THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

June, 2016  Saint Paul’s Church  www.SaintPaulBrookfield.com  (203) 775-9587

MANY CAME NEEDING EVEN MORE

Transforming Lives Through Jesus
So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”  

John 16:22

Thank you to all who welcomed and served our neighbors on Sunday “Beyond the Red Door!”

As so many were being refreshed by your connecting with them and our wonderful snacks and drinks, many came needing even more.

Under a 10 x 10 red tent, people came non-stop to experience God’s hand to help and guide them through their “middle”….their time of pain, questioning and searching. Just like all of us.

Led by our faithful Fr. Joe, the Prayer Servants prayed with members of our community who asked for restoration from sickness for young and old, guidance for their future, freedom from bullies, freedom from poverty, strengthening of their walk, and essentially for our living God to be near. For Him to love them, guide them and do a miracle in their lives.

Please know your work for Him and your walk with Him matter to your family, friends, neighbors and community. Let us all continue on to do more as He leads each of us.

May we continue to give God all the Glory in all we do for Him!

Mary Perry, Warden
The Rector's Forum began a new study recently, led by Jay Trott. As we explore Ecclesiastes, we see that the writer was ready for Christ! Ecclesiastes is an entirely unique book in the Bible - a book of pure philosophy. The purpose of pure philosophy is to find happiness, but what Ecclesiastes (or Solomon) found was something very different. No achievement and no pleasure has any meaning without Christ; that is, without life. It is a profound and sobering book, just as relevant now as the day it was written. And in the end it is also a practical book with sound advice about how to live a good life.
This Sunday we celebrate the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after Easter Day. The word “Pentecost” comes from the Greek word Pentēkostē, which means “the 50th day.”

In the Old Testament, “Pentecost” refers to the Feast of Weeks, a seven-week agricultural event that focused on the harvesting of first crops. Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian, also used the word “Pentecost” to refer to the 50th day after the first day of Passover.

In the New Testament, “Pentecost” refers to the coming of the Spirit shortly after Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension:

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each” (Acts 2:1-6, NRSV).

Christians came to understand the meaning of Pentecost in terms of the gift of the Spirit, and the Pentecost event as the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise concerning the return of the Holy Spirit.

Speaking in tongues, a manifestation of receiving the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church’s worldwide mission, and the Day of Pentecost is thought to be the origin of sending the church out into the world.

The Day of Pentecost is identified by the Book of Common Prayer as one of the feast days “especially appropriate” for baptism (Book of Common Prayer, p. 312). Because of this, Pentecost is also known as “Whitsun” or “Whitsunday” (“White Sunday”), a term used to describe the white baptismal garments worn by those who were baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost and then worn to church on the Day of Pentecost.
"Go into all the world " (Mark 16:15).

Dear Friends,

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you who contributed in so many ways toward our Memorial Day outreach event this past Sunday.

With our red doors open, a symbol of our commitment to going beyond our walls as the church, we met, and ministered to, many individuals through the love of Christ.

Let's continue to prayerfully consider how and where God is leading us into further places beyond our church property in sharing the Gospel. We can be confident that Christ goes before us, preparing those conversations, contacts and ministry moments in advance, all to God's glory.

Faithfully,

[Signature]
**St. Paul’s goes to Quassy**

**Friday, June 16th**

4:00 – 10:00 pm

$22 per person

**Sign up by June 4th!**

We’ll eat as a group at 5:30!

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### Early Elementary

- **Unit 21: Jesus’ Friends Help Others**
- **Bible Basis:** Paul works with Aquila and Priscilla, who help Apollos learn more about Jesus (Acts 18:1-4, 24-28).
- **Lesson Focus:** We can tell new friends about Jesus.
- **Memory Verse:** Serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13

### Upper Elementary

- **Unit 21: How Believers Live**
- **Bible Basis:** A believing Peter is freed from prison in answer to the prayers of concerned Christians (Acts 12:1-19).
- **Lesson Focus:** Don’t be surprised when God answers your prayers.
- **Memory Verse:** The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

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**A Huge Memorial Day Thank You!**

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those that donated and volunteered to make sure that the Memorial Day Outreach Event was a huge success!! We had the biggest community turn out in recent history and we would not have been able to feed, entertain and pray for them all without your support. The prayer tent was filled throughout the afternoon and everyone loved the new additions of the picnic tables, bouncy house and french fries! Thank you again to everyone who gave of their time, energy and resources to make this event possible. We appreciate your support.
REMINDER: Sponsorship Note Cards are due this Sunday!

Thank you so much to everyone that has sponsored one or more of the students going on the summer mission trip to Chicago. Your donations, prayers and encouraging words always mean so much to the students participating! This coming Sunday, June 4th is the due date for all sponsorship notecards and final donations. Please see Patrick or Nicole downstairs in Crocker Hall.

Sunday School Celebration & Picnic!!

On Sunday, June 11th we will be celebrating the end of the Sunday School year. Please mark your calendars to come support the amazing dedication of the Sunday school staff and the remarkable commitment of the students and families that have participated all year. Students and teachers will be honored during announcements at the 10:30 service and all are invited to join us in Crocker Hall for a lunch reception to celebrate! If you are interested in bringing food, please email Nicole at nmoconnors@gmail.com. Also please note that summer Sunday school will begin the following week on Sunday, June 18th. Please see Nicole if you are interested in helping.

† Happy Birthday to You!

Barbara Mullen celebrates Saturday! Sunday is the big day for John Stauffer. Bake a cake for Thomas Franklin on Monday. Pam Mannion will be opening presents on Tuesday. Al Chaleski will be another year older and wiser on Wednesday. Have a blessed day everyone!
As for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause.

So 22 guys come out to a Men’s Bible Study two weeks ago and Fr. Joe wasn’t even there. Aren’t you curious why that happens? Human suffering, divine sovereignty and the quest to understand God’s will: these are topics we wrestle with in our Monday Men’s Bible Study. We are currently studying the Book of Job each Monday from 7-8 pm. Please join us in this verse by verse study as we plumb the depths of God’s word together. Each session is available live on LiveStream and is archived on YouTube.

Transforming Saints of God
Thursday, June 1st

Justin
Martyr at Rome, c 167

Toward the middle of the second century, there came into the young Christian community a seeker for the truth, whose wide interests, noble spirit, and able mind, greatly enriched it.

Justin was born into a Greek-speaking pagan family about the year 110 in Samaria, near Shechem. He was educated in Greek philosophy. Like Augustine after him, he was left restless by all this knowledge. During a walk along the beach at Ephesus, he fell in with a stranger, who told him about Christ. “Straightway a flame was kindled in my soul,” he writes, “and a love of the prophets and those who are friends of Christ possessed me.” He became a Christian as a result of this encounter, and thereafter regarded Christianity as the only “safe and profitable philosophy.”

About 150, Justin moved to Rome. As philosophers did in those days, he started a school - in this case, a school of Christian philosophy - and accepted students. He also wrote. Three of his works are known to us: a dialogue in Platonic style with a Jew named Trypho, and two “apologies.” (An apology in this sense, of course, is not an excuse, but a spirited defense.) Justin’s First and Second Apologies defend Christianity against the Greek charge of irrationality and the Roman charge of disloyalty to the empire. These two works provide us with important insights into developing theological ideas and liturgical practices of early Christianity. In the Dialogue with Trypho, Justin defends the Church against the Jewish charge of distorting the Old Testament.

He interprets the Old Testament as the foreshadowing of the New.

While teaching in Rome, he engaged in a public debate with a philosopher of the Cynic school named Crescens, accusing him of ignorance and immorality. Angered, Crescens preferred legal charges against him. Justin and six of his students were arrested and brought before the prefect Rusticus. As the custom was, Rusticus gave them an opportunity to renounce their faith. All steadfastly refused to do so. Justin and his companions were put to death about the year 167.

How many elders from among the Israelites did God anoint to assist Moses?

a) 70  b) 160  c) 240  Numbers 11:23-25 NIV.
What did Jeremiah give to Elasah and Gemariah to take with them to the exiles in Babylon?

As part of our outreach, St. Paul’s donates gift cards and non-perishable items to six area food pantries. The non-perishable items are provided by our generous congregation and are truly appreciated. Donations for the food pantry can be left in the basket at the back of the church and blessed during the Offertory. Delivery is made to a different area food pantry each month. Thank you.

Rock Houses and Fairy Chimneys near Goreme, Turkey, Cappadocia

Architecture

"Cappadocia is mentioned in the biblical account given in the book of Acts 2:9. The Cappadocians were named as one group hearing the Gospel account from Galileans in their own language on the day of Pentecost shortly after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:5 seems to suggest that the Cappadocians in this account were "God-fearing Jews." Cappadocia contains several underground cities (see Kaymakli Underground City), largely used by early Christians as hiding places before they became an accepted religion. The Cappadocian Fathers of the 4th century were integral to much of early Christian philosophy. It also produced, among other people, another Patriarch of Constantinople, John of Cappadocia, who held office 517-520. " (Wikipedia, Cappadocia)

Join us this Friday, June 2 at 7 pm, for a house blessing and holy communion at the home of Connie & Dave Williams, 115 Currituck Road, Newtown. All welcome.

House Blessing

What is Pentecost?
Would You Make A Dream Come True?

On the main bulletin board in the Sunday School hallway, we have put up a teacher wish list. These are all items that our teachers would like to put to good use in their Sunday School classroom. Some items on the board right now are a magnetic, chalkboard easel for the nursery, a set of Megablocks, a $25 gift certificate to Costco and a poster of the Nicene Creed! If you would like to support the work they do with our children each week, please take a star, record your contact information and bring that item to the church with you one week. You can place all items on the bookcase in the Sunday School hallway. A big thank you to Dorothy Crocker who took a star to provide a $25 gift card to Costco! Thank you so much for your support.

Hopeline Baby Bottle Campaign

The Hopeline Baby Bottle Campaign begins on Mother’s Day. Hopeline is a Christian-based ministry supporting women during unplanned pregnancies. In addition to material assistance for the care of the newborn, such as cribs, clothing, diapers, and other supplies, Hopeline offers counseling, support, and ultrasounds performed on newly pregnant women by an Ob-Gyn trained physician. They offer post-abortion counseling to women of any age.

St. Paul’s supports Hopeline through its annual “Change for Change” Baby Bottle Fundraiser. There are baby bottles at the back of the church and in the Parish Hall that we ask you to please fill with your loose change and bills and return them on June 18th, Father’s Day. Please Note: Checks should be made out to St. Paul’s with “Hopeline” in the memo line.

For more information, contact: Barbara DeAnzeris or Bonnie Wanzer.

The Jericho Partnership is seeking more mentors. For more information contact Fr. Joe or Sir Arthur.
† Fathers’ Day Memorials

Father's Day is June 18. Anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar in loving memory of a father, please make your check payable to Saint Paul's Church with the name or names of those to be remembered written on the memo line. All memorials are due June 11. Contact Gail Winkley with any questions at 203-775-3343 or gailwinkley@yahoo.com. All the gentlemen worshiping with us on Father's Day will receive a boutonniere.

A Benefit Concert for Good Samaritan Mission

featuring CT artists...

Cross Purpose
Contemporary Christian Rock

Ellipses
Christian Singer/Songwriters

Sponsored by Chick-fil-A Danbury Fair Mall

Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 7pm at Walnut Hill Community Church
Upper Room
156 Walnut Hill Road
Bethel, CT 06801

$30: Concert Ticket & Dinner (Chick-fil-A)
$20: Concert Ticket Only
For tickets, visit gsminc.org
Name Tags - Remember how awkward you felt when you first came to St. Paul’s because you didn’t know anyone or when you visit a different church? Name tags help. So, please be courteous to your fellow parishioners, to newcomers, visiting clergy and guests by extending a warm welcome to them and by wearing your name tag. And remember to wear them to coffee hour as well.

Children around the world living in extreme poverty are being lifted up by the love of Christ through Compassion International. CI works along side local churches to provide much needed physical, emotional and spiritual nourishment, along with health care and education. These much needed provisions can literally transform their lives and the lives of those around them.

For the next few weeks we will have a table set up during coffee hour with informative material about the organization and children who are waiting for a sponsor like you. Sponsorship is so much more than sending money (just a little over one dollar a day), it's the beginning of a special bond between you and a kid who will be grateful to you for the rest of her/his life.

Pray It Up

Notice the Red and White prayer request cards in the pew? Each Sunday, fill out your request, put it in the red bowl on the table on the way to communion. Then take a card from the bowl either right then or after service. Pray for that request for one week. How comforting to know that your request is being prayed for and that you are praying for someone else’s! You might just be praying for the person sitting next to you! Or, if you’d prefer - please send your request to St. Paul’s at prayingnow2@gmail.com!

“Hail thee festival day, blessed day that is hallowed forever...forth from the Father He comes with sevenfold mystical offering, pouring on all human souls the infinite riches of God.” (Hymn 225) How can whatever offerings we make begin to compare with ‘the infinite riches of God’? He is our perfect model, and we need to remember that we can’t outgive Him - it’s the spirit and gratitude with which we give that are all important.
Did you know?

God **came down** on Mt Sinai in **fire and cloud** (Ex 24: 15-17). This happened **50 days** after the **Paschal Lambs** in Egypt were slain. After the worship of the golden calf, **3,000 Israelites** were put to death by **Moses, the leader** of the people and the **12 tribes**.

**Fifty days** after the true **Lamb of God**, (Christ) was sacrificed, the **Holy Spirit came down** to the disciples in **tongues of fire** and **a mighty wind** (Acts 2:1-4). **Peter** led the **12 apostles**, and **3,000 converts** were baptised that day.


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**June**

The sixth month is named after Juno, the Roman goddess of hearth and home.

Juno’s month was lucky for weddings. In years past among Christians, weddings were rarely held during the paschal seasons of Lent, the Triduum and Eastertime, which ends on Pentecost. After Pentecost the time of summer weddings began.

In the Northern Hemisphere, June is the month of the summer solstice. The church keeps many solemnities this month. Perhaps the reason is the good weather, because June is often the best month of the year for outdoor processions, street fairs and other festivities.

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**Save-the-Date**

**Parish Picnic**

**Sunday, July 9—Noon**
The Upper Room

The location known as the Upper Room today, is also known as the Coenaculum or Cenacle, derivative of the Latin word for dinner: cena, is traditionally considered as the site of the Last Supper. It cannot be the present room, which was built in the 12th century, however the Gospel accounts provide a few clues. It is possible it stands over or near the original site of the Last Supper and/or Pentecost. Beneath the floor of the building are Byzantine and Roman pavements and the foundations go back to at least the 2nd century AD. It is possible that the "little church of God" that existed on Mount Zion in 130 AD (mentioned by Epiphanius of Salamis) was on this site.

Danger and persecutions would have excluded Christian invention of a new holy place in the 2nd century, so if an active church existed in 130 it must have already been important for some time - perhaps because the upper room was nearby. In those times this was an affluent area of the city and a wealthy Christian may have opened his home for use as a church.

The crusaders, whose architecture serves as evidence of the time it was built, were literalists; they made sure their chapel was in the upper room of the building and "David's tomb" was subsequently installed below. The "tomb" indicates an early Jewish-Christian presence or possibly a synagogue. If so, this could support this general area as the location of the biblical Upper Room. It is also associated with the room belonging to John Mark's mother in which the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit, but this is difficult to verify.

As you visit Jerusalem and ascend the Mountain of God, you can imagine waiting in the upper room with all 120 of Jesus’ disciples studying Moses, the prophets and the Psalms with one mind, one heart, and one voice.

From the Scriptures: Acts 2:1-5

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven."
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Jun 4th 8 am - Robin Powell
Jun 11th 8 am - Sarver’s
Jun 18th 8 am - Pat Brought
10:30 am - Marie Williams
10:30 am - Church School Picnic
10:30 am - Christine Domareck

Contact Mary Allen at 203-775-6633 or chamla@charter.net.

变换的 stewardship

“to each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and let Him in! Open your heart and be grateful for all the gifts God has given us. Regardless of your circumstance, God has given us all blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God. Generously sharing our gifts keeps us more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

Sacristans for June are:
Lois Hunt and Gail Winkley.

Pentecost Contest… How many flames of fire can you find in this issue of Sword Points? Some are obvious, some are very sneaky. Submit your answer to stpaulsswordpoints@gmail.com
From what region were all the men, on whom the Spirit of God rested on Pentecost?

a) Galilee
b) Cappadocia
c) Asia

Acts 2:1-7 NIV

Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread for June, July & August is now available on the table in the back of the church.

Our Daily Bread contains a scripture verse and meditation for each day.

The gift of the Holy Spirit, given to all who live as faithful followers, can be both a blessing and a curse. A blessing, in that the Spirit does indeed offer us a source of sustenance for our journey. A curse, in that the Spirit forces us to see the choices we make which are contrary to God’s dream for all creation, thereby not allowing us “off the hook” for them.

There will be an interment service on Saturday, June 3rd at 12 noon for Ronald Stein, brother of Gary Stein.
As Moses struggles with the responsibilities of leadership, God pours out the divine Spirit upon seventy elders selected to assist Moses in his duties. The Spirit of God is manifested in a temporary spell of ecstatic prophecy. Two men who have not been selected for a leadership role and who remain in the camp, Eldad and Medad, also demonstrate the signs of the outpouring of God’s Spirit, illustrating how God’s actions cannot be confined by human appointment.

Psalm 104:25-35, 37
The Psalm describes the wonders of the world created and renewed by the Lord’s Spirit.

Acts 2:1-21
This lesson tells the story of the Holy Spirit filling the apostles and empowering them to share the message of the gospel with people of different languages. Clearly this was a most dramatic moment in the life of the early church, an experience described in terms of wind and fire. From this time forward the mighty works of God done in Jesus will be told to all the peoples of the earth, crossing barriers of language and culture.

John 20:19-23
The gospel describes an appearance of the risen Lord in which he bestows the Holy Spirit on his disciples. He brings his disciples peace and tells them of their mission. The ministry which the Father has given Jesus is now carried forward in the world by his followers. The disciples have power over the forgiveness of sins in order to guide others to repentance and faith.

† This Sunday’s Readings
“Receive the Holy Spirit”

Numbers 11:24-30

Acts 2:1-21
We might all hear the same words - each in our own language - but we will not all hear and understand exactly the same meaning. The problem with life, and faith, and following Jesus is always: What does this mean?

† Pick Up Your Copy Today!
Synthesis CE Study Guides for each weeks readings will be available at the back of the church.

† Sermon Shorts
Out of the Depths ... Wait, Watch ... with Faith & Hope. To replay all our sermons, audio and videos follow this link for The Sunday Sermons. Check out our sermon archives as well.
Your Prayers Are Requested For…

It is such an intimate time when praying for the health and well being of others and such a privilege. The people that we lift up to The Lord are part of our hearts for all time. Please pray for…

.....Fr. George Hall, Brenda Darling, Jean & John Stauffer, and other parishioners convalescing in extended care facilities.
.....Zion, North Branford; St. John’s, North Haven; St. Andrew’s, Northford; Christ Church, Norwalk.
.....Revival at St. Paul’s and the greater Danbury area.
.....Communication, digital ministry, online social networks, the ECCT evangelism training.
.....Ginny Beck, Clayton Ferry, Gary Stein, Ed Licence, Joe & Barbara Hock, Sue Balla, Rose Barrett, Lorraine Estok, Jim Megura, Jay Lawrence, Alex, Teresa Stacchiotti, Mary DeAnzeris, Michele Sarver & Lee Rybos, continued healing.
.....the safe return of Denise’s dog.
.....the people of New Zealand; the people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana; the Diocese of North Carolina The Revd Samuel Rodman; and our sister and brother members of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church.
.....Christians in the Middle East facing persecution at the hands of ISIS forces. Pray also for radical Muslims throughout the world to come to know Jesus Christ.
.....Michael for protection from mortar attacks in Somalia with the UN peacekeeping service.
.....Bethel Community Food Pantry, the recipient of our food basket collections for the month of June.
.....Walnut Hill Community Church, Bethel, a congregational partner of the Jericho Partnership.
.....Drew Ross, healing of major surgery for throat cancer; and Joe, who is undergoing treatment for Lymphoma.
.....Families.
.....Mary Nigro, Bill Nigro’s mother, recovering from a broken hip.
.....Rose Barrett, speedy recovery to her wrist from a recent fall.
.....Cathy Schrull, healing, and peace and comfort during her treatments.
.....Rhonda, healing of cancer.

This & That & Links

(Click on pictures or red links for more info)

Links We Like

Things That Make You Think

Back Issues of Sword Points

Wind Power

A contextual reading of the Acts account of the coming of the Spirit.
### June Lay Schedule

**Lectors and Intercessors**, please remember to check in before the service in the Vesting Room. Thank You!

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<td><strong>June 4th</strong></td>
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<td>Peter &amp; Cindy Maier</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Connie &amp; David Williams</td>
<td>Stephanie Bernardo</td>
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<td>Sandy Chaleski</td>
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<td>Jim Castronova</td>
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<td>Pam Szen</td>
<td>Jack Powell</td>
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<td>Laurie DoBosh / Vito Barbieri</td>
<td>Joe Bernardo</td>
<td>Genesis 21:8-21</td>
<td>Diane Froelick</td>
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<td>Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17</td>
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**Mail**... Send us photos and info about your travels, your home group, your pets, your sports teams to stpaulsswordpoints@gmail.com.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>11 Trinity</td>
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It Takes An Editorial Board
Contributors to this Weeks Sword Points:

Mary Allen, Chris Barrett, Carol Ferro,
Steve Hemming, Diane Loring, Bill Loring, Lois Hunt, Dori McManus, Beth Miller, Nicole O’Connors, Patrick O’Connors, Mary Perry, Ken Perry,
Kirsten Peterson, Reyna Sampson, John Sarver, Joe Shepley, Tara Shepley, David Szen, Pam Szen, John Tuthill, Don Winkley and Gail Winkley.

Random Fact of the Week!

Did you know... that during the March 1605 papal conclave, a fight broke out that was so noisy that people outside opened the doors early because they thought a new pope had been elected and was the only known papal election to result in a broken bone?

This is a “Must Watch” Video