

July 12, 2020

St. John's Episcopal Church



St. John's Eagle

*"Have you not known, have you not heard
those who wait for the Lord shall mount
up with wings like eagles."*

Isaiah 40:28,31

Driving on Snow

My job as rector is a little like driving a car on a snowy road. It's very exciting. And a little dangerous. I've loved it all these years but soon it will be time to turn the wheel over to someone else and take on the next challenge in life. I imagine that will also be a little like driving on snow because all of life is that way. We rarely have to drive on snow literally around here but let me play a little with the metaphor.

When you drive in the snow, you always have to be looking ahead. You also have to be paying close attention to the immediate situation. If you don't do both of those at the same time, something's going to slip up on you. Learning to feel where your tires are and what sort of traction they have, or don't have, is vital. But you also have to be considering what could be coming around the next turn. You have to think about the snow. You have to think about the car you are driving. You also have to think about the other cars on the road because they are often the biggest threat. Planning and adaptability are both required.

When you drive in the snow, you have to use both the brake and the accelerator, alternately and strategically. If you just keep pressing the accelerator, well there's a ditch just waiting for you. If you apply the brakes too forcefully, you'll find yourself spinning in a circle pretty soon. When using the brake, it's important to apply pressure lightly. You never want to come to a full stop unless you absolutely have to because it's hard to regain traction and get going again. The accelerator needs gentle application as well. If you gun it, your tires are likely to spin without you going anywhere and you're totally out of control. You have to accelerate gently. And firmly. While you shouldn't ever punch the gas pedal, there are times when you just have to plow ahead with authority. There are tough places in the road that you just have to push through or else you'll lose momentum and get stuck.

And, when driving in the snow, there's always the spinning and sliding that inevitably come about. You can't anticipate everything and something's going to sneak up on you. You can't avoid all the spinning and sliding but it's really important not to panic when it happens. Panic, rather than the snow and ice, is the real enemy to avoid. When you do start to slide, you can't push the gas or the brake too hard. Steady application of one or the other is needed. Usually the gas pedal is more of a friend than the brake. The steering wheel is the main thing though. You have to turn the steering wheel in the direction you want to go. It helps to look where you want to go and turn the wheel in that direction. That keeps the front wheels from sliding and the back end of the car eventually straightens out.

Driving in the snow is sort of dangerous but it helps to keep reminding yourself that there is great joy in the adventure. Experience helps a lot. The first time you do it, you'll be less successful than the one-hundredth time, so keep getting back out there. Letting someone who knows what they're doing teach you is really helpful too. Smaller journeys help build confidence for longer ones.

So, in my life as rector, the image applies well. I have to look ahead. I have to pay atten-

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Rector:
Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

Associate Rector:
Jamie Osborne

Priest Associate:
Deonna D. Neal

Staff:
Libby Poole
Financial Administrator

Anne Tippet
Assistant to the Rector

Christian Formation:
Sarah Collier
Director of Children's
Christian Formation

Joleen George
Director of Youth Ministries
and Parish
Communications

Music:
Joel Gregory
Organist and Choirmaster

Maintenance:
Mike Jarrell, Superintendent
Myron Smoke, Judson George

Vestry of St. John's:
Jimmy McLemore Sr. Warden
Radney Ramsey Jr. Warden

Class of 2021
Virginia Banister
Richard Bradford
Kathryn Dailey
Mike Jenkins
Stephanie Norrell
Todd Westhauser

Class of 2022
John Carter
Will Gunter
Katie Keller
Mary-Nelms Parsons
Nick Prillaman
Emily Wise

Class of 2023
Betsy Cannon
Cissy Johnson
Brice Johnston
J.R. Marshall
Scott Mitchell
Dudley Perry
Will Hill Tankersley, JR.

Treasurer
Helen Wells

Clerk of the Vestry
Anne Tippet

THE LESSONS:

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalm 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

THE COLLECT:

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

tion to where we are and where we need to go. I have to push the gas gently and firmly in order to make good progress. I have to occasionally tap the brake because breakneck speed scares everybody in the car. I have to be respectful of the needs of the passengers and remember it's not all about me and where I want to go. When we do go into a spin, I need to remember where we were headed and keep my eyes in that direction. And I need to remember how much fun this all is instead of giving into the fears that the dangers give rise to.

How does the image apply to you own life? We all have responsibilities. We all have circumstances we are trying to navigate. We all experience inclement weather. We're all on a journey. All of those things can be enemies that threaten to destroy us or friends that guide us and teach us.

When it actually does snow around here, most folks just don't get in the car which is probably a good idea for the most part. But life doesn't give us that option all the time. Sometimes we just have to get out there and give it a shot. We have to engage the world despite our fears. We have to have a few accidents and learn from them. We have to draw on the peace that is available to us and take the next step in our lives.

Life can be dangerous but it's a beautiful thing. God is present with us in all our undertakings. The Christian gospel calls us to engage the world, to take risks, to move onward. The Holy Spirit equips us for all of that. Get out there and give the snowy road your best. It's what we're made for.

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisniewski, Jr.

Outreach Grants

During these unprecedented and turbulent times, St Johns continues to provide financial assistance to our neighbors in need. The St. Johns Outreach Committee will be meeting in the coming months to review applications and make recommendations to the vestry for their approval. The needs in our community have not been put on hold by this pandemic. St. John's continues to play a vital role in our community and, speaking for the committee, we are extremely grateful for your support.

Applications are in the process of being sent to former recipients. If you know of any group or organization, please let us know and we'll get them and application promptly. All applications need to be returned to the church by Wednesday, July 29th. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let me know.

Peace, Charlie

ANNUAL ECW BAZAAR CANCELED

After much thought and prayerful consideration, the ECW annual bazaar has been canceled due to limitations of onsite activities related to the COVID-19 virus. Plans do call for the reinstatement of the bazaar in 2021.

PLEASE DO NOT bring donations for the Treasure Attic to the church this year. There is not enough storage space at the church to house items until the next event can be scheduled.

JOY AND CONCERN

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Christopher Marshall, Sarah Stone, Karen Jarrell, Eddie McDowell, Shirley Price, Joe McGough, Cynthia Hill, George Wakefield, Frances Condit, Johnny Smith, Marilyn Pickett

Joyful news; New birth-a son to Win and Sadie Bear on July 2, 2020 in Toronto Canada-William Wieschhoff Bear, grandson to Barbara Wallace and nephew to Virginia Banister

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Rob Ludington, Gloria Hudgeon, Mary Linger, George West, Randy Rushton, Tommy Oliver, Karen & Angelo Pacheco, Acra Hackney Samuels, Margaret (Marty) Hackney, Ed Sellers, Tom Broadhurst, Ricky Hatfield, Willie Fred Gamble, Monica Powell, Chase Pickett, Al Perkins, Pam Litel, Aaron Hines, Daphne Oliver, Dawn Damato, Dottie Campbell, Scott Bradford, Mary Steindorff, Jack Mitchell, Margaret Carlson, Paula Hamm Roberts, Kim Barnhart, Lavada Spears Persons, Charles Colvin, Cookie Ziblich, Charlie Smith, Clemmon Barlow, Chuck Holley, Sandy Lynn Stevens, Masha Kloberg, Andy Silverman, William Hardwick Ray, Meredith McLemore, Elizabeth McLemore Baker, Ernie Reddick, Vaughan Dozier, Jennifer Passineau, Raye Gregory, Richard Burk, Bob Capra, Gillian Flory, Randall Williams, Savannah Wright, John Stallings, Tomy Gamble, Linda Robbins, Mark Wimble.

Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.

Out with the Old, In with the New – Wednesday, July 22, at 6:30

A Zoom Class on Best Practices for
Welcoming a New Rector, led by Robert

EYC SKI TRIP

Please let Joleen know if your teenager is interested in going skiing MLK weekend. It is \$400 a person and there is only 10 spots open so sign up soon!

Applications will be sent out soon.

Friends, With everything we are experiencing now, one thing the pandemic has not slowed down to date is our discernment process. We have conducted numerous Zoom interviews and meetings and are now down to a small group of finalists. The committee and finalists are excited and ready to meet in person but recognize the safety issues and concerns. We are continuing to monitor not only Montgomery but also the cities our candidates are from. There has been much creative discussion about ways to meet and remain as safe as possible.

Daily, we are reminded that we are not in control. Last fall when we started, no one could foresee the world we now find ourselves in. We were told that if we trust the Holy Spirit, we will be guided and led and we believe that is happening. This last part of our process will be difficult as we all believe we have excellent finalists and having to select one will not be an easy choice. It is a good position to be in and, with the Holy spirit's guidance, we will have clarity.

We remain extremely grateful for your continued prayers for our Committee and for St. Johns.

Peace, Margaret Ann and Charlie

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY

10:30 am Morning
Prayer with Sermon

MONDAY thru FRIDAY

8:10 am Facebook
Live Morning Prayer

9:00 pm Facebook
Live Compline

St. John's Faithfulness

Required Weekly

\$35,556.41

Received Sunday

\$26,928.93

Required to Date

\$960,023.07

Received to Date

\$935,770.81

Keeping Pledges
Current

During the time in which St. John's is closed to group gatherings and public worship, our expenses continue. You can mail your offerings in using your pledge envelopes and adding a stamp. You also can use Bill Pay through your bank or instruct your bank to do an automatic draft. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in your stewardship.

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«LA_LABEL_NAME»
«AD_ADDRESS_1»
«AD_CITY», «AD_STATE» «AD_ZIP_CODE»

The Eagle is available on the
internet at
www.stjohnsmontgomery.org

Monday Noon Bible Study via Zoom

The Monday 12pm Bible study will be offered via the streaming service Zoom. It is a free service and easy to use.

An email will be sent out each week to all that would like to join, with a link to the Zoom meeting. Here's a quick tutorial on how to join a Zoom meeting. If you would like to participate in the Bible Study, please let Robert know, and he will add you to the weekly email

Streaming Services

St. John's will offer Morning Prayer Monday-Friday at 8:10am and Compline Monday-Friday at 9:00pm. All of these services will be offering on the St. John's Facebook page via Facebook Live Sunday Morning Prayer & Evening Compline Morning Prayer performed in the chancel with a sermon will be offered by both Facebook Live and YouTube, every Sunday at 10:30am.

Compline will be offered at 9pm on Facebook Live

If you would like to watch any of the services via Facebook, it is easier to access if you have a Facebook account.

The Sunday morning service of Morning Prayer is also live streamed via YouTube. You do NOT have to create a YouTube account to view the service.

The link to the St. John's Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmontgomery/>

The link to the St. John's YouTube page is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS2K0pViHs7eS7-lhghifHQ>