



# WPC Active

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## PASTOR'S DESK

### Vital Friendships

By Rev. Jonathan Cornell

*"After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself."* 1 Samuel 18:1

Point of confession: there are times when the demands of pastoral ministry and being a father to my children and an attentive husband to my wife do not allow for much in the way of other activities. No one knows this better than my dog Sam. Independent as he is, Sam has a way of telling me, "Hey! I need more attention."

Yesterday I came home from work, opened the garage, and found one of Samson's cries for attention on the garage floor. He had taken a cushion from one of our patio chairs and turned it into confetti.

Message received, boy.

But as I was taking Sam for his morning walk today, I was struck by the power of this gesture. Sam, even though he's K9 and not human, needs to be cared for



and shown attention. And if he, the independent minded chap that he is, needs this—how much more do we?

In Genesis 2:18, we hear familiar words: "It is not good for the man to be alone."

In his book, *Vital Friends: The People You Can't Afford To Live Without*, Gallup Poll Director Tom Rath makes the point that if you ask people why they became homeless, why their marriage failed, or why they overeat, they often say it is because of the poor quality, or nonexistence, of friendships. They feel outcast or unloved.

As Jesus hung from the cross, John's Gospel tells us that he looked out and saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved and said to them, "Dear woman, here is your son, and to the disciple, Here is your mother." As if to say, it is now among you that my ministry of mercy and grace will move out, and it will be manifest in relationships of care and friendship.

Sometimes it takes someone outside ourselves to point us to the relationship opportunity right under our nose,

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## Vital Friendships (con't)

one we didn't even realize is there. When we were all little, maybe you remember your kindergarten teacher saying something like, "To make a friend, you've got to be a friend."

*"Even with the imperfections of all human community, Jesus sought it out and believed in its power to support and change lives."  
(Reggie McNeal, Work of Heart)*

The Bible is full of unlikely friends; our community is a place where people from many different walks of life are coming to find a place to be the body of Christ together. Who is the unlikely person God may be putting in front of you, who could be a lifelong friend? It may mean doing the uncomfortable thing, like saying "Hello, tell me about yourself." But I promise that what may come is worth stepping out in faith.

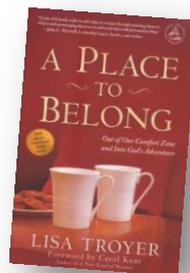
Pastor Jonathan  
Email: [jonathan@wabashpresbyterian.com](mailto:jonathan@wabashpresbyterian.com)



## Recommended Resource

### ***A Place to Belong*, by Lisa Troyer**

Every woman needs a place to belong - and that's the underlying theme of the new book from Lisa Troyer, president of *Circle of Friends Ministries*, singer/songwriter and radio host. In *A Place to Belong: Out of Our Comfort Zone and into God's Adventure*, Troyer shares her own journey to acceptance as well as the story of a group of "women helping women" who call themselves the *Circle of Friends*. Troyer encourages readers to form their own circle of friends, a safe place of truth and love where women can develop lasting relationships and discover together the purposes of God for their lives.



## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

### **Birthdays:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – David George
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lois Jones
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Katie Baer
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Gray
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Mildred Paullus
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Adam Zwiebel
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Doug Kramer
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Judy Waggoner
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Emerson Zwiebel
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Erica Moore
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Chloe Miller
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Jane Christy
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Amira Siddiqui
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Hank Decker
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Kelli Halderman

### **Anniversaries:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Don & Barb Maggart
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Brandon & Erica Moore
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Bob & Issy Lewis
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Pete & Susie Jones

### **Want to Volunteer?**

There are many ways to get involved at WPC. We'd love to help you get plugged in to an area of service that fits your skills, interests, and gifts!

### **Miss a Sunday?**

You can read sermon transcripts online at [wabashpresbyterian.com](http://wabashpresbyterian.com).

# Community & Missions

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

## Community Serve Day

Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, afternoon



**Togetherhood™**

In conjunction with the YMCA and many other local churches, you are invited to be a part of a communitywide effort to serve those that tirelessly serve Wabash.

At noon, the group will gather at the Field of Dreams. From there you will be sent out to various locations around Wabash to work together in helping make our city a better and more beautiful place.

“But I don’t know how to do construction work.” “I don’t feel comfortable up on a ladder.” Don’t worry; there are opportunities for everyone, even if all you can do is pray.

In fact, we have prayer needs as well. You can join with those who are gathering to pray for Wabash. There truly is something for *everyone* to join in doing for Wabash and for God.

**For more information, please contact  
Pastor Jonathan.**

**To volunteer, please see schedules in the  
Fellowship Hall.**

## Safe

By Winn Collier © 2014 winncollier.com

In several unrelated settings recently, I’ve heard people describe (with immense gratitude) their spiritual community as “safe.” This struck me as odd and beautiful. Odd because one rarely hears *safe* attached to *church*...

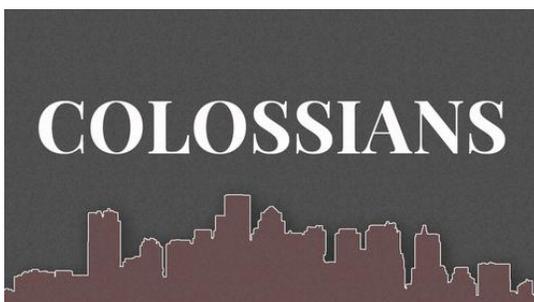
In each of these conversations, the person had encountered something generous, something spacious and healing in the rhythms, posture and tenderness of their spiritual circle. Best I could understand, they found room to breathe, room to be themselves, even if the selves they are right now seems to have little to offer and arrives as a Grade A mess. They knew the joy of the slow knowledge (over time) that their community possessed the strength and the patience to bear their full selves, that they would be honored and would receive tenderness and would never be shamed. There was room to be playful and to fail and to have a long stretch where their head’s just not right and they are not “productive” members. They’ve been told that their mere presence is enough, that it’s a gift – and they’ve slowly begun to believe it. So *safe* might be odd, but it’s also so, so beautiful.

Many of us live in fear of being exposed. Exposed for not being as smart as people think we might be or expect us to be. We fear what would happen if someone saw us in the true muck, at our absolute worst. We fear (particularly in church settings) what will happen if we ‘fess up to the shadow themes in our story or let loose with the questions that haunt us. We play the charade because we lack courage, and perhaps we lack courage because no one else has courage. Perhaps we are all afraid together. Perhaps none of us feel safe. Perhaps we are all alone, in the same big room.

So when someone tells me they have found a safe place, I perk up. I want to belong to a safe community. I want to be a safe person for others.

# August Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Worship (10am) Fellowship Hour (11am)	4	5 Mission Team/White's Olympics Meeting (6:30pm)	6	7	8 Study at Modoc's (noon)	9 White's Olympics (3-7pm)
10 New Members Class (9am) Worship (10am) Fellowship Hour (11am)	11 Nursing Home Program at Autumn Ridge (2pm)	12 ROMEO (12:30pm @ Ugalde's)	13	14 Buildings & Grounds Team (7pm)	15 Study at Modoc's (noon)	16 Godly Play Training (9am-noon)
17 New Members Class (9am) Worship (10am) Fellowship Hour (11am)	18	19	20 Office Closed	21	22 Study at Modoc's (noon)	23
24 Worship (10am) Fellowship Hour (11am) Community Serve Day (afternoon)	25 Youth Connection   Day at Winona Lake Helping Hands (2-7pm)	26	27 Preschool Orientation (6:30pm)	28	29 Study at Modoc's (noon)	30
31 Worship (10am) Fellowship Hour (11am)	<p><b>Out of Office Schedule</b> *Pastor Jonathan will be out of the office August 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.</p>					



## This Summer: *The Community Jesus Intends*

This summer, Pastor Jonathan will lead us through an in-depth study of Paul's letter to the Colossians, called *The Community Jesus Intends*. By being grounded in Christ, our lives can reveal and respond to His goodness in ways that create new community.

## Announcements & Upcoming Events

### Loose Offering | Habitat for Humanity

The Loose Offering that is collected on August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. You can learn more at [wabashhabitat.org](http://wabashhabitat.org).

### White's Olympics

**Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 3-7pm**

Connect with the youth at White's as they complete skills challenges. Then stay for a cookout with food provided by White's Food Services and a concert from 390 East. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to volunteer.

### Nursing Home Program at Autumn Ridge

**Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2pm**

Members of the WPC leadership team will be heading to our local care facilities to offer a program of music, entertainment, and a brief devotion. You are invited to come and show your support and friendship to those who live there.

### Godly Play Training

**Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon**

We will be hosting a training session for teachers of Godly Play. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office to register.

### Wednesday Night Meals

Our Wednesday night LifeTogether meals will be resuming in September. We are looking for some leaders to help organize food and volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jonathan or Kari.

### New Members Class

**Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 9am**

We are offering a brief introduction into membership at WPC. This will be an informal and informative time to learn about our broader Church, as well as the unique mission we have here at WPC and how you can be a part of it. For more information, please contact Pastor Jonathan.

### Thanks to our church family

Thank you so much for being our church family. You are the best. Joe and I were so grateful for the prayers, visits, cards and food. I truly don't believe there is a church family as caring and loving as the people of the Presbyterian Church of Wabash. And thank you for the love I have felt from all of you since Joe left to be with Jesus.

Judy Waggoner

### Feed Our Community

You are always encouraged to 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 canned vegetables and brownie mixes.

### SCRIP Gift Cards

Don't forget that you can pick up gift cards to your favorite stores and gas stations at the church office and help raise money for the church.



### July Session Notes

- Several building improvement projects are being discussed: painting preschool classrooms and checking their air conditioning, handicap accessible men's restroom at church, water fountain in Fellowship Hall, carpet repair.
- The air conditioning in Fellowship Hall has been replaced.

### Interested in Choir?

The Choir will begin singing again on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining them, please let Rick Elliott or Kari Otto know.

### Celebration Sunday

Celebration Sunday is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>. More details to come!

## Financial Update from Pastor Jonathan

As you can see from our monthly Financial Report, we often run at a deficit. Our annual difference is made up thanks to your generosity, as well as our legacy gifts. In an effort to keep you informed of the ways that we are stewarding the resources God provides through your tithes and offerings, we would like to share a few things.

First of all, if you have spent time in Fellowship Hall in the last few weeks, you may have noticed a little nip in the air. That's because after nearly 30 years, we chose to install a new Air Conditioner to keep the downstairs cool (including our nursery). This came at a cost of \$7,150.

Secondly, like all of you, as a church we pay insurance premiums each year. This year's premiums total \$12,800.

Finally, at WPC, you as a community have chosen to place as much value on people as you do facilities. Which is why we have been able to add such pivotal people to our leadership team such as Kari Otto and Rick Elliott, while at the same time keeping our existing leadership in place.

Why do I tell you this, particularly by throwing out some large numbers? We believe that as the congregation, you need to be informed of the needs of this church. But even more than that, we believe that stewardship begins with transparency. We believe God has given this church a mission in Wabash, and part of that mission is this facility. But more importantly, that mission is people.

If you are someone who already gives generously to WPC, we express our deepest gratitude. If you are someone who does not give regularly, we ask that you consider a gift to God's Kingdom work here at WPC. Even if it is small, you can know that you are joining in the good work of the Good News of Jesus here at Wabash Presbyterian Church.

## Scripture Verse

### Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

### Reflection:

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### Financial Report

	<u>June</u>	<u>Total 2014</u>
Income:	\$20,708	\$118,613
Expenses:	<u>22,254</u>	<u>153,604</u>
Balance:	-\$1,546	-\$34,991

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

## Prayer List

Family of Betty Gaither  
 Family of Joe Waggoner  
 Debbie Phillips  
 Ari Halderman  
 Bill Hamaker  
 Jack Crosby  
 Caroline Divine  
 Jane & Bill Skeans  
 Dick Reynolds  
 Jack Francis  
 Amy Turner  
 Oliver & Mary Jane Garrison  
 Hank Decker  
 Bernice Grover

Mary Henderson  
 Jane Smith  
 Lois Smith  
 Jane Christy  
 Nancy Chowning  
 Lois Dickinson  
 Mildred Paullus  
 Elmer Myers  
 Ron & Faith Rider  
 Kevin Gearhart  
 Mary Leland  
 Dessie Sturgeon  
 Connie Squires  
 Helen Shanks

**Wabash Presbyterian Church** – vision and purpose

**Access Youth Center** – impact on youth

**City of Wabash** – revival and mission

**85 Hope Medical Clinic** – touch lives with God's healing hands

### Have a prayer request?

If you have a prayer request, please email Kari Otto at [office@wabashpresbyterian.com](mailto:office@wabashpresbyterian.com). Please respect the privacy of others and share their concerns only with their permission. You can also email Kari if you'd like to receive the prayer list via email.

## DIG DEEPER

# The Heart of Epaphras

By Kari Otto

Epaphras could hear Paul dictating the letter from across the room. A letter to his friends back home. Oh, how he missed them.

He couldn't return to them now. When he had come to visit the imprisoned Paul in Rome, he didn't realize that he, too, would be arrested. And now he sat with Paul and Aristarchus in prison, with a few ministry partners there to support them – Mark, Luke, Demas.

Epaphras had come to Paul not only to visit and encourage him, but also because his church back home had gotten sidetracked somehow. Several years ago, when Epaphras was visiting the city of Ephesus, he had heard Paul preach the Good News, and he believed. He stayed longer as Paul prepared him to go back home and plant a church there, in Colossae. As the church grew, it was incredible to see the love the Colossian believers had for each other. It truly was remarkable.

But now... now Epaphras didn't know what to do. The believers in his home church were listening to these different teachings that diminished the work of Jesus and His death and resurrection. So he went to Paul for help.

Epaphras was drawn back into the present as he overheard Paul dictating his letter to the Colossian believers: "We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will, and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding."

Yes, Epaphras echoed his prayer. *May they know and understand Your will, God, and follow it with complete confidence and faith.*



"Paul in Chains" – Colossians 4:18

His friends were never far from his prayers. How could they be? He was there with them from the beginning, there as they heard the Gospel for the first time, there as they understood and believed and were baptized. He had baptized many of them himself in the nearby harbor. But the city was full of different ideas and philosophies, and it was hard to know what to believe sometimes.

*Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you.... (Colossians 4:12, NLT)*

Epaphras overheard Paul again: "Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into *him*, and let your lives be built on *him*. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

*Yes, Jesus, let them know that You are enough, Epaphras prayed. That You not only created this entire earth, You sustain it and You redeem it. You redeemed US, Lord. It's too much to understand, but we are so grateful.*

And with that, Epaphras began to pray for his friends, one by one, remembering the struggles they were facing when he left...

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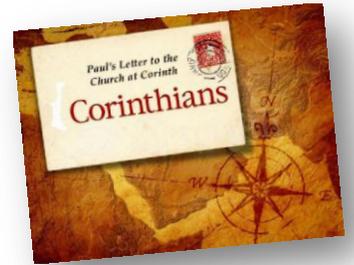
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**Loving people with the  
heart of Christ in the  
heart of Wabash**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Study

**Mondays, 9am**  
**Starts September 8<sup>th</sup>**

How does one live faithfully within a plethora of divergent opinions and view points? Ever asked this question? Then this study may be for you. This fall, you are invited to join Pastor Jonathan in an intensive study of Paul's Letter to the church in Corinth. Regardless of your familiarity with the Bible, this study is for everyone.



*\*If this time doesn't work for you, but you are interested, let Pastor Jonathan know! If there is enough interest, we will set up a second class.*

## Sunday School Class Schedule

Childcare will be available

Month	Topic	Teacher
September-October	Luke & Acts	Mark Fairchild
November	Heidelberg Catechism	Pastor Jonathan
December	Spiritual Growth	Kari Otto

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