

THE GOOD NEWS

May 2023



St. Ignatius of Antioch
Episcopal Church

Walking in love as Christ taught us



The One I Feed



An Episcopal bishop who served many years ago in the upper Midwest of the United States used to love telling stories he had learned from the Native Americans of the area, many of whom were Episcopalians. Here is one of them.

A wise man among the Indians – many Native Americans in the Midwest prefer to be called Indians – was asked by his grandson about the conflict and discord in the world. The elder reflected for a moment and then replied, “My child, there are two dogs battling within my heart. One is full of anger, hatred, and rage. The other is full of love, forgiveness, and peace.” The old man paused, and he and his grandson sat for a moment in silence by the side of the stream. Finally, the boy spoke again, “Grandfather, which dog will win the battle in your

heart? The one filled with hatred, or the one filled with love?” The old man looked at his grandson and replied, “The one I feed will win.”

Our world today, decades later, is still untamed and full of conflict. We can see it daily on our televisions and read about it online. We do not have to drive very far in our cars to feel it even on our streets. The world is a dangerous place, whether we live in the Middle East or the American Midwest. Yet, the conflict we experience is not truly there on our streets or in our neighborhoods — much less in lands far from us. The conflict is always fought out in the human heart. The Indian sage was right. Too many of us still feed the dogs of hatred and rage.

Jesus knew this fact at least as well as we do, for his world was really not much different from our own. Indeed, many of the conflicts of his time and his land are with us even today, their unfortunate victims spilling over into refugee camps and resettlement centers across Africa, Europe and parts of Asia. The human heart does not change so quickly or easily.

And, the world today still has its share of “thieves and bandits,” as Jesus calls them in our Gospel account today, ready to snatch and scatter the flock.

We in the West like to think that we are in control, that no one can hurt us if we just build a wall tall enough to keep them out, and that no problem is so intractable that it cannot be solved. All we need, we are tempted to believe, is a little common sense and some well-honed negotiating skills. After all, that is how deals are done. Yet events of the past few years must make us doubt our most cherished convictions. We actually do not have our act together. And, we remain as vulnerable to our own sinfulness, gullibility, and the blandishments of contemporary life as to far-off terrorists and revolutionaries.

Left to our own rhetorical devices, we might not have chosen dirty, bleating, vulnerable sheep as the appropriate image for ourselves as Christians populating this sleek post-modern world of digital efficiencies and sophisticated technological solutions. Surely, we share precious little DNA with ewes and rams after all. Yet as one animal behaviorist also reminds us, “We spent quite a long time evolving together” with our animal cousins. So, like it or not we probably have more in common with the sheep of Jesus’ story than we care to admit. Despite its thin veneer of order and discipline, humankind remains as messy and chaotic as is a flock of sheep without a shepherd.

The shepherds of Jesus’ day endured sun and rain for days or weeks on end and were often as dirty and smelly as the flocks they tended. No smartly-styled business casual attire for them. But unlike their oblivious ovine charges, shepherds then as now were ever vigilant and uncomplaining, watching for danger and trouble, providing pasture and allaying the thirst of their flocks. The shepherd knew his

sheep as no one else. And the sheep followed him, as Jesus tells us, “because they know his voice.”

Jesus speaks of himself in this Gospel passage as “the gate for the sheep.” Some scholars contend that shepherds of the period would often place their own bodies across the small opening or aperture of the sheep enclosure during times of peril, risking their lives for the sake of their flock. Perhaps it is this image of the shepherd as human gate that Jesus has in mind with this metaphor; his own presence stretched out, as on a cross, bridging the disciples’ – and our own — base insecurities. “Whoever enters by me,” he assures us, “will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.”

The hymns sung today at church will likely not include the Whiffenpoof song but the words are nevertheless apt and worth remembering. “We’re poor little lambs who have lost our way. Baa, baa, baa.” It is all too easy to lose direction — to lose our bearings and a sense of who we are and where we are going in our lives. It is all too easy, in other words, to go astray like lost sheep. But it is just then that we are most vulnerable to the “thieves and bandits” of the world, most vulnerable to the more destructive animal instincts that lurk in every human heart, our own included.

This is certainly worth bleating about, of course, but it does not make us somehow notorious sinners. It is hard to imagine vicious sheep after all. Still, we are all too familiar with the well-known story of the wolf in sheep’s clothing. Even today there is wisdom in Aesop’s ancient fable. Appearances can be deceiving. Each of us is capable of sin and hurt. There are always creatures at war within our hearts, hidden beneath our warm woolens and tasteful tweeds. Which of them shall we feed? The old bishop often concluded his story of the Indian teacher with a kind of postscript: “Which one of the dogs will

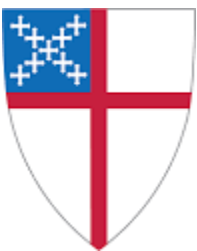
win?” asked the boy of his grandfather. “The one I feed will win,” replied the elder. But then he continued, “My child, feeding one dog or the other is only part of the answer. For the Great Spirit feed each of us- and it is from the Great Spirit that we first learn to feed others at all.”

We are all fed by the Great Spirit of mercy and forgiveness this Easter season. People everywhere, ourselves included, are starving for the Spirit’s love and compassion. We have come to the Paschal banquet ready to keep the feast, eager to partake of the Lord’s abundance and be nourished for the journey ahead. But the world around us is still a place of famine and danger. And, the human heart ever yearns to hear the voice of the shepherd who brings peace and God’s reconciling love. As we have been fed, so must we now feed others in Christ’s name.

-Frank Hegedüs



The Episcopal Church Symbol



This symbol, which you will see at every Episcopal Church, is the official “logo” of the Episcopal Church (TEC) and represents our history.

The red Cross of St. George on a white field is symbolic of the Church of England. The blue field in the upper left corner is the Episcopal Church. It features a Cross of St. Andrew, in recognition of the fact that the first American bishop was consecrated in Scotland. This cross is made up of nine cross-lets or mini crosses, which represent the nine dioceses that met in Philadelphia in 1789 to form the Protestant Episcopal Church of the U.S.A



Letter from your Wardens

Dear Family & Friends of St. Ignatius,

We would like to thank our volunteers and the community for your support at the God’s Will Resale Shop. Through the first 4 months we were able to help 15 families in need. Blessings to you all!!

The month of May the family of St. Ignatius will be hosting 3 special events: **May 3rd** (Wed.), We will host the 1st session of a Tri-Parish Formation discussion on the book “Resurrection Hope”. The session will start at 6:30pm with a light meal, followed by a 1.5-hour discussion. The 2nd session on May 17th will be held at Annunciation Church in Gurnee. The 3rd session on June 7th will be held at Christ Church in Waukegan.

May 10th (Wed.), we will be hosting Fr. Jason and Deacon Rebecca Terhune from the Nashotah House Seminary. Please join us at 5:30pm for a catered dinner and at 6:45pm there will be an evening Prayer Service. (Please see Search Committee Update in this newsletter.)

May 20th (Sat.), is the Vestry Retreat. The Vestry will gather in the social hall from 9am-1pm to discuss the current status of St. Ignatius and ideas on moving forward in the future. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** If you would like to join us during this time, please let a Vestry member know.

Peace to each and everyone of you,

-Jack & Renee



Outreach Summary

Our **May Mission** is a continued effort for the **Matthias Academy**, located right over the border in WI. This is a nonprofit adult day program that serves adults with mild to severe disabilities, specialized medical needs, behaviors, and mild to severe autism from IL. to WI.



-Cathy Ehlers

Search Committee Update

Requesting your participation in Wednesday, May 10 Prayer Service.

As reported in-person on April 23 at both Sunday Services, five members of the Rector Search Committee, joined by Senior Warden Jack Fields, visited Nashotah House in Delafield, Wisconsin on Thursday, April 20. Connections for that afternoon visit were initiated by Reverend Sierra Reyes of the Diocese of Chicago, who is assigned to help guide our transition activity.

Our visit consisted of three key elements: a tour and orientation to the Nashotah House Seminary, participation in Eucharistic Services on “Founders Day” for the Seminary, and a meal with seminarians and faculty. Our primary hosts were **Fr. Jason Terhune and Deacon Rebecca Terhune**, who are husband and wife. Each has a role in supporting seminarians and graduates of Nashotah House in the successful placement as clergy. The objectives of our visit representing the St. Ignatius of Antioch congregation were fully achieved: understand how seminarians get assigned to roles after graduation, learn how the alumni and network of Nashotah House can be accessed as we search for a rector, and to leave positive impressions about our parish community at Nashotah House.

The visit prompted us to invite The Terhunes for a reciprocal visit at St. Ignatius of Antioch, and this is confirmed for Wednesday, May 10. All parishioners are cordially invited to **join us at 5:30 for a meal and prayer service immediately following.**

- **5:30 pm – Catered Dinner with Parishioners**
- **6:45 pm – Evening Prayer Service**

The full visit schedule on the 10th will include taking our new friends at Nashotah House on a tour of God’s Will Resale Shop, and our Worship Space and Parish Halls

Speaking to our fellow congregants from the heart ... it is the personal request of the Rector Search Committee (Linda, Roger, Kathy, Jim, Ernie and Warren) that we have a significant and full turn-out for the evening of the 10th. We know that when clergy “get to see us in action”, we have a better

chance of attracting candidates for our open Rector position. Thanks in advance for making the time to join us.

One further update, the internet posting of our Rector opening is now on nine websites, including seven seminary community sites, the Diocese of Chicago site, and the broad, national Episcopal News Service site. This latter site reports “visits” to our posting, which now number over 600. While we are getting seen and known, we do not yet have any viable applications. The current postings will be visible and open through the end of June 2023. Your continued prayers provide us strength. Please pray also for “our next rector” who we are yet to know, but who is out there looking for us.

Blessings,

Linda Mizwicki, Search Committee Co-Chair;
Warren Cinnick, Search Committee Co-chair; Roger Van Patten, Kathy Fields; Jim Hallwas; Ernie Kraak



We enjoyed a variety of Fellowship opportunities in April as we concluded our Lenten journey and welcomed the joy of the Easter season. A gracious thank-you to Kathy & Ernie Kraak for offering breakfast in gratitude for the many volunteers who participated in the successful Fish Boils.

Maundy Thursday services were preceded by the Agape dinner where we enjoyed a variety of dishes supplied by our talented parish cooks. The Easter Vigil concluded with champagne and appetizers along with a birthday celebration for Fr. Jim. And, a second birthday celebration was held on Easter Sunday.

Many thanks to Cathy Ehlers and Bonnie Ebler for providing our Fellowship goodies on the third Sunday.

If you would like to cover Fellowship for any future Sundays, please see the sign-up sheet on the Narthex desk.

-Diane Cinnick



During the upcoming 8am & 10am services Fr. Jim Caldwell will be doing “Demonstration Communion” as part of Adult Formation.

Come Join Us! ...an update from FORMATION
Our next Formation activity is a Tri-parish conversation on *Resurrection Hope*, by Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, facilitated by Deacon Anne Smith. We will be joining Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church in Gurnee and Christ Episcopal Church in Waukegan in reading, studying, and sharing our reflections on this book.

Additional information can be found on the Diocese website at: One Book, Once Diocese. Please purchase the book on your own; we hope attendees will be able to attend all three sessions.

Each session will start at 6:30pm with a light meal, followed by 1.5 hrs. of discussion:

May 3rd: St. Ignatius in Antioch

May 17th: Annunciation in Gurnee

June 7th: Christ Church in Waukegan

Diocese website information:
<https://episcopalchicago.org/one-book-one-diocese/>



The prayers are returning!

Starting on **May 14**, we will be returning to prayer cards to be added to the end of the Prayers of the People.

You will find a card in the pews that you can fill out to offer up your prayers. Please take time to fill out a card if you wish before services start, then you can either walk the card up and place it on the altar or wait until after the Nicene Creed and walk it up.

If you are unable to walk up the stairs at the altar, there will be a collection plate that you can place your card in. If walking is a problem, please ask the usher to walk up your card after you have filled it out.

The LEM will collect these cards and add them to the end of the Prayers of the People. This will not replace our current Prayer list, and these prayers will not be added onto that list.

-submitted by Kathy Kraak

Sharing Our Faith



The Meaning of Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

-The Letter to the Hebrews 11:1-3



5/3/23- Tri-Parish- "One Diocese One Book"
6:30pm meal & discussion

5/10/23- Nashotah House Visit
5:30pm dinner- 6:45pm Evening Prayer

5/20/23- Vestry Retreat- 9am-1pm at Church

5/24/23- Vestry Meeting at 6:45pm



The Moncrieff Family- Felix Cizewski
Ian McDonald- Elizabeth Johnston
Jim & Pat Bletsch- Clare Coleman
The Deichsel Family-Mike Culat
Mildred Hamlin- Dave Shoenbeck
George Pahlke- Pam Anast
Margaret Slamar

May Birthday's

5/3- Mike Culat
5/11- Diane Ward
5/17- Bonnie Ebler
5/21- Joan Larson

May Anniversary's

5/4- Clay & Paula NeVille
5/20- Doug & Nancy McConnell
5/23- Warren & Diane Cinnick