

WPC Alive

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PASTOR'S DESK

A Picture of Jesus

By Rev. Jonathan Cornell

"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like?... It is like a mustard seed which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground." (Mark 4:30-31)

As I write this article, I am sitting on the back patio at my parent's home in Minnesota. In their back yard is an oak tree that we planted as a sapling, when I was 9 years old. I'm 32 and it's hardly taller than I am. And where I've put on considerable weight in the last twenty some years, it still looks like an infant.

But we planted that tree, not so that one day we might sit beneath it, shaded by its broad branches. For the family one, maybe even two hundred years from now who will enjoy its immense size and beauty.

Followers of Jesus are very accustomed to delayed gratification, especially if it is another who experiences the delight.

This summer, we are embarking on a series of messages entitled "Kingdom in Our Midst: How the Kingdom of Heaven Begins Now." I am so excited about these messages because this conversation is where the rubber hits the road. And what better time than summer to live our faith out loud? Gestures of



Photo credit: by Roger Eaton

mercy and love don't always pay dividends right now...but maybe that's how God works.

One of my favorite authors, a man named Wendell Berry who farms and writes in Kentucky, has a poem called Manifesto, and I love the lines from it where he says:

Ask the questions that have no answers.
 Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
 Say that your main crop is the forest
 that you did not plant,
 that you will not live to harvest.

What excites me about this is the fact that you are already doing this. We just get an opportunity to take note of the kingdom in our midst.

A few weeks back, the women of this church along with the moms group hosted a funeral dinner for someone who was not a church member. Truth be told, if you asked them, I would doubt any of the funeral attendees had been in a church lately. The son of the deceased refused to enter our building. "I could never be welcome in a place like that," he said.

That is, until Liz Hicks brought an envelope to him as he stood on the street smoking. "What's this?" "Open it and see." Inside were three pictures of the young man

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A Picture of Jesus (cont.)

taken by his Kindergarten teacher. “Where did you get these?” he asked. “Your Kindergarten teacher is inside. She brought them for you with that note, and she would like to see you.”

It was that gesture of kindness that enabled the young man who believed himself not welcome in a church to come in, reunite with his teacher, and share a plate of food with his family in honor of his father.

I am so proud to serve alongside a congregation that knows the love of Jesus and invests their lives in his Kingdom. Because it’s not just delayed gratification we’re working for, it’s the eternal weight of lives that see Jesus through ordinary people like us.

Your Pastor,
Jonathan Paul Cornell



Pastor Jonathan

*Office hours: 8:30am-12:30pm, Tues-Fri
and afternoons by appointment*

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Summer Sermon Series

This summer, as we once again venture outdoors for picnics and barbecues, trips to the park, and the Saturday morning farmer's market, we encounter the many different ways in which community forms around us.

Jesus taught us that when we gather in His name, the Kingdom comes near and community forms. But what does that community look like? How does it behave? What are its characteristics? This summer as a community, we will look at what happens when the Kingdom comes into our midst.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1 – Virginia McSpadden
- 3 – Laura Helm
- 8 – Susie Jones
- 10 – Lee Ann George
- 10 – Al Plummer
- 12 – Helen Shanks
- 19 – Janet Halderman
- 19 – Martha Helm
- 21 – Sandra Mitting
- 22 – Katherine Kramer
- 22 – Tim Eubank
- 23 – Jeremy Wright
- 26 – Richard Halderman
- 26 – Andy Maggart
- 26 – Diane Miller
- 27 – Mary Henderson

Anniversaries:

- 5 – Al & Pat Plummer
- 10 – Steve & Sue Henderson
- 18 – Bill & Jane Skeans
- 22 – Bill & Tracy Wimberly
- 25 – Bob & Janet Halderman
- 25 – Steve & Lori Foust

Community & Missions

Learn Your City's Story

An excerpt from Stephen Um's blog post
"How to be on Mission in the City"

Every city has a story, a story that tells the overarching belief system that drives how the city functions.

You can get to know your city's story in the same way that you would come to learn one of your neighbor's stories: Ask questions. Listen. Observe. Interact.

As you consider the history, values, dreams, fears, and ethos of your city, an overarching storyline will emerge. For example, the story of Boston is the pursuit of knowledge through education. The story of Silicon Valley is the pursuit of success through innovation. The story of Washington, D.C. is power through governance.

What is your city's story?

Get to know it so that you can understand the overarching belief system with which your neighbors are working.

Think about it: What is the story of Wabash?

- What's happening in my city?
- Who is moving into my city?
- What buildings are going up or coming down?
- What are the values & beliefs of my city?
- What is the history of my city?
- What is the crime rate like in my city?
- What do people love about Wabash? What do they hate?
- On what days and at what times does Wabash come alive?
- Who is hurting in my city?
- Who is succeeding and thriving in my city?
- What do people in my city put their hope in?



Engage the City

YMCA Dash in the 'Bash 5K – Give a Cup of Cold Water

We're sponsoring the YMCA Dash in the 'Bash 5K on June 22nd. This race will help provide scholarships to youth in our community to attend YMCA programming. You can help!

Water Station: We will be providing a water station during the race. We need a few volunteers to help fill the cups, hand them to runners as they pass, and pick up discarded cups near the station. This is a great way for WPC members to help out with a fun community event.

Participate in the race: You can enter to run/walk in the race yourself! The registration fee is \$25 after June 1st, and you can sign up on the YMCA website or at the YMCA.

Contact the church office at office@wabashpresbyterian.com or 563-8881 with any questions or to volunteer for the Water Station.



June Church Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 2 Sunday School (9:30am) Worship (10:30am) | 3 Disciple Class (9am) | 4 | 5 | 6 Moms (9am) Neighborhood Walk (5pm) Missions Team (6:30pm) | 7 Study at Modoc's (noon) | 8 |
| 9 Worship in the Park & Picnic (10am) | 10 Disciple Class (9am) | 11 ROMEO (12:30pm @ Ugalde's) | 12 | 13 Moms (9am) Neighborhood Walk (5pm) Buildings & Grounds Team (7pm) | 14 Study at Modoc's (noon) | 15 |
| 16 FATHER'S DAY Worship (10am) | 17 Disciple Class (9am) | 18 | 19 Ladies Lunch @ Aunt Sue's Tea Room (Carpool at 11:30am) | 20 Moms (9am) Neighborhood Walk (5pm) Session (7pm) | 21 Study at Modoc's (noon) | 22 YMCA Dash in the 'Bash 5K (race starts at 8:30am) |
| 23 Worship (10am) | 24 Disciple Class (9am) Helping Hands (2-7pm) | 25 | 26 | 27 Moms (9am) Neighborhood Walk (5pm) | 28 Study at Modoc's (noon) | 29 |
| 30 Worship (10am) |  | | | | | |

Photo credits: Monarch Butterfly by Cathy Ginder & StreetScene1 by Scott Foster

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Guest Preacher & Pastor Jonathan's Vacation

On Sunday, June 2nd, we welcome Sue Babovec as our guest preacher, as Pastor Jonathan will be on vacation May 28th-June 3rd.

Loose Offering

The Loose Offering that is collected on June 2nd will be donated to Helping Hands. Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to give.

Preschool Registration

We are currently taking registrations for the fall classes. Please spread the word to your friends and families. Students must be 3 by August 1st for the 3-year-old class and 4 by August 1st for the Pre-K class. Parents can register their children online at wabashpresbyterian.com or contact the church office.

Thanks from Joe & Judy

We are very blessed to be a part of the Presbyterian Church. No, not that beautiful building on the corner of Miami and Hill, but the PEOPLE that attend that building. A big thanks to Bob Lewis, Dan Risk, and Howard Middleton. In just 3 or 4 days, they had the ramp up and now Joe can get in and out of the house. I know many people offered to help, too, and we thank them for the offer, but it went up so fast, no one else was needed.



Tin Caps Game

On Sunday, July 21st, WPC will be heading up to the Fort Wayne Tin Caps game. Game time is 3:05pm and tickets are \$8 per person. Carpooling is available from the church parking lot at 1:30pm.

Contact: Pastor Jonathan

Financial Report

| | <u>April</u> | <u>Total 2013</u> |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| Income: | \$12,311 | \$ 56,269 |
| Expenses: | <u>18,528</u> | <u>69,423</u> |
| Balance: | - \$ 6,217 | -\$13,154 |

God's tithe and our offering support the ministry programs and outreach ministry of our congregation. May your faith lead your giving.

Worship in the Park

On Sunday, June 9th, we will kick off our summertime worship services with the annual picnic and worship at Wabash City Park. Worship will begin at 10am in the Pavilion and a picnic style lunch will follow. Please plan to bring a salad, side, or dessert to share.

Contact: Carol Early at danandcarol.early@gmail.com

Ladies Lunch

Ladies, you are invited to join the women's group for lunch at Aunt Sue's Tea Room in Marion on Wednesday, June 19th. We will meet in the church parking lot to carpool at 11:30am. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact: Julie Chowning at rayjul99@comcast.net or Jennifer Shira at mjshira@hotmail.com



Willow Creek Leadership Summit

We are looking to bring a small group of leaders from our community to this global event, broadcast live to Oakbrook Church in Kokomo on August 8th & 9th.

Contact: Pastor Jonathan

Feed Our Community

You are always encouraged bring canned/dry goods for the FISH food pantry and drop them off in any of the boxes throughout the church. This month, we are collecting cereal and canned fruit.

Cultivating Young Disciples

(continued from back cover)

Building off the most thorough pedagogical research, Godly Play offers teachers the chance to tailor each lesson to each individual age level, making it a program that can engage the minds and hearts of a wide age range of children.



As your leadership, we believe this to be the best approach for our children; however, it will require us to invest in its future. Pastor Jonathan is pursuing a grant opportunity through the Lily Foundation that will match dollar-for-dollar our investment. We also have teachers committed to being trained Godly Play facilitators, who will teach our volunteers.

We are inviting you as the congregation to be a part of this investment. The Christian Education committee is looking to raise between \$2,500 and \$3,000 to invest in Godly Play. On Sunday, June 23rd you will have a chance to see a demonstration of Godly Play in worship, as well as find out more information during Fellowship Time.

We are very excited about the possibility of offering this to our children. We hope that God will lead you to invest in us as we invest the love of Jesus Christ into our children.

Scripture Verse

1 Peter 4:10-11 (ESV)

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace. Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

What gift has God given you to show His grace to others?

Prayer List

Julie Holderman
John Hughes
Lou Ann Shoemaker
Ruth Maxwell
Ron & Faith Rider
Peter Boone
Joe Waggoner
Jack Francis
Bill Skeans
Mary Henderson
Amy Turner

Kevin Gearhart
Lois Smith
Gary C.
Gary H.

“Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.”
1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

Have a prayer request?

If you have a prayer request, please email Jeremy Wright at wrightjmf@gmail.com. Please respect the privacy of others and share their concerns only with their permission. You can also email Jeremy if you’d like to receive the prayer list via email.

Gifts and Talents

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Every human being has talents and aptitudes to do work that serves the human community, but Christians have both natural talents as people in God's image and spiritual gifts as new creatures in Christ.

This means Christians not only must determine how their talents equip them for a certain range of work, but also how their gifts equip them for a certain range of ministry in Christ's name.

ALL ARE FROM GOD

It is not always easy or necessary to make distinctions between "natural talents" and "spiritual gifts," since ultimately they are all from the Spirit of God (Ex. 31:1–11; Isa. 45:1–7; and James 1:17). God may adopt a talent and use it spiritually to build up others or the church; then again, he may not. As J. I. Packer points out, sometimes a very mediocre talent or ability can somehow be adapted by God into a spiritual gift, while at other times, a great talent in a Christian never seems to be used as a spiritual gift or ministry....

HOW SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE DISCOVERED

Remarkably little appears in the Bible about the process by which someone "discovers" his or her spiritual gifts. Problems abound with almost any prescribed, definitive set of "steps" toward this end. The traditional approach leads people to test themselves in ways similar to secular aptitude tests. The problem with this approach is that it assumes you know yourself quite well, but many of us do not. Also, the jobs in a church often don't line up perfectly with one or two gifts. Someone may be a good preacher or counselor, but several different gifts could equip a person for those roles.

The same goes for most of the jobs in the church. We can discern God's calling when three factors come together for us: *Affinity* (What human needs do I "vibrate" to? What interests me? What are my passions?); *Ability* (What am I good at? What do people say I am effective in?); and *Opportunity* (What doors for service are open? What needs to be done?). When all three factors come together, you can see God has equipped and called you to do something or to move in a certain direction.

"Find the jobs in the church that need to be done and then do them."

This process can be applied to finding a job and making major life decisions, but how do we apply it to service in the church? I propose that in the church you start with the third aspect—Opportunity. In other words, find the jobs in the church that need to be done and then do them. Just serve. Don't ask too much about whether it fulfills you.

WHY?

First, the only way you will ever really come to know the kind of ministry that you are best at is if you do a lot of different things; then you will know what God blesses. Don't look first at your proven *abilities*—at your day job or natural talents—to determine what you do in the church, because as mentioned earlier, God may not use that. Likewise, don't look first at your deepest *affinities*—the things that excite and interest you. If you gravitate too quickly to those areas, you may miss latent gifts that you aren't aware you have. Just serve—plug the gaps in the church and help out. Go through the door of *opportunity* in the church, doing what needs to be done, and then as time goes on you can check your affinities and abilities and begin to specialize.

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**Loving people with the
heart of Christ in the
heart of Wabash**

Cultivating Young Disciples

At a time in which our congregation is moving into a new era in its life, the children's ministry—in consultation with your session—is excited to announce phase one of our plan for developing young disciples. At our May session meeting, Lee Ann George (Chair for Christian Education), Kendall Hoover, and Pastor Jonathan presented a strategic plan for implementing Godly Play, a worship oriented model for children ages 3-10.



Our children will be taught the significant stories of the Bible in such a way that invites their participation as “playful participants.” By making the teacher a storyteller and allowing children to engage each lesson using their imagination, we believe that they will have the chance to learn the faith in a way that will sink deep roots in their hearts, as well as provide them the language for interacting with God in their own way.

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