



The Chariot

"But Wait there for the promise of the Father" **Issue 09/09**

"To Make Disciples Who Make Disciples"



From Fr. Jim

Why Knowing What Matters...Matters

It's hard to distill all that has taken place over these past 11 weeks into one article, so I won't try.

What I will attempt is to share, with some broad strokes, what God has started to do in me. I say "started" because it is still a work in progress. As I reflect on conversations, time alone with God and the books I've been reading, more and more is coming to light.

As I shared in my sermon on Sunday, August 16th, one of these broad strokes was a renewal for me on what matters in ministry. We don't have to go to many churches to see the changes that have taken place over the past 20 years. Some say there have been more changes in these past 20 than our predecessors saw in the past 200. In his article on this topic, the Rev. Dr. William Brosend shares his thoughts on this change.

"What has bothered me most amid these changes is the absence of adequate theological reflection on what matters in ministry. We use a variety of criteria in deciding what clergy, congregation and denominations will do in their ministries, but rarely do we include thoughtful theological reflection on what we think matters. Yet if we have not agreed on what matters, how will we decide what programs, opportunities and options to attempt or avoid?"

In the absence of some considered priorities, we end up doing what sounds good, or what worked at the church down the street, or what we remember having been meaningful to us or our ancestors a long time ago."

This can be a recipe for disaster. It can be easy to waste man-power, financial resources, time...and most importantly, passion and energy on programs or plans that may look good, but really are more for show than Godly impact. This is why, over the coming weeks, I will be preaching and teaching on

the points I believe matter in ministry. They are: Prayer, Scripture, Worship, Guidance and Witness. By seeing what we do (both in church and in our own lives) through these lenses and in the spirit of honest theological reflection, we can better know what we should be doing in response to God's call on our lives.

As we struggle with our ministries, as we review programs and possibilities for our church, we do well to ask, "If this is not about prayer or scripture or worship or guidance or witness, should we be doing it?"

The answer is no.

Fr. Jim

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Dear Brother's and Sister's
in Christ,

The Christian life cannot be lived alone. God created us for relationship and *He* intended for us to gather and connect in a deep and meaningful way.

I have found when I take the time to get off the merry go round, take a breath and take the time to experience food, teaching and sharing within our church, something wonderful happens.

This fall, on Wednesdays, from 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM, we will gather. There will be:

Childcare for the pre-K
Tutoring for 1st - 5th
Middle school Alpha
High School Alpha
Alpha
After Alpha

For those of you who have already gone through Alpha, we will be offering a course called "A Life Worth Living", lead by Bill and Deacon Debby Buechner. This course is a discovery of the riches of our life in Christ.

The Ascension Book Club will also be meeting and all are invited for the 6:30 meal.

David and I are excited about what God will do amongst us this fall. We have been involved in Alpha since 1997. God shows up for every course. In every case, hurts have been healed, eyes opened and relationships deepened.

Individuals who had lost their faith found it and those who never had faith came into it. I cannot express the joy I feel when I see God restoring his people.

We welcome everyone, no matter where they may or may not be in their relationship with Christ. Alpha is for everyone who is curious about Christ and what *He* might offer.

Please invite your friends and family to come and join us on Wednesday, September 9th for the celebration dinner to celebrate our shared lives together in Christ.

I look forward to seeing you there.

In Christ's love,

Deacon Beth Wagner

Our VESTRY:

David Williams, Sr. Warden; Walt Dickerson, Jr. Warden; Eric Roach, Clerk;

Ann Archer, Ann Beckwith, Jim McCarthy Brian Miller, Margaret Ireland, Jim Shanks

POINTS TO PONDER



Lessons
of the
Heart

“Don’t even think about getting involved in the black market,” snarled the battle-hardened officer at his audience. “If you are even sitting in a car with someone picked up by the MP’s for black marketeering you will be sent back to the states immediately and your sponsors will be out of the service within twenty-four hours.”

I sat frozen in fear, surrounded by young mothers and vomiting children, on board this recently converted troop-carrier that listed dangerously portside. We were gathered (by demand) for an orientation meeting—on living in a foreign Asian country.

It was mid-winter of 1949. My mother and I were nearing the end of a two week voyage on tumultuous seas headed for Yokohama, Japan. We were join-

ing my father for what would be our first overseas tour of duty since the end of WWII. I was a teenager with a lot of fears about what kind of a life I could expect in this strange and different culture.

Fortunately, one of the stabilizing factors turned out to be having regular Episcopal Church services. Since no Episcopal chaplains were available, the U.S. military hired a local priest to hold services at the Post Chapel. Fr. Watanabe was given the job. A frail man in his sixties, he had memorized the liturgy in English—happily so had we. For nearly a year, Fr. Watanabe would travel by train every Sunday to and from his home in the small village of Gifu. Train transportation was limited and we learned he would spend much of his day in travel. Since Gifu was actually only an hour’s drive away by car, my mother often offered to take him back home. He was always grateful for the ride and the trips proved to be a great culture exercise for all three of us.

During once such journey, my mother asked Fr. Watanabe if it was difficult for him during the war. He hesitated, and

then in Japanese he said “Yes, very hard.” The car was silent and I was embarrassed. I felt my mother had invaded his privacy with her ‘need-to-know’ attitude. Nonetheless, in a tone of

compassion, she continued, “How did you exist?”

He had trouble understanding her question. She articulated. “How did you live? How did you feed your family?”

He nodded his recognition and in broken English said, “Very hard. Many family to eat. I make soap. I sell black market.”

“Black Market!” I cried from the back seat in a moment of total recall. “Isn’t that illegal?”

Father Watanabe turned and making the sign of the cross to illustrate said, “Hi, Hi, Patti-san. I bless soap first.”

by Patti Hawn

1. Trent Moulton	17. Evan Starstrom Shannon Williams
5. Sandro DiCastro Robert Sheehan Gary Stephens	18. Samuel Grande
6. Debra Ray	19. Melanie Ohrberg
7. Don Snyder	20. Jefferson Wheeler
8. Alexandra DiCastro Michelle Howell	22. Melanie Andre Joseph Ashenheim Brooks Johnson
9. Terrell Welch	23. Suzanne Bender Chuck Ohrberg Ben Richardson
11. Susan Ruta Brittany Wheeler	24. Dee Dee Hughes Robert Welch
13. Alice DeRosa Walt Dickerson	27. Sarah Williams
14. Annette Horn	28. Lauren Beckwith
15. Alex Roberts	30. Kerry Emmons




- 5. Eric and Leanne Roach
Gary and Jayne Stephens
- 7. Robert and Jean Elrod
- 12. Louis and Frances Jarolimek
- 15. Frank and Nancy Pignone
- 16. Matthew and Susan Salvati
- 18. David and Lena Gordon
- 30. Richard and Robin O'Donnell

 **As of July 31, 2009**

	MTD Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Income	30,535.21	268,020.29	303,059.00
Total Expenses	32,786.99	318,407.53	318,452.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,251.69)	(50,387.24)	(15,393.00)

**CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR TAB
ON THE WEBSITE FOR
UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION !!**



To My Office Helpers:
Carolyn Armstrong
Cathy Dean
Lynda Dickerson
Walt Dickerson
Donna Duncan
Diane Kosiewski
Nancy McCarty
Vicki Pressler