

Family Promise

Family Promise North Shore Boston is a nonprofit interfaith hospitality network that provides temporary shelter, meals, hospitality, and case management for families experiencing homelessness on the North Shore of Massachusetts. As one of many Host Congregations, CTR provides a place of shelter for several families right here in our parish hall, for one week, every three months. Our next host week is 4/30 - 5/7.

By Kathy Bourgault

I first became interested in Family Promise in September of 2013, after Fr. Malcom gave a powerful sermon and impassioned plea to "help the homeless for two hours four times a year" at Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church. Little did I know the deep passion God would develop in me for this program, eventually leading to my becoming a Co-Coordinator of Family Promise at CTR.



After hearing Fr. Malcolm's sermon, I began researching more about Family Promise on their website, familypromisensb.org and was most impressed by:

- How long the program had been running (29 years now).
- The number of states in which Family Promise is located (41 and counting).
- The way the program is run:
 - Strict guidelines and involvement from the families.
 - Volunteer support given to the families through mentoring programs for current and "graduated" families enabling steady progress.
 - The success rate of families finding jobs and obtaining housing.
- The way "graduated" families give back to the program after they leave.

Once I started working with Fr. Malcolm, Ann Droppers (Co-Coordinator at CTR), the Family Promise North Shore Boston staff/volunteers, and guests, I was inspired by their stories, passion, and gratitude. The testimonies of those who have been helped by the program are also a tremendous source of joy. Parishioner Tina Ames has now joined our core team as Coordinator of the meals and food for the guests.



Serving with Family Promise has given me a deeper appreciation of all the blessings I have in life, especially a home. Jesus said in Luke 12:48 – "When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required."

I would encourage anyone to experience the joy of doing what Jesus did best - serving those less fortunate - and get involved with Family Promise North Shore Boston. Many hands are needed to make our host week run smoothly. Just one two hour slot would help us greatly! Our next host week is April 30 – May 7. We still have some volunteer slots available. If you are interested in serving this week or in the future, please contact Kathy, Ann or Tina at fampromcor@ctr-anglican.org.

Today at CTR



FORUM SERIES: 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Fr. Brian and his team discuss the needs of vulnerable children in our area of the North Shore and how we can best serve.

SENIOR HIGH LUNCH: Senior High School students (grades 9-12) have lunch and discussion together with Fr. Brian, following the 11 a.m. service (12:30-1:30 p.m.) in the Sacristy.

THE ANCHOR: Junior High Youth group today at the Keifer home from 2-4pm. Snacks, games, Bible Study. Contact Fr. Brian for info, brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org.

This Week at CTR

YOUTH NIGHT: Wednesday, April 26 from 5:30pm - 7pm, grades 6 and up. Bring your friends to play games, hang out and eat together. The next Youth Night is Wednesday, May 24. For more information please contact Fr. Brian, brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org.

UGANDA MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING: Sunday, April 30 at 1 p.m. in the Baptistry. Frs Tim and Malcolm are planning a mission—mainly of prayer, encouragement, and relationship-building with CTR mission partners—for a small team going to Uganda in October. Please join us to learn more.

Upcoming Events

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY: Saturday, May 13, from 8:30am until 1:30pm. We have plenty of outdoor chores big and small that need to be done to clean up and spruce up our property. Tasks for all ages. Come as you can and leave as you must; it's a great opportunity to meet new people as we share in caring for the building and grounds that God has provided for the work and worship of Christ the Redeemer. If you can participate, please contact David Greening at the church office: david.greening@ctr-anglican.org.



EMAIL CASTING CALL FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY: If you can say "Praise the Lord" or "We adore You, God!" in a language other than English, please email me, Wendy Dixon at wendenn@gmail.com. We need as many people as possible to help at the June 4 Pentecost festival day service, at 10am. You can use your native language, your high school French or Spanish, or google "how do you say Praise the Lord in Swahili?" (or whatever language you choose—kids or teens might enjoy this last idea.)

LA VIDA FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY: The La Vida ministry of Gordon College is offering a community wide Family Adventure Day on Saturday May 6th from 8:30 to 4:30pm. Activities will include; adventure games, low initiatives and high course all of which make a great way for families to learn how to support and encourage one another as they work together and overcome challenges. For more information visit this website www.gordon.edu/familyadventureday



CONSECRATION OF THE NEW ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL: On Saturday, June 10 the consecration of All Saints' Anglican Cathedral in Amesbury, MA will be followed by a reception on the cathedral grounds. Come worship and celebrate!

LA VIDA PARENT-CHILD TRIP: This summer with Fr. Tim! La Vida, the outdoors education program of Gordon College, is offering a parent-child backpacking trip this summer in the Adirondacks, led by experienced La Vida staff and with Fr Tim as chaplain. Dates are July 29 - August 5, and the cost is \$1100 per pair. If interested, please contact Fr Tim, tim.clayton@ctr-anglican.org.

Regular Events at CTR

TUESDAY:

Weekly Bible Study: Meets in the Sacristy on Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact Richard Thorndike, 978-922-3618, for more information.

WEDNESDAY:

Holy Eucharist & Confession: Wednesdays 6:30-7:30a.m.
Seraphim Choir (grades 4 +), Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15p.m. Contact Dan McKinley dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.
Cherubim Choir (grades 1-3), Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00p.m. Contact Cyndi Kreyling kreylingc@gmail.com.

THURSDAY:

Moms In Prayer International.: Thursdays during the school year from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. For more info, contact Flora Lee, floraisabella@gmail.com or 978-626-1179.
Women's Bible Study: A weekly Bible study for women of all ages. Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com, with questions or to request materials.
Choir of Christ the Redeemer, for adults and high school students, rehearses in the church, 7:15 p.m. -9:15 p.m., Thursdays. New members are welcome and needed. Contact Minister of Music Dan 978-774-3163x105; dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
LOVE
YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

During Eastertide Two Options for Adult Formation at 10 am:

Parish Hall: I See Satan Fall Like Lightning

For the remainder of Eastertide, during our 10 a.m. hour in the Parish Hall, we'll be taking a look at a very unusual but insightful book: *I See Satan Fall Like Lightning*. The title is taken from Jesus' words in Luke 10.18 — it is what He said when the 72 disciples he had sent out on mission returned to him. Why did he say that? What did he see? This book was written by Rene Girard, a French Catholic literary critic and anthropological philosopher, and shocked the Paris intelligentsia at the turn to the new millennium when it made the best-seller list there.

What Girard does in this book is to offer an explanation for much of what is good in Western culture, and where much has gone to extremes. More specifically, he offers a root idea for what has made Western culture unique, and what is the defining energy behind it. But in spite of having this extremely wide angle of view, the book also speaks to realities that come home to us everyday, to issues that are being played out before us in ever-increasing intensity it seems.

What we are doing in these weeks is not a book study; you don't have to go out and buy a copy and read along (though of course feel free!). I'll be offering a brief summary of the main idea of each section of the book as we go, and then I'll be interacting with a few of us who are also reading the book in terms of how that week's idea effects us and is being played out, and then we'll all chat about it together.

Baptistry: How to Read the Bible

The Bible is God's word to us, and is a profound gift of infinite worth through which our God loves us and meets us and grows near to us.

The Bible is also an ancient book written in another age and another culture. How do we read the Bible, understand it, apply it, find the Lord speaking to us through it?

Meeting in the Baptistry at 10 a.m. during these Eastertide weeks, Deacon Adam will be helping us to wrestle with these questions.



The Second Sunday of Easter: Plausible? It's Okay to Think, and to Check It Out

Jesus appears, but some are skeptical. We continue in John's gospel and meet Thomas, a follower of Jesus who was skeptical: history has dubbed him "Doubting Thomas", but is that really fair? Jesus lets Thomas check things out.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are

forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:19-31, ESV)

Notes on this Week's Sermon

The hinge moment (the moment the story swings on) comes when this happens:

What I notice about how Jesus interacts with Thomas is:

What I notice about how Thomas interacts with Jesus is:

What I find most surprising in this story is:

What in this story gives me hope, or joy, or courage, or _____ :

God, I thank you for:

My prayer:

Itinerary for the Next Few Weeks

Consider: Three weeks of Resurrection accounts: April 16, 23, 30.

April 30: Random? Or Part of a Larger Story that Holds Together?

Some of Jesus' followers are disillusioned. This week we are in Luke's gospel and meet a couple of Jesus' followers for whom it's all just a bit too chaotic to hold together — just another injustice in a long lifetime of disappointments. Jesus offers them a larger story.

Try It in Life: Three weeks of Jesus' own metaphors explaining himself and his life: May 7, 14, 21.

May 7: Strength in the Midst of a World Gone Awry

It's a dangerous world, but Jesus does not intend to be our escape mechanism. Jesus uses a metaphor that, granted, we don't meet everyday — "I am the door to the sheepfold" — but the idea is that Jesus offers strength to face the realities.

May 14: A Beautiful Way of Life

Jesus' life stands as the most influential in history. His self-descriptive metaphor this week gives a part of the reason for that — "I am the way, the truth, and the life". We will emphasise the strand that seems to get the least attention: "the way". The idea is that following Jesus in his way of self-giving love makes life blossom beyond expectation.

May 21: Life, Connected

It's a big world and even greater cosmos — is connection beyond the virtual possible? Jesus' metaphor this week is "I am the true vine" — as in the "source" and "energy" behind it all, and yet accessible to anyone.

Sermons are available online at, ctrnorthshore.org/teachings/