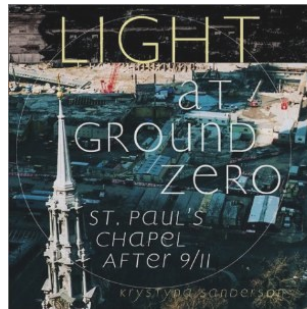
After being cleared by security I was able to enter the Chapel. I was immediately taken by how this church had been transformed. This beautiful Chapel, finished in 1768, was covered from ceiling to floor with cards from all over the world, and banners from every state in the country. There were volunteers serving food (the food this day was donated by the Waldorf), there were areas with cots where police officers and firemen were sleeping, there was a chiropractor, masseuse, and in George Washington's pew a foot doctor. These were services being provided 24 hours a day.

I immediately received a brief orientation of the Chapel and was told what my role would be as a clergy volunteer. I was also informed that they were no longer permitting anyone to go into the Ground Zero area. They have just recently entered the most dangerous phase of the clean up. The rubble of the Twin Towers has been removed and they are now bringing down the surrounding buildings. The only people being taken into the Ground Zero area are Red Cross workers, visiting dignitaries and family members of the victims.

The nun doing the orientation told me that she was now going to take me to the back of the chapel to meet the rector of the church. Little did I know this meeting was about to provide an experience that, I know, will be a part of me forever. To the surprise of both the rector and myself we immediately realized we had gone to seminary together and had not seen each other for 13 years. What's the expression "it's not what you know but who you know"! After a brief reunion he handed me a hard hat and took me on a VIP tour of Ground Zero.

Remembering 9-11 ...

We walked six to eight blocks around what used to be the World Trade Center. It was a sight that left me speechless. Once proud skyscrapers now burnt black and waiting their turn to be torn down. I was able to look down into the pit left by the Twin Towers, the actual GROUND ZERO. Smoke still coming out of the cavern. Smoke not caused by the dust, as I thought, but smoke from the fire that still burns in what used to be the below ground level of the Twin Towers. As I walked in silence I began to reflect on this awesome experience. Roads have been built where there were no roads before and numerous cranes were in operation. At first glance it did seem to be a very large construction site but it suddenly struck me it was so much more. I was walking around a city within a city. There were no people in this city, imagine a city with no voices. The only sound being made was from the wrecking ball as it struck one of the buildings. This city had a number of buildings that although they were 20 stories tall, were totally covered in black netting. Burnt and twisted iron made up the buildings in this city. I walked past what must have once been a store selling newspapers and snacks. It had no front wall; the inside was covered with dust and debris. There was a large refrigerator cooler against the back wall with the glass doors missing but inside were bottles of soda and fruit drinks, still full but covered with inches of concrete dust. This city had its own makeshift fire dept., Red Cross Center and morgue. Yes, this was much more than just a construction site, it was indeed a city. It was a city of destruction and death.



After my tour I assumed my responsibilities within the chapel. I spent eight hours talking and ministering to probably 100 workers. All were so grateful for the care they have been receiving. I have a story to share for every person that spoke

with me. The talks ranged from their experiences with the cleanup work, recovering remains, stories about loved ones and friends lost on September 11 and how tired they were having put in yet another 14 hour shift. I know I will never forget holding a Fire Chief from Milwaukee in my arms as he sobbed at the loss of his fellow brothers and sisters.

NYC has brought in 100's of additional State Police to serve in this area. I asked one if he really felt all these extra State Police were needed. He smiled and said their primary function is to serve as a presence. They are to be a presence of security for the people of NYC. I found that very interesting because during my orientation, earlier that day, I was told my primary role was to be a presence. A presence of the security and love we find in God. Presence was an excellent word to use. From the moment you entered the St. Paul's chapel you could feel the presence of God. The presence of God could be felt in all the volunteer workers, the firemen and police officers, and in all the messages of love adorning the chapel.

As I ended my shift and was walking the streets of New York alone at midnight I realized I was not alone. I felt a renewed sense of God's presence. My experience at Ground Zero helped me to realize we are not facing all this tragedy alone, God is with us. There is a St. Paul's Chapel inside each of us providing us an oasis of heaven in what often seems to be hell. With each breath we take, God surrounds us with His love and presence.

Fr. Wayne +



Our Thanks to Special People

... from Sigrid Hewitt

As our summer turns to fall, we are very grateful to all who made our summer worship services so very special. Our thanks to all who provided the refreshments for our gatherings after the Sunday services. Our thanks also to our organist, Susan Vasques and everyone who provided the wonderful music each week. And our thanks once again to all of our Flower Angels for the beautiful blossoms gracing the altar each week. Thank you!



St. Mary's ECW News

....from Diane Powers, President

St. Mary's will meet Sept. 14 at noon in the conference room.
 All the ladies of the parish are invited. Bring a sandwich or salad for yourself.
 Coffee and desert will be provided.

Note at our Oct. meeting Karen Crosby will demonstrate and provide us materials to make a ZENTANGLE.
 We'll make our own masterpieces!

A Rummage sale will be held in late Oct. time to think about that fall cleaning.

Got Food???

Check with Tasha Connor for needed donations for this important ministry



Requested September Donations:

Contributions needed for the Jonnycake Food Pantry for the month of September are pasta sauce, tuna, and cereal. Laundry detergent is also needed.



"If we learn nothing else from this tragedy,
 we learn that life is short
 and there is no time for hate,"

... **Sandy Dahl**,
 wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl





**Choir Rehearsals
Resume**

ALWAYS WELCOMED! NEW FACES IN OUR CHOIRS

... From Susan Vasques

Meet some wonderful folks, share your gift of music or come learn more, the **Senior Choir** offers a great opportunity for ministry. All skill levels, even those who haven't sung in a while are welcomed! It's amazing what singing in a group can do for your voice as well as your outlook. Many of our members say they are rejuvenated after our rehearsals. Join the fun! Practices are **7pm, Wednesdays at church**.

Young People's Choir - Young people ages 5-12 are invited to join this fun group. Our practices are short, right **after the 10am service**. New faces, voices and enthusiastic folks are warmly invited.

Speak to Sue Vasques, organist if you have questions.



**Chalice
Bearers**

An Update from Peg Collins

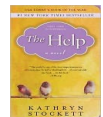
We are most pleased to welcome our newest Chalice Bearers, Barbara Palmer, Cate Lemieux and Nina Garfield. And we also welcome Bernice Simmons who is returning to this special ministry.



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE **From Shirley Champlin**

If you know someone in need of a card for any reason, the Sunshine Committee is available to send cards from Ascension

Sacred and Profane Book Club News



We're reading *The Help* and we're meeting on Thursday September 15, 2011 at 6:30PM
At Peg Collins' Home
Plan to Join Us for a Great Evening!



Reminders:

Attention Ascension Knitters:

Warm Hugs collection will be Veteran's Day 2011

2011 Walk to End Alzheimer's- Newport, RI

Sunday, October 2, 2011



For more information contact Dawn Piers at 788.1067 or dpiers57@yahoo.com.



Sunday School

Church School Update
... from Sandy Arnold, Coordinator

Wow! Summer certainly flew by. I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy summer and not too much damage from Hurricane Irene. It's time to get back into the swing of things.

This is what September looks like . . .

September 11th will be our Fall Gathering. We will be asking Sunday School families to bring something to share for Coffee Hour and we will have Sunday School Registration.

September 18th will be our first day of Sunday School.

September 25th will be our second day of Sunday School and we will have a parents meeting.

Hope to see you all at the **Fall Gathering!**

Sandy Arnold

Sunday School Coordinator

Ascension Parish Picnic Joins Sunday Supper Neighbors ...

On August 14th, The Ascension Parish Picnic was held with our Sunday Supper neighbors -



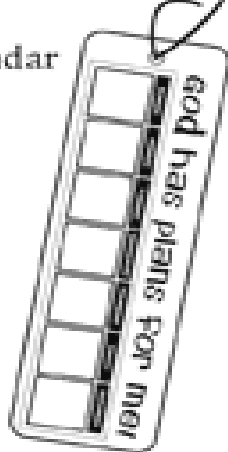
Kid's Page

A daily reminder

Make this bookmark to remind you that God is with you every day.

What you need:


- An old calendar
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Glue stick
- Pencil or marker
- Stickers
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn



What you do:

1. Cut out the first line of squares from an old calendar, including the days of the week along the top.
2. Cut the cardstock into a rectangle a little larger than the calendar section.
3. Glue the calendar section onto the cardstock.
4. Write "God has plans for me" (Jeremiah 29:11) on the bookmark.
5. Add stickers or other decorations on the back.
6. Punch a hole on one end of the bookmark.
7. Loop some ribbon or yarn through the hole.





GOD'S INSTRUCTION

The Bible is a guide for how we should live. In Sunday school and at home, we learn how God loves and saves us. Solve this puzzle to find Proverbs 4:13 (NIV), which tells about the importance of God's Word.

First, write the word that means the opposite of the one given. Then write the correct letters on the number-coded lines below.

young death cold come

1 2 3 2 6 7 8 4 1 5 9 1

sweet can't no later

10 1 11 12 13 14 15 16 8 10 15 1 17

"H


4 1 2 3 1 15 5 1

6 15 10 5 12 11 13 5 6 1 15 ' 3 1

15 1 5 2 8 5 6 5 9 1 ;

9 11 14 12 3 6 5 17 8 2 2 ' 7 1 12

6 5 6 10 16 1 11 12 2 6 7 8 "



"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." (Proverbs 4:13, NIV)

Answers: old, life, hot, go, sour, can, yes, now



2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ECW Episcopal Church Women CS - Church School SS Sunday Supper						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HE 9 A			Choir Rehearsal 7 P			5 P HE
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8 A HE CS 9:45 A HE 10A SS 5P	8:45 A Downtown Merchants' Association	Vestry 7:15	ECW 12 Noon Choir Rehearsal 7 P		Book Club 6:30 Peg Collins' Home	5 P HE
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8 A HE CS 9:45 A HE 10A SS 5P	October <i>Rising</i> Deadline		Choir Rehearsal 7 P			5 P HE
25	26	27	28	29	30	
8 A HE CS 9:45 A HE 10A SS 5P			Choir Rehearsal 7 P			

The Church of the Ascension

370 Main Street

Wakefield, RI 02879

WE'RE ON THE WEB!ASCENSIONWAKEFIELD.ORG

Go GREEN!!!

**Receive your Rising electronically and save!
Contact the parish office to have your copy sent by e-mail.
Thanks!**

FALL GATHERING Sunday September 11, 2011 10 AM

Choir Rehearsals Resume Wednesday September 7, 2011 at 7 PM

Young Peoples Choir Rehearsal Sundays immediately after the 10 AM Service

ECW Meeting Wednesday September 14, 2011 at 12 Noon

Vestry Meeting September 13, 2011 7:15 PM

Sacred and Profane Book Club 6:30 PM See Calendar for location