

b13Pentecost 9 ~ August 2, 2009 ~ A homily  
preached by The Rev'd Erl G. Purnell at *Old St.  
Andrew's Church*, Bloomfield, CT

2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a; Psalm 51.1-3; Ephesians  
4.1-16; John 6.24-35

#### Thursday morning

- planned to write sermon
- news : Seabury fire (not a drill)
- arrived 9.30
  
- fire damage severe
- no one hurt
- 47 people displaced
  
- visited with parishioners (Betsy & Jack,  
Doris Armstrong, Betty Bosson, Phyllis  
Armstrong, Bob McComb, (Barbara  
Crampton, George & LouAnn Plough, Ellie  
Sulston)
- spoke with Jim Irwin (Chairman) & John  
Mobley (CEO), Ann Winship, Lori Grillo,  
myriad others
- Seabury staff exceptional
- disaster plan worked perfectly

#### Not easy ...

- violation, loss, disruption, (inconvenience)
- don't have stuff taken for granted—  
computer, radio, books, clothes
- no phone or email
- displaced for at least two months

#### Sure to get *old* fast

- realization of losses : family heirlooms &  
pictures, personal records & computer  
files, personal effects & clothes
- normalcy ; privacy ; making plans

#### Right now : all about community

- Seabury community : residents & staff
- larger Bloomfield community
- OSA community

#### What can OSA do for parishioners or others?

#### How can we help?

- offer : computers, TVs, radios, cell phones,  
etc.
- invite people over to dinner ... or even to  
spend the weekend
- be creative and personal

## Irony

- OSA disaster plan : working on it
- Do you have a personal disaster plan?
- What if the worst happens?
- Which raises other questions: up-to-date will ; power of attorney ; medical directive documents ; off-site document w/ bank & insurance info ; other emergency plans ...

## Jesus program

- not about the individual
- always about the other & community
- ...because of situations like this but also normal, every day life

*Amen.*