

Franciscan
a monthly publication of
St. Francis Episcopal Church



THE PILGRIM PRIEST PONDERES
PASSION

Dear Friends,

What are you REALLY PASSIONATE about doing??

You know when you talk about your Passion:

Your voice takes on a lilt.

Your eyes sparkle.

Your body language changes.

Your excitement is captured by those around you.

Now it is my belief that your Passion (or Passions) have been a gift given to you by God. And when that Passion is allowed to align with the Passion OF God (that Passion exhibited most clearly by God in the gift of His Son to the world), your Passion is “supercharged” by the Holy Spirit and allows each of us to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3: 14-21).

So why do we have so much **burnout** among Christian leaders (clergy and laity alike)? Here are some thoughts.

Too many of us see ministries and activities around the parish that we believe we should take on, whether we have a Passion for them or not. Ministry becomes drudgery, and drudgery leads to burnout. Granted, there are things I do as part of my ministry that I consider to be drudgery, but when I am at my best, I keep these activities to a minimum and concentrate my energies on those things I am PASSIONATE about carrying out. If (and when) I allow those drudgery activities to take up most of my energies, I am prone to burnout.

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Those things I consider to be drudgery may well be a Passion for someone else. If I insist on doing those things that I consider to be tedious, I may be blocking another person from exercising their Passion. This frustrates both of us and leads to burnout.

There may be others who share the same Passion that I do. If I hold the exercise of the ministry that displays that Passion to myself, I am again frustrating someone else.

Our Passion can change with time, and when a ministry becomes drudgery, it is time to let go and pray for the wisdom to see who God has empowered to be Passionate about that ministry.

Even if I remain Passionate about a given ministry, it is essential that I take regular, weekly time off to rest and recharge. Jesus instructed his apostles to take time off to rest and refresh themselves (Mark 6:30-32). Jesus took time to pray by himself on a regular basis (Mark 6:46). Those of us whose ministry is most intense on Sunday (Sabbath) need to make time to rest from church (and other) activities at least one day a week. If I do not take this time out, I will be prone to burnout.

Sometimes a ministry that has been important in the past is no longer viable. In that case, the leadership of the church needs to end the exercise of that ministry prayerfully, thoughtfully, intentionally and ruthlessly. This is usually very painful, but also very necessary.

So, are the ministries you do at St. Francis aligned with your Passions? Are you facing burnout from doing too much that does not fuel your Passion? Are there others who are called to carry out the ministry you have done for a season? If so, talk to me, and we can work together to better align your Passions with the Passion of God in Christ, and restore (or give) you joy and excitement in your ministries on behalf of our Lord.

Your fellow Ambassador for Jesus Christ,
David+

WORSHIP SERVICE UPDATES

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

The COVID-19 Spread is currently listed as HIGH for Warren County. The Sr. Warden and Priest-in-Charge have agreed to the following precautions from July 31 to August 28:

SUNDAY SERVICES

All those attending Sunday Services are encouraged/required to be masked. Only those actively leading parts of the Liturgy will be unmasked. Fr. David will celebrate the Eucharist and distribute Communion masked.

Only consecrated Bread will be distributed at Communion.

The offerings of the People will be collected in the Offertory Plates before the service and brought up for the offering.

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and other life events will be offered by Fr. David to those standing in their pews.

Coffee Hour will be "grab and go" outside the Narthex (Entry Hall).

Salon Series will be on hiatus.

AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	2 Election Day Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	3 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	4 Alanon 7:00 pm	5 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	6
7 NO Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	8 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	9 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	10 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	11 Alanon 7:00 pm	12 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	13
14 NO Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	15 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	16 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	17 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	18 Alanon 7:00 pm	19 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	20
21 NO Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	22 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	23 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	24 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	25 Alanon 7:00 pm	26 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	27
28 NO Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	29 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	30 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	31 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm			

August Birthdays

Sue Starner on August 2

Alex Catalan on August 2

Walter Fedchenko on August 9

Don Parker on August 15

Zachary Hamilton on August 17

August Anniversaries

Jenny & Augusto Catalan on Aug. 2

Stephan & Diana Graham on
August 2

Fr. David & Molly Bailey on

August 16



If your name does not appear on our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.



Summer of Sharing Our Gifts

June 12, 2022, through September 4, 2022



Summer of Sharing Our Gifts. We need your help.
All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God.

This summer, you are invited to share your gift during the 10:30 am Sunday worship service. Everyone, of all ages, can share their gift of music, singing, ensembles, dance, poetry, favorite inspiration, favorite book excerpt, etc. are invited to participate.

This is a great opportunity to add joy to our service as well as praise the Lord. There is a signup sheet in the narthex or see Diana Graham.

Outreach Ministry Program

Each month for Ingathering Sunday, there will be certain items that need to be collected. For **August** please collect any items for the **back to school supplies** and place them in the container in the Narthex.

Outreach Ministry Jars

Please look for jars around the church to throw your loose change in. They will be located on the table in the Foyer, near the coffee pots in the kitchen, and on the table during coffee hour. The donations for **August** will help to pay for **back to school supplies**.



**BACK TO
SCHOOL
SUPPLY
DRIVE**



ADOPT -A- BILLS

are available for support of various ministries and events here at St. Francis. Please place your check along with the adopt-a-bill slip in the offering.

“It’s our connection to God and each other that gives meaning to our lives.”

‘We are well into a transition’:

Conference looks at technology and the church

In 2008, Deanna Thompson broke her back. While she was recovering from the injury, she also went through radiotherapy treatment for cancer which made her sick to her stomach. The resulting combination meant changes to her body and self-image and made it hard to do her ministry work, let alone socialize in person.

“I couldn’t keep food down and so you could start to see my ribs protruding. I looked like I was dying,” she said at “Religious Community in a Digital World,” an online conference that gathered academics, authors and religious leaders from across North America to discuss the changes technology and the pandemic era have brought to the Christian church.

For many people as seriously ill as she was, the resulting fear and anguish have less to do with dying than with the diminishment of themselves, she said, a reality that confronted her when she struggled with the demands of leaving the house. Going out presented physical challenges, she said. But it also forced her to face the emotional pain of living in a newly limited body.

So when the COVID-19 pandemic forced churches across North America to switch to virtual services, Thompson, director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community in Northfield, Minnesota, was primed with a different perspective on what it meant to gather remotely, she told attendees at the conference, hosted by St. Thomas More College, Lutheran Theological Seminary, the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, and St. Andrew’s College, all located in Saskatoon.

“People who haven’t been seriously ill know that serious illnesses are really, really difficult physically, but I’m not sure we have appreciated the level to which they take a toll psychologically, emotionally, spiritually when your body is so very altered,” she explained. “This is one of the ways being in virtual spaces can be a gift because it gives you a little bit of protection or a barrier to having this body that is so different. [It stops it] from being so front and centre.”

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That's one reason why—while making space to acknowledge the lament over what churches lost when congregations weren't able to gather in-person—Thompson said she also views the sudden, rapid advancement in remote attendance options as a source of opportunities.

For example, while some have raised concerns about the accessibility of digital gathering options for those who lack the required technical literacy, Thompson noted that broadcasting church services over services like YouTube and Zoom also adds accessibility for people who are homebound, have difficulty traveling to the church building or who find aspects of in-person worship temporarily or permanently difficult.

The event's other keynote speaker, the Rev. Jeffrey Mahan, is a professor of religion and communication at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. In his addresses, he looked at the COVID-19 era's effects on religious communities as just the latest piece in a shift in the way people in North America think about belonging and identity in general—a shift he said Christian communities are already far behind.

The internet has changed what it means to be a member of anything, he said. By letting them click “like” on multiple ideas, speakers or ideologies in a day—rather than formally join a church, social movement or political party and stick with it—the internet gives them a more fluid sense of belonging.

In that climate, he says, church organizations need to rethink what it means for them to be a part of a person's individual story of faith. That means putting the onus on established congregations to make themselves accessible to newcomers rather than expecting outsiders to do the work to fit in, said Mahan, and understanding that a single church won't be the only—even the primary—community many people belong to.

These days, “the desire of the congregation to be the fixed centre of members' lives seems quaint,” he said, and today's dispersal of commitment doesn't fit with the ways established churches expect their members to act. “Right now we're telling them that their spiritual disciplines look thin. But what if instead we take seriously their spiritual questions and desire for ritual and connection? Can we do that without demanding they adopt our habits and assumptions?”

While Thompson's perspective focused on the aspects of digital culture that are new to the established church, both in terms of what it has lost and what it might gain, Mahan characterized his own perspective as focusing on a cultural change that has already happened, leaving the church to catch up.

“We are well into a transition—a decline in a way of being that hasn't meant that religion or Christianity are going away but that they're finding different and more fluid forms,” he said. “If we're going to make a difference, if we're going to be in the conversation, if congregations are going to survive, they have to figure out how to be in that space.”

Becoming Beloved Community News

From its inception three years ago, the Becoming Beloved Community movement in Southern Ohio has been working toward an increased commitment to racial healing, evangelism, and creation care (the three pillars of Becoming Beloved Community), seeking to “become the church that looks and acts like Jesus.” Amy Howton, coordinator for the group, created an [Impact Report](#), which outlines the accomplishments and findings of this work in the diocese as she and other leaders discerned the future of the movement.

The newly-organized core team includes Amy Howton and Miriam McKenney, co-leaders, both contracted by the diocese, Catherine Duffy, and the Rev. Canon Jason Oden, Canon for Formation and New Episcopal Ministries. The team continues to use the community of practice leadership model. “The premise of this model is that wisdom emerges in and through relationships rather than a top-down approach,” Howton says.

This team has worked over recent months to plan and submit the Becoming Beloved Community budget for 2023 and determine priorities for the next two years. The common goal is to build capacity, innovate, and re-form our diocese into one that looks and acts like Jesus by integrating Becoming Beloved Community into our culture and structures; the Community would have us remember and know God’s transformative love as seen in each other.

Additionally, Becoming Beloved Community formation offerings, including individual, diocesan-wide, and community-wide experiences, are being planned for the remainder of 2022. Details about those events and information on how to participate will be featured in a later issue of the diocesan newsletter.

Those who have served in the development of this ministry and movement have been essential to where we stand now: more connected, more emboldened, more integrated, and more whole. In particular, Becoming Beloved Community offers thanksgiving for the foundational work of: Dianne Ebbs, the Rev. Maggie Foote, the Rev. Canon Jane Gerdson, the Rev. Rick Incorvait, Larry James, Megan Johnson, the Rev. Joanna Leiserson, Martha (Marty) Lentz, the Rev. Meribah Mansfield, Miriam McKenney, Ariel Miller, the Rev. Karen Montagno, the Rev. John Paddock, Dr. Cherie Bridges Patrick, the Rev. Carol Potterton, the Rev. Canon Lee Anne Reat, Nadya Richardson, and Madeleine Trichel. We thank the most recent leadership team, including the Rev. Michelle Dayton and Larry James, co-conveners; Catherine Duffy, Miriam McKenney, Ariel Miller, the Rev. Christopher Richardson, the Rev. Melanie Slane, Deborah Stokes, and Jason Williams. We celebrate and honor the tremendous work these individuals and teams did together.

The new Becoming Beloved Community leadership team invites questions, ideas, or concerns from all across the diocese. We are in this together and each of us is essential. We are excited about the possibilities that only God can imagine!

In solidarity,

Amy Howton, Miriam McKenney, Catherine Duffy, The Rev. Canon Jason Oden

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GATHERING TIMES

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM - BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER FOR AUGUST

LORD GOD, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO SEE AND FEEL HOW OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN BLEST. OPEN OUR HEARTS TO YOUR BLESSINGS SO THAT WE MAY LOOK FORWARD IN THANKFULNESS AND JOY TO WHAT LIES AHEAD. GRANT THAT WE MAY BE FAITHFUL TO WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM YOU AND NEVER AGAIN LOSE OURSELVES IN THE PASSING MOMENT. AMEN.

STAFF

Priest-in-Charge - The Rev. Dr. David Bailey

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Senior Warden - Stephan Graham

Junior Warden - David Culp

Vestry Clerk - Virginia Culp

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyer

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School Director - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Stephan Graham, David Culp, Jenny Catalan, Barb Roy, Chuck Oduah, Mary Harris, Kimmie Patti, Virginia Culp, Tom Phillips, and Toni Patti.

