

St. John's Newsletter

Vol. II, No. 6

July 1, 2022



O Lord our Christ, may I
have thy mind and thy
spirit.

Make me an instrument of
thy peace;

Where there is hatred, let
me show love;

Where there is injury,
pardon;

Where there is discord,
union;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair,
hope;

Where there is darkness,
light;

Where there is sadness, joy;

For thy mercy and for thy
truth's sake.

St. Francis of
Assisi

A Message from Father James

Summer is here. I love the longer nights, the warm weather, the barbecues, and the opportunities for connection and fellowship. Summertime is also the time when many of us take some scheduled vacation and rest, go camping, or catch up with friends and family. During the summer, I want to encourage all of us to **rest** and to **reach**.

Rest.

Resting can be hard. We are conditioned to stay busy all the time. If you're like me, maybe you even wrestle with feelings of guilt when you intentionally take time off. I want to encourage you, rest. If you go on vacation, really do try to rest.

One tip with three words: *Do Not Disturb*. Turn your phone to "Do not Disturb." All of the sudden, that phone will stop vibrating in your pocket. You won't hear a buzz when the shared text thread from church or the mass email from work are circulating about. There was a day, and it wasn't that long ago, that you really could be in a spot without access to work email. Make vacation a spot like that, where, if at all possible, you're harder to reach.

Resting is necessary to our wellbeing, but it is also a testimony of faith that God is able to take care of us while we're resting. God can take care of all that is going on in our lives while we truly rest.

Reach.

With the nice weather, and the smoke from the neighbor's barbecue pouring into our nostrils, it's a wonderful time to make an effort to reach out. Get together with some neighbors this summer. You don't have to have any agenda around that time other than making friends with the neighbors. The Lord will bless these friendships, if we're intentional to make them.

What is one reach you can make this week that is an attempt to build relationships with people who may not know Christ? Maybe it's inviting some neighbors over for barbecue. Maybe it's going on a walk and saying hello to anyone you see. Maybe it's inviting people to discuss a book you enjoy.

Whatever it is, I would encourage you to make between one and five "reaches" this summer. If you have the energy for it, reflect on how it impacted you to do that. The Lord really blesses us when we take the step to reach out.

As always, I am praying for my church family during this season. I pray this will be a season of intentional **rest** and intentional **reach**.

Thoughts from the Senior Warden

Ordinary Time is upon us! It's that time in the church calendar which stretches uninterrupted from Pentecost to Advent. Half of the church year starts with Advent, proceeds to Epiphany, chugs along to Lent, mourns during the forty days of Lent, celebrates through the fifty days of Easter, and finally culminates in the glorious red of Pentecost. And then the second half of the church year begins, represented by the color green to symbolize hope and new life in each new day. Ordinary Time is a reminder that most of life is not the excitement of an amusement park, but the daily routine of watering a garden.

A few years ago one of the trends of Christian books was to live big and bold for Christ, which is great, but the underlying message was, "If you are not living an extraordinary life for God, you're doing it wrong." at the time I had three kids under four and nothing about my life was extraordinary. My life was very extraordinary. I was drowning in diapers, cooking, cleaning, and sleepless nights with a husband who was rarely available. All my energy was devoted to keeping my kids alive and reasonably healthy, and the idea of doing "big things for God" was as feasible to me as flying to the moon.

In *Twelfth Night*, Shakespeare writes that "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." The majority of us, however, will live anonymous lives, and fifty years after our deaths will be unremembered in the relentless march of time. Humanity is marked by ordinary people doing ordinary things. As Christians, we are called to be faithful in our responsibilities: the few great responsibilities and the myriad of small ones.

The symbol of Ordinary time is a basket of bread and two fish. A lot of people showed up to listen to Jesus. God provided the miracle of multiplying the food. The disciples faithfully began distributing the bounty of the miracle. And a lot of ordinary, anonymous people were required to faithfully engage with their neighbors to pass the food amongst themselves in a way that was honoring and did not cause conflict. We are to be watchful and available where God is working and actively participate in the work needed to be done, especially the work that gets no glory and is often overlooked.

Micah 6:8 says, "He has shown thee, oh man, what is good and what the Lord requires of you. To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Let us be faithful witnesses to our friends and our community of the goodness of God and the love of Jesus.

Jen Rutkowski

Who's in the Pews.

Mike and **Carrie Quesnell** are originally from Burley, Idaho and Logan, Utah, respectively. They met at Utah State University where Mike was studying electrical engineering and Carrie, mathematics and statistics. After graduating in 1990 they married and moved to Ridgecrest, California, both working as civilians for the US Navy. After nine years they moved back to Utah where Mike has been employed as a software engineer for the US Air Force and Carrie began teaching math at Weber State University. Their son **Aaron**, who works as a respiratory therapist at McKay Dee Hospital in Ogden, attends St. John's with his parents. Aaron's younger brother **Nick** works in the Pleasant View Hospital emergency room as a laboratory scientist.

Mike grew up attending the Burley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Carrie was raised in the Mormon Church but stopped attending in her early teens. After Mike and Carrie returned to Utah Carrie became a Christian and they baptized both of their sons while attending Westminster Presbyterian Church in Fruit Heights. Mike was active in the media ministry, served as deacon, and routinely worked with arts and crafts in Vacation Bible School. Carrie was active in women's ministries and served as Vacation Bible School director or helper every summer. Aaron and Nick also helped at Vacation Bible School, usually outside with games and water!

The Quesnell's came to St. John's after meeting **Fr. James** at the **Asbury's** home. We enjoyed a summer of Sunday evening prayer meetings and fellowship. When fall came they decided to continue to worship and fellowship with the St. John's family.

Mike's and Carrie's favorite hobby is Geocaching. They have found caches in every US state and several other countries. Carrie also likes to sew, quilt, and bake. Mike is a reader and a gamer.

O come, let sing unto the Lord.

**Let us heartily rejoice in the
strength of our salvation.**

Ps 95:I

SJA Birthdays

July

3 - Peggy Canales

5 - Daniel Canales

6 - Billie Hearn

8 - Ben Rutkowski

8 - Stan Sydenham

10 - Jen Rutkowski

12 - Tyler Asbury

15 - Brenda Porter

August

3 - Loren Asbury

17 - Michelle Scott

20 - Augie Linton

O God, our times are in
your hand: Look with favor,
we pray, on your servants
as they begin another year.
Grant that they may grow
in wisdom and grace, and
strengthen their trust in
your goodness all the days
of their lives; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BCP, 2019



The Next Steps Conference

This year's Next Steps Conference, which took place at Grace Anglican Church in Boise, Idaho began Friday evening May 20 and concluded after Sunday's Eucharistic Service, May 22. The primary purpose of the conference is to promote mission for Christ. As you have already learned through our newsletter, I am the Canon for Lay Mission for the Diocese of Western Anglicans. Mission has significance to me, and as practicing church people, we should keep it foremost in our thinking. The conference sets out to equip lay persons to be effective missionaries in their families, communities, workplaces, and neighborhoods. It is unfortunate that mission has come to mean going away to a foreign country to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ. Some people are called to evangelize in foreign lands, surely, but anyone who carries the Good News, lives the Good News, displays the Good News of God in Christ at work in their lives, is a missionary. As Father James has said many times in his sermons, Christians are adopted children of God and, as his children, bear a strong likeness to Jesus. Jesus in his earthly work was a missionary. If you live out the Good News right here close to home, you are, too. You do not have to go to a foreign land to be a missionary for Christ.

The next Steps Conference is held once a year, close to Pentecost Sunday, the location rotating among churches in our deanery. I encourage you to attend next year. Given that the purpose of the conference is to learn about the "next steps in mission for Christ," does that mean this is a solemn occasion for acquiring information on leading a missional life? You will gather information - and so much more, but it is certainly not a solemn occasion or event. Other wonderful things happen. You get to meet many other Anglican Christians. You can visit with folks you have met at prior conferences and get updated on their lives. You worship together as the larger church. You get to visit with your bishop, and your bishop can hear your news of growth and challenge. The larger Anglican community on display can be life changing. And, of course, you will hear stories and learn concepts about living a missional Christian life, yet there is no pressure to "perform." You have permission to be an Anglican Christian among other Anglican Christians. In swapping your story with others you find out your life is not much different from theirs. In addition, you learn the marvelous diversity of the Anglican Body of Christ in this part of the USA.

The conference has become a permanent fixture on the Sandoval calendar. I guarantee, if you attend, it will be a memorable event, leaving you greatly enriched. And, beware, you may actually return home believing you can lead others to Christ!

Canon Jesse Sandoval

PHOTO BOOTH

