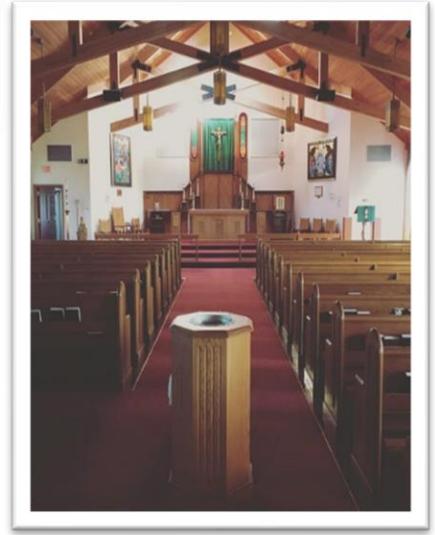


# THE GOOD NEWS

November 2021

St. Ignatius of Antioch  
Episcopal Church  
*Walking in love as Christ taught us*



## A LETTER FROM FR. BRIAN

Dear Ignatians ~

Last month we celebrated a “Fall Family Reunion Sunday.” Most of our current members, a few former members, and volunteers from our Resale Shop joined us for worship and a brunch.

Many complimented my sermon, and a few thought I should share it with those who were not present, and as a keep sake from our parish family gathering:

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Thank you for being here this morning – because we have a lot to celebrate today:

*Every Sunday* we as a church congregate to celebrate God’s goodness to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

God is good: All the time.

Also, just about every day on the calendar, the church honors one or more of its long line of holy men and women, the saints – role models and inspirations to us on *our* way. And today, October 17th is the day set aside each year to honor St. Ignatius of Antioch.

Ignatius lived just one generation removed from Jesus. He was mentored by the Apostle John, and Ignatius was sent to shepherd the people in ancient Antioch in Turkey – *then* a city of nearly a quarter million people, and *thee* city St. Paul tells us where the Lord’s followers were first called “*Christians*.”

Ignatius served as Bishop of Antioch for 37 years, when the Roman Emperor Trajan launched one of the several persecutions aimed at exterminating the followers of Jesus – and directed particular wrath on Ignatius as one of its key leaders. Ordered to renounce his faith in Jesus and to worship Rome’s pagan gods, Ignatius refused. He might have been killed on the spot when he refused Trajan’s order, but wanting to make an example of him, this 80 year old

holy man, bound in chains and caged, was carried off to Rome under armed guard to be thrown to the lions.

Along the nearly 2,000 mile route from Antioch to Rome, Christians and curiosity seekers alike flocked to see this increasingly famous Bishop. From city to city Ignatius gave brief sermons the best he could from his cage. His sermons were eventually written down and compiled as his *Seven Letters*. He inspired not only thousands then, but countless millions since – and ourselves here in *this* church bearing his good name.

God is good: All the time.

I'm honored to be one of nearly two dozen priests who have served this congregation since our organization 106 years ago, and I've been uniquely privileged to have served for a year *before* the pandemic, and *during* the 18 months of the pandemic thus far. (All through Covid, we never missed a Sunday; when we couldn't gather in-person, we gathered via zoom). And *now* we are hopefully at the beginning of discovering God's "new normal" for us and our world.

God is good: All the time.

For more than a year our Vestry has been looking forward to some opportunity to gather for a post-pandemic celebration. That desire – and the fact that we have retired our mortgage on this building much earlier than originally anticipated – called for *this* celebration, this "Fall Family Reunion Sunday."

We wanted to gather with our current family members as well as family members from years back whose lives for whatever reasons have taken them elsewhere. *Together*, over the years, our combined contributions have made all the difference and brought us to this day.

I said we've been able to pay off our mortgage "earlier than *we* anticipated," because, as everything in church-life, it's a *team effort*. Years of faithful contributions by our members past and present have made today possible. That includes our gratitude that, even *during* the pandemic, our members'

contributions kept us steady and on track; assisted by revenues from our Resale Shop; aided by our contributing to the diocese less than our fair-share toward funding its staff, services, and expenses; also aided by savings through the services of part-time clergy.

Mix all these ingredients together,  
stir them every year-or-so,  
season with generous amounts of faith,  
bake at a low steady heat for 20 years,  
and here we are today!

Yes, God is good: All the time.

Today begins a *new* chapter in our parish family's story. Going forward we can continue to faithfully keep the main-thing "the main-thing" through our Sunday *worship*, while we can continue to send our roots ever deeper through our *formation* and *fellowship*, as we reach up and out, bearing fruit to God's glory in serving our community through our on-going signature *outreach*.

And, the pandemic has called us to become what's known as a "hybrid church" – while *we* faithfully worship in-person following our *Book of Common Prayer*, we also simultaneously serve worshipers via zoom – folks who, for whatever reasons, are not present with us.

Oh, and now that our mortgage is paid, we need to tackle some serious maintenance issues on this building, as we can also step up with our fair share to the diocese – ever hearing the Lord's Word and sharing the Lord's Meal on Sundays, while aiming to expand our outreach, putting the holy Name of Jesus out there in our service to the community through our Resale Shop and "Missions of the Month."

While some years ago the congregation *was* much larger, and today we're one of the smaller congregations in the Antioch area: Our commitment is strong, our faith is powerful, and, did I mention,

God is good: All the time.

Today I'm wearing what in our Episcopal tradition is called a "tapestry stole" – worn in many of our congregations for its symbolism:

- Although the tapestry is a *composite* design, it's made up of many *parts*. Perhaps *your* presence and involvement in St. Ignatius may have you relate to being part of the central flower, or its leaf, or the vine pattern. Or perhaps you relate more generally to a particular color – seeing yourselves as red, or part of our silver or golden generations, or a shade of fresh green.
- Implication: We are all important to the *total tapestry* of St. Ignatius; *none* of us is insignificant. Remove *any* part, and our parish tapestry is less beautiful, less whole, and less holy.
- Whether long-time or short-term members, *your* presence remains essential. Without *each* of us there would be a void. *Together* we are a tremendously beautiful work of art, pleasing to God, as we serve and witness to God's people in a world so very much in need of *God's* good news.

Thank you – *each* of you; *all* of you – for who *you* are and for who *we* are becoming. As St. Paul wrote: "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." Yes, glory to God!

Again, I thank you for being here today to celebrate our mission as the Lord's disciples. And now it's onward and *out-ward* – onward and *heaven-ward!*

God is good: All the time!

~ Fr. Brian

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## UPCOMING

In the next week or so you will receive a letter and pledge card in the mail from the Vestry regarding our Fall Stewardship Appeal. We are grateful that you

have all been so faithful and generous throughout the pandemic in bringing us to the milestone of retiring our mortgage. So without pressuring you, we trust you will continue to be generous in the New Year as we begin to tackle some overdue maintenance on our building, and continue our ministry and witness within our community and the wider church.

Along with the vestry's letter, there will be a Stewardship Prayer – we ask you to pray it on behalf of our parish family. And there will also be a Stewardship Pledge Card for 2022 – please return it in time for our Sunday, November 21st celebration of the Feast honoring Christ as our King.

(Then our Stewardship Committee will begin the task of crafting a realistic budget for 2022 based on our combined pledges.)

May God guide and bless our parish family!



## REMINDER

Sunday, November 7th begins Day Light Saving's Time. Remember to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night. (Otherwise, you may get the best parking space at church next Sunday when you arrive an hour early!)



Our community's annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service – with friends and neighbors from Antioch United Methodist, St. Stephen's Lutheran, and St. Ignatius' Episcopal. This year we will gather in gratitude for God's blessings at St. Stephen's (1155 Hillside Avenue).

## Outreach Summary



### **Canines 4 Comfort October Mission of the Month**

Special thanks to Lisa, Keith and Daria Wernli who graciously provided a presentation/demonstration about “Canines 4 Comfort” at St. Ignatius on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Attendees learned much about and from the psychiatric service dogs that were part of the Sunday program. St. Ignatius raised \$300 for “Canines 4 Comfort” during the month of October.

### **October Pet Blessing**



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### **November 2021 Mission of the Month Midwest Veterans Closet**

The Midwest Veterans Closet provides, food, clothing, housewares, linens, furniture, career wear, cleaning and laundry supplies to veterans, active duty military and their families at no cost. The organization also helps with employment leads, transition to housing and assistance to the homeless. Consult the wish list for suggested donations. Cash and gift cards are always welcome. Please give generously to those who have or continue to serve and protect our nation.

#### **Midwest Veterans Closet Wish List:**

Paper Towels, Baggies, Cleaning Supplies, Detergent, Lotion, Lip Balm, Hand Sanitizer, Toilet Paper, Wet Wipes, Coffee, Canned Fish/Meat, Cereal/Oatmeal, Canned Fruits, Grains/Pasta/Beans, Bottled Water, Condiments, Meals in a box/Can, Jelly/Nut Butter, New Underwear, Jeans/Hoodies, New Socks/Shoes, Coats/Jackets, Gloves/Hats, Thermal Underwear, Sweat Pants/Shirts, Bras/Sweaters, New/Gently Used Boots, Pots/Pans, Utensils, Dishes, Bakeware, Towels, Trash Bags, Dish Racks, Sm. Appliances, Pillows/Blankets.

## GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

### **November Special:**

**50% off GREEN sticker items!**



Any questions call the shop at 224-321-4475

# Let's Celebrate!

### November Birthdays

11/18 - Chris George

11/29 – Greg Nelson

"Heavenly Father, 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 life." (BCP, p830, #50)

## October Wedding Anniversaries

11/18 - Felix & Kathleen Cizewski

11/18 – Larry & Diane Ward

"O God, send your blessing upon your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their lives together may witness to your love, and their home be a haven of blessing and peace." (BCP, p431)

## COMEDY CORNER

