

# THE GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER

## A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN



Dear Ignatians ~

To me Labor Day has always signaled the beginning of a new school year. Odd that at my age I should still feel this tug! It's quite a long while since I was in school in a formal sense, but we're all engaged in *life-long* learning. We need to learn as we grow our way through life.

For that reason, ongoing, life-long **Christian Forma-tion** has been an important part of my life. **“Our faith is not just something we check in with on Sundays; our faith is how we live lives of meaning and purpose every day of the week.”** Our formation opportunities focus in practical ways on “meaning and purpose.”

We've tried several approaches during my time with you, and I'm excited about what we can offer this Fall.

Like many congregations, I'd like us to capitalize on the concept of a mid-week in person gathering:

### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

- Worship forms us in our Eucharistic faith. **Every Wednesday this Fall we'll offer Eucharist at 6pm.** This past summer it developed as a mid-week option for folks who are *out of town* weekends. This is an opportunity to stay Eucharistically connected. Join us any Wednesday this Fall for a mid-week worship encounter with the Lord and one another.
- Along with children's and youth Sunday formation, we adults also benefit from opportunities to continue connecting the dots of faith in our daily lives. Toward that end, from Labor Day through Christmas, we'll offer three specific opportunities – and others may emerge as we go along

- **First Wednesday's of each month, from 6:45-7:45pm, we'll continue the discussions we began during the summer about "Diversity and Inclusivity"** – a broad topic. Reflecting on the Holy Spirit's influence in guiding the Church as we read in the Acts of the Apostles down to our own day . . . Reflecting on the Lord's teaching in the Beatitudes . . . Reflecting on our own cultural climate – including racism, law and order, and patriotism . . . Reflecting on the gifts the African, Hispanic, and Asian cultures offer our faith and society . . . Reflecting on our daily lives and the desire to make sense of it all . . . Our faith can richly ground and guide us as we "Walk in Love."
- **Fourth Wednesday's, from 6:45-7:45, we'll continue discussions about our vision for St. Ignatius** – which is more specifically an exploration of discovering God's vision for St. Ignatius and how we can live and grow into it. As part of our discussions we will consider materials from the Diocesan College for Congregational Development, including how we welcome, greet, orient, and incorporate others into our life as a parish family, and how our faith transforms our family through prayer and worship, study and learning, and communal and individual outreach. With the Lord, we have the opportunity to determine the future of St. Ignatius, and the Lord relies on our using the tools we've been given to become the Church we're called to be.
- **Even though we're somewhat limited in what we can do together during this period of Covid, there are still many things we can do – including learning about God at home.** This Fall, the Episcopal Church Foundation is offering us a **new, online learning resource called *This is NOT Sunday School***.

*Free sessions of This is NOT Sunday School* will launch starting September 16th. Each

week's Bible study oriented session will feature video teaching as well as downloadable materials. Each session will contain separate material for use with children, youth, and adults. Available on Wednesday each week with 24/7 free access for the week, **you pick the time that works for you to view the materials in the privacy of your home.** Then – for those who will have viewed the week's materials – **we will offer an optional follow-up opportunity to discuss the week's session Sunday mornings between services from 9:00-9:30.**

Although the materials for *This is NOT Sunday School* won't be available until September 16th, you can sign up now – I did. (Two things: The course and materials are free, but we asked if we wish to donate. Don't worry. Donation is optional. Second, we are asked to introduce ourselves in a sentence or two, and why we're interested in taking the course. Don't let these questions be off-putting. Keep it simple and stay tuned.)

**.To register, go to [NextChurch.tv](https://NextChurch.tv)** and follow the prompts.

- **Honorable mentions:** Due to Covid, our kitchen remains closed, and as a result our opportunities for fellowship are indeed limited. At the same time, our liturgical ministers are pretty much on hold, as is our first Saturday men's breakfast out group.

We are in a time of transition. I look forward to the worship, formation, and outreach opportunities we *do* have as we journey together and grow in our faith!

And a reminder that even though Covid limits some of our in-person activity, I can always be reached at (920) 904-7025 or [brian.beno51@gmail.com](mailto:brian.beno51@gmail.com), and, if you like will cheerfully meet with you at your convenience.

~ Fr, Brian



*Folks ~ I've previously shared a weekly column written by Fr. Jay Sidebotham, director of Renewal Works. In this week's column he address all of us as leaders by virtue of our baptism. Please consider his reflection. ~ Fr. Brian*

It wouldn't have happened without Zoom. Earlier this month, I joined a conversation with clergy gathered from places as far-flung as Hawaii and Scotland and North Carolina. Our conversation focused on how we do church these days, given coincident crises, especially a health crisis that precludes the kind of church gatherings that have been going on for centuries. In prep for the call, we read a short book by Tod Bolsinger entitled: *Leadership In A Time Of Pandemic*. Good stuff. You may or may not think of yourselves as a leader, spiritual or otherwise, but there are lessons for all of us as we think about how we navigate extraordinary times.

The springboard for this latest work is a book he wrote a few years ago called *Canoeing the Mountains*. That book takes as guiding metaphor the search of Lewis and Clark for a northwest passage. They followed the Missouri River to its source and assumed an easy connection with a river that would then empty into the Pacific. Excellent plan. Except when they got to the end of the Missouri, they encountered hundreds of miles of mountains. Canoeing skills were not going to help. They needed to think differently about the next steps.



Sound familiar? The pandemic presents a similar challenge. The advent of the fall season marked by social distancing,

going back to school, new ways to work, many unable to work, churches and other organizations trying to begin again, making it

up as they go along, all indicate a new normal. Old ways may never come back. They may no longer be helpful.

It's easy to get bummed out about what we've lost. Tod Bolsinger says that people don't resist change. They resist loss. Too many are grieving these days, as we approach 200,000 dead from this virus in our nation, yet another black man killed by police, economic security dissipating. We long for days when we can gather in church or school or our favorite crowded restaurant. As we confront all that longing and loss, matters great and small, can we imagine a new thing unfolding, a new thing God has for us?

Tod Bolsinger invites two practices for leaders. I include all of you in that group, if only that you are leading your own life this Monday. I hope the practices might be helpful. The two practices: listening and looking. (Alliteration strikes again.)

## \* LISTEN \*

What does it mean to practice **listening**? Henri Nouwen described listening as the highest form of hospitality. Mr. Bolsinger describes it as paying attention to the longing and losses of others, again, noting that we all deal with the kinds of loss that trigger resistance to growth and change. Anxious voices can keep us from hearing longing and losses. In light of that, we are called to be attuned to two things at once: to the pain of the world and to the longing and losses of our people.

And we listen to God. Scripture gives us ways to do that. Abraham was called to a land he would be shown. He listened and left home (Genesis 12). Moses paid attention to a burning bush bringing liberation (Exodus 3). Elijah heard a still small voice (I Kings 19). Such listening leads to a new way of acting. We are surrounded by so much noise it's hard to hear God. That's where spiritual disciplines can help. It may be creating a daily quiet time. It may be time in nature. It may be meditation on a piece of

scripture. It may be reading scripture with others.

The second practice is **looking**. Again, that calls for doing two things at once. First, it involves looking at the current moment from a bit of a distance. Tod Bolsinger describes it as getting up on the balcony, where one can gain perspective lost once we're on the dance floor. We need to not only see what's happening in the moment (i.e., on the dance floor). We need to take the broader view, the longer view. Both are important. We need to be in the game. We have to get some distance, as we seek a broader view, a longer view. Maybe that's what hope is all about.

Again, scripture gives us ways to do that. From the moment of creation, there was light. The psalmist prays: Open my eyes that I may behold the wonders of your law. Jesus came to be the light of the world. So many of his miracles involved healing of blindness. As God regards us with unconditional love, so we are to look that same way at the world and at all our neighbors. And there's always the practice of God-sightings, noticing each day where you've seen God at work.

Blessings in this new season. As you begin, how will you listen and look? Lead on.

*Jay Sidebotham*

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### MANY THANKS

Hello All. I would just like to take a quick moment to thank the many of you that have popped into the office to meet me. I appreciate everyone who have helped with "showing me the ropes" during my first couple weeks here as your new office gal.

Aside from a couple expected hiccups that come along with learning a new job, I am feeling quite comfortable here already. As many of you are still keeping a distance from social

gatherings due to the Covid pandemic, I will look forward to meeting you when things get back to our normal structure.

I want to remind you all not to hesitate to reach out for anything you think I may be of assistance with.

Stay Well - Jenn

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### BABY STEPS

Most of us have experienced the first steps of a child. It may have been as a parent, an aunt or uncle, or just a good friend. The joy and happiness expressed in the conversation about these steps is fantastic. Father Brian and the vestry have experienced similar feelings as St. Ignatius started with our own baby steps to reopen the church.

Our worship committee met and tried to come up with a game plan to meet the governor's and Bishop Lee's request as how to do that. Our resale shop also worked through this request. Today we are walking pretty steadily and have had a good response to our reopening. We continue to be mindful of the needs of the congregation and keeping our people safe. We await the time when we can run and celebrate with our fellow parishioners in our open worship space.

-Kathy and Mike

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## COMEDY CORNER



Do you know why Episcopalians are lousy chess players?

Because they don't know the difference between a Bishop and a Queen!

**A cheerful heart is good medicine.**  
**Proverbs 17:22**



## GARDEN SOUP RECIPE



**A yummy way to use those veggies you are harvesting!**

Start the soup, get it simmering, and then start making dessert. Slide vegetables in a food processor to make the soup come together quickly. Don't worry about all the garlic, it will mellow and become rich and gentle with cooking.

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 each medium onions, and carrots, thin sliced
- top third of 2 stalks celery with their leaves, thin sliced
- 6 cloves of garlic, thin sliced
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons each dry basil and sweet paprika
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 medium zucchini, thin sliced
- a handful fresh spinach leaves, chopped
- 1 portobello mushroom, cap and stem washed and cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1/2 of a large head green cabbage, chopped
- 6 to 8 cups broth (low-sodium vegetable or chicken broth)
- 1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded Asiago or sharp cheddar cheese

1. In a heavy 6-quart pot, combine the olive oil, onions, carrots, celery, and garlic. Season with salt and pepper, cover, and cook over medium low heat 15 minutes, or until the vegetables are wilted and aromatic. Stir often and don't let anything burn.

2. Uncover, raise heat to medium high, blend in the tomato paste, and basil and paprika. Cook about 3 minutes. Add remaining vegetables and the broth. Bring to a simmer, partially cover the pot, and cook 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender and soup is full flavored.

3. Serve in deep bowls, sprinkling each portion with some of the cheese... AND ENJOY!

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## UPCOMING EVENT:



CWM & the Tri-Parish Committee

## **A SAFE PLACE DONATION DRIVE**

- All donations will be double bagged at receipt for COVID precautions
- See attached wish list for needed items
- Need a pickup? Set up an appointment (See below)

**DROP OFF:  
ST. IGNATIUS PARKING LOT  
SEPT 26TH 10AM - 2PM**

Contact Jenn at 847-395-0652 for pickup times or questions.

\*All Pickups will be done 9/21 - 9/25 by appointment only.

**Brought to you by**

The Christian Wellness Ministry:  
United Methodist Church of Antioch  
St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church  
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