

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

BULLETIN – 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & 1ST OF LUKE

ChurchOffice@ssppaoc.org ♦ (831) 336-2228 ♦ P.O. Box 458, Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – 10:00 am Wednesday ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

Happy Birthday To

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Marilyn Spurgeon</i> | <i>September 22</i> |
| <i>Cicily Oakes</i> | <i>September 24</i> |
| <i>Alexander Polosjuk</i> | <i>September 25</i> |
| <i>Nicholas Herlé</i> | <i>September 26</i> |
| <i>Mike Hepe</i> | <i>September 27</i> |

Happy Anniversary To

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| <i>Victor & Leanne Albers</i> | <i>September 24</i> |
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IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to everyone who came and worked to beautify our church property. There are still some small painting projects for those who want to work solo. Let Amanda Baillie or John Johnson know if you are interested. Our next scheduled workday is Saturday, October 5. Please mark your calendars to come out and help on that day.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

There will be a business meeting **today** during coffee hour. All women over 18 are welcome to attend. We will discuss events and projects we want to pursue this fall and plans for the AW meeting at the Fall Gathering in October. It is also time to elect new officers, so please consider joining the team!

FALL GATHERING REGISTRATION

You may now register for the Fall Gathering online through our church website at <https://www.ssppaoc.org/>. The cost is \$25/person. The Fall Gathering will be **October 25-27**.

- **Friday** – Vespers & evening social
- **Saturday** – Morning prayers, light breakfast, meeting of various Antiochian organizations, catered Mexican lunch; optional off-site

activities in the afternoon; Vespers, banquet dinner at Scopazzi's Restaurant (\$35/person: options included prime rib, salmon, chicken, or eggplant parmigiana.)

- **Sunday** - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, light lunch

Please register soon so we know how many people to expect.

Come Join Us!

Community Dinner

Sunday, September 29

2:00 pm

All are welcome to share in an afternoon of friendship and dine on home-cooked food. If you would like to contribute time and talents or funds, please contact Sh. Karla Newberry at 423-8121.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

- Sunday, October 6, right after the Divine Liturgy
- BBQ pork roast provided for everyone followed by marshmallow roasting, apple pressing, pumpkin carving, games for kids, jump house.
- Please bring a side dish or salad (enough for at least 6 people), apples to press, beverages (other than apple juice), and a dessert (if you want).
- For more information please contact either Dn. & Sh. Dave & Karla Newberry at 423-8121 or Jack & Monica Zweers at 246-3244.

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul – September 23-29, 2019

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| 9/23 | Mon | 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal |
| 9/24 | Tues | 6:00 am – Readers Orthros |
| 9/25 | Wed | 6:00 pm – Paraklesis |
| 9/26 | Thurs | 6:00 am – Men’s Reading Group 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy |
| 9/28 | Sat | 6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline |
| 9/29 | Sun | 8:20 am – Orthros 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy 10:20 am – Church School Trisagion for Bp. ANTOUN Community Dinner |

Looking Ahead –

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| October 5 | All church workday |
| October 6 | Trisagion for Kh. Terry Beck Harvest Festival |
| October 13 | Youth Group |
| October 16 | Parish Council |
| October 19 | Church workday |
| October 25-27 | Fall Gathering |

FOUND

A Ryobi drill was found after the workday. If it is yours, please come to the church office M-Th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm to claim it.

BEING GOD’S MESSENGER

Walking through life with a smile on our face and a song in our heart is the best way to keep our mind and heart in a good place. Life has many turns and many trials, but when we keep centered on all the good that is in our life, the trials are short lived.

Smiles are contagious. Ever notice how a room brightens up when someone walks in who is always smiling, always happy, always extending a warm greeting to others? What better gift can we give another, than a sincere smile?

I remember finding a young man sitting on a log, deep on the trail above Multnomah Falls, on the Columbia River of Oregon, many years ago. I’d hiked up the switchback trail to the primordial forest. As a young man I’d frequently run that trail, finding the peace and solitude I so craved.

About four miles from the top, I was somewhat surprised to find another person, sitting alone on

a log. Since there had been only one other car parked at the lodge, I did not expect to see anyone. As he was deep in thought, I apologized for startling him. Sensing something was wrong, I commented on the beauty of God’s creation and asked if he’d like to share a sandwich and some coffee. He surprised me with his question, asking if I was an angel.

Sitting down on the log next to him, I opened my backpack, and offered him half of my lunch. A few moments passed when he turned to me, showed me a revolver, and told me he’d come to this remote spot with the intent of killing himself. When he saw me appear with a long white bear and hair, and dressed in my long black robe, he’d first thought I might be an angel, sent by God.

He’d been praying that God would forgive him for what he was about to do. I assured him that I was indeed flesh and blood, and certainly no angel. But I also told him that I was sent by God with a message. The message from God was that he was loved, and that God had a plan for his life, and this period of despair would soon pass.

He handed me his revolver. I emptied the gun of the bullets, and placed it in my backpack, and we had a long conversation about his life. Eventually we walked together back to our vehicles. With the promise that he would return the revolver to his father, and let him know he’d intended to kill himself, until that encounter with a monk, I handed him the gun, and we parted ways.

I’ve long wondered about the direction his life must have taken after that encounter in the forest, so very many years ago. I’ve also wondered what would have happened if I’d continued on that trail without stopping to greet him, without offering a smile and a shared sandwich.

To this day I feel blessed that God allowed me to be His messenger on that lonely trail, and I try to be available each and every day as His messenger. When we make a concerted effort to be centered in Christ, each and every day, each and every hour, we make way for a heart and mind that is always in a good place, and we allow the love of Christ to be seen and experienced by others. When we put aside ourselves and put on Christ, we become God’s messengers.

*Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon*