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PASTOR'S DESK

A Dream Worth Dying For

By Pastor Jonathan Cornell

You may be aware that, as a congregation, we periodically offer assistance to families in need in various forms. Recently, a family to whom we offered help said to us: why are you being so kind to us? We don't understand it.

What a startling question.

Immediately a few passages came to mind. Matthew 25 says: "when you do to the least of these that you do it to me." 1 John 4: "We love because he first loved us." But as I sat with this question lingering in the air, a grander vision flooded my mind. It is God's big dream, a dream the arc of Scripture lays out in living color from Genesis to Revelation, a dream Jesus himself was dying to share with you.

That dream? The Kingdom of God. That sounds a bit vague, very simply, it is the picture of this world when God's rule and reign take root in our lives and in our communities. Whether through parable or paradox, teaching or rebuke, this is the dream Jesus spent his earthly ministry giving to us.

It's a big dream. We can't distill it down to a few memorable bullet points, greeting card platitudes, or religious clichés. It is the very act of bringing our



lives under his rule and care and walk with him as he forms us in the ways of his realm, on earth as it is in heaven.

For this reason, we're going to take our time in learning about this Kingdom. As we begin a new year we are going to begin a journey through Scripture like which we have yet to experience together. 2018 will be a year in the Gospel of Luke. This Gospel presents some of the most poignant teaching and vivid imagery from the parables from Jesus.

These will be necessary and critical times of teaching, because 2018 will also be a monumental year for us. This year will be filled with some of the biggest challenges and opportunities we have faced together (consider yourself warned!) Building projects, capital campaigns, deeper growth in worship, service, and community together.

But this much I promise, as you lean in to the Gospel of Luke, allowing Jesus to unfold this image of His Kingdom in our midst, you will find new wellsprings of strength, joy, and union with the Spirit.

You know the old saying, "where the rubber hits the road"? This is it. I invite you to hit the ground running with me and prepare to be amazed by what the Spirit does in our midst in 2018.

Hang on, it's going to be a wild ride!

Jonathan Cornell
Pastor

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Community & Missions

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

Feed Our Community

You are always encouraged to bring canned/dry goods for the F.I.S.H. food pantry and drop them off in any of the boxes throughout the church. This month, we are collecting canned soup and crackers.

WPC MISSION PARTNERS

- Peabody Retirement Community
- Kemmerer Village
- Meals on Wheels
- City of Refuge (Ghana)
- Thammavongsa Family Mission
- Wabash Ministerial Association's Assistance Program
- Wabash Habitat for Humanity
- White's Family Residential Service
- Winchester Community Center
- 85 Hope
- Arc of Wabash County
- The Access
- Campus Life
- F.I.S.H.
- Character Building of Wabash County

Helping Hands Ministry

The Helping Hands Ministry team is always looking for additional volunteers. If God has ever lain on your heart the idea that you should help in feeding the needy in our community, now would be a great time to volunteer. The work there is not demanding. Preparing food, serving food, and cleaning up are the tasks that need to be done. These jobs require less than two hours of one's time each week.

During most of the year, the WPC serves on the Monday of the last full week of the month. In September, November and December, we serve a week earlier because of the holidays.

Our Helping Hand dates for 2018 are as follows:

January 22	May 21	September 17
February 19	June 25	October 22
March 19	July 23	November 12
April 23	August 20	December 17

Time slots are 2 to 4, 4 to 6, and 5 to 7 pm.

If you are willing to help with this rewarding ministry, please let us know.

Thanks, the Mission Committee.

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Peabody Retirement Community

On 33 acres in North Manchester, Indiana, Peabody Retirement Community offers a complete range of residential and healthcare senior living options including neighborhoods for independent living cottages, assisted living apartments, rehabilitation, skilled nursing, and memory care.

Peabody Retirement Community's story begins with James B. Peabody. When James' wife, Estelle, died in 1928, James found a way to both commemorate her life and fulfill his dream of building a retirement community where older adults could live free from fear and worry. He joined efforts with Presbyterian clergy and laymen of the Synod of Indiana and the result was The Estelle Peabody Memorial Home.

Learn more at <http://www.peabodyrc.org/>.

January Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 NEW YEAR'S DAY Sunday School (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	1 Office Closed	2	3 Choir Practice (5:30pm)	4	5 Friday Book Study (11am)	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 Sunday School & Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) <i>*Loose Offering: Gas Vouchers</i>	8 Jessica Out of Office Monday Bible Study (1pm)	9 Jessica Out of Office ROMEO Men's Lunch (12:30pm)	10 Jessica Out of Office Choir Practice (5:30pm) Community Meal (6pm)	11 Jessica Out of Office Missions (6:30pm) Buildings & Grounds (7pm) Worship Team (7pm)	12 Jessica Out of Office Friday Book Study (11am)	13
14 Sunday School & Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	15 Monday Bible Study (1pm)	16	17 Choir Practice (5:30pm)	18 Session (7pm)	19 Friday Book Study (11am)	20
21 Sunday School & Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	22 Monday Bible Study (1pm) Helping Hands Ministry	23	24 Choir Practice (5:30pm)	25	26 Friday Book Study (11am)	27
28 Sunday School & Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) Annual Congregational Meeting (11:15am)	29 Monday Bible Study (1pm)	30 JULIET Women's Breakfast (8am @ Fried Egg)	31 Choir Practice (5:30pm)			

Business Notes

December Session Minutes

- Less was taken from Edward Jones in 2017 than anticipated.
- Some of the Capital Campaign funds will go to the boiler project.
- January 20 will be a strategic planning meeting of the Session.

Loose Offering | WPC's Gas Voucher Program

The loose cash that is collected on January 7th will help provide gas vouchers to those in our community who come to the church for aid. Give to this fund at any time by writing "Gas Vouchers" on your offering.

Financial Report

	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Total 2017</u>
Income:	\$39,544	\$356,052
Expenses:	<u>30,539</u>	<u>351,866</u>
Balance:	\$9,005	\$4,186

**We used \$6,000 from the Endowment Account to cover our expenses in December.*

Give online. Use our secure site to set up recurring gifts (like pledges) or for one-time gifts (like paying for a Bible study book or supporting our Mission Partners).

Worship & Connect

Life Together Community Meals

Our first evening meal for 2018 will be Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 p.m. In the meantime, invite another person/couple/family over for supper or coffee and continue getting to know one another!

ROMEIO Club Sets Dates

After careful deliberation the men of the ROMEIO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Club have decided to continue eating out in 2018. This will be the Club's 8th year. The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month except December at 12:30 pm for lunch.

Club membership is open to all men of the church.

The ROMEIO Club will meet on January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, and November 13. If you would like to receive a monthly email ROMEIO reminder please send your email address to jskalt65@gmail.com.

JULIETS

Juliet's meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at the Fried Egg. Please contact Julia Chowning if interested in joining.

WPC Women's Group

On January 17th at 6:00 p.m. the WPC Women's Group will be having a dinner and a meeting to discuss the disbursement of Spaghetti Supper funds. There will also be a program given by Mary Kramer informing us of her recent mission trip to Myanmar. If you would like to attend, there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Please contact Jen Shira with questions!

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Mark your calendars: Sunday, January 28th will be our annual Congregational Meeting after worship.

Bible Studies

There are several Bible studies in which you can participate! Contact church office to learn more.

Serve

In the Community

We partner with several organizations in the community. Look through our Missions Partner list on page 3 and see if one might be a place where you can serve—on your own, with a small group, or as a family.

Tools for the New Year

Be Intentional About Life in 2018

Perspectives Class

Willing to have your view of God’s work in the world transformed forever? Are you interested in learning about the history and movement of Global Missions in Christianity? Ready to be ignited in faith and service? Sign up for Perspectives Class. Classes start Sunday January 7th and will take place at Wellbrooke of Wabash. To sign up contact Pastor Jonathan or register online at perspectives.org



/// WHY PERSPECTIVES?

God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian in His global purpose. Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable, and perhaps crucial, for any Christian.

Scripture Verse

Proverbs 16:9

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."

Reflection:

Prayer List

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Virginia Duffey | Joe & Eileen Strickland | Jennifer Maxwell |
| Brett Maggart | Cindy | Teresa Bowman |
| Don Maggart | Susan Keffeber | Judy Lovellette |
| Becky Wagoner | Jane Barlow | Heather Houlihan |
| Jen Shira and family | Ari Halderman | Kevin Gerhart |
| Betty Randol | Brenton Yarger | Jack Francis |
| Elizabeth Macinata | Christine Murphy | Mary Jane Garrison |
| Margaret Hall | Mike Philip | Bill Skeans |
| Kathy Tackett | Stan Williams | Lois Smith |
| Bev Chain | Carl Willmert | Nancy Chowning |
| Butch Randol | Hope Unger | Lois Dickinson |
| Katie Baer | Carolyn Biltz | Mildred Paullus |
| John Schultheiss | Judy Waggoner | Elmer Myers |
| John Hughes | Kay Caudill | Faith Rider |
| Myron | Tina Easterday | Mary Leland |

Have a prayer request?

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

DIG DEEPER*Ways to Pray for Kids and Families*

By Kari Bartkus

As we look forward to the upcoming year in Children's and Family Ministries, we can't help but stop and praise God for His many blessings: a growing crew of kiddos who are eager to come together each week and learn more about God, a solid team of volunteers who have committed to teaching our little ones about God and the truth of His Word, and the multiple opportunities for us to reach out to our community through family events and Arts Camp.

But our ministry—any ministry, really—cannot thrive without the Holy Spirit and without prayer. We need you! We need you to lift us up to our loving Father who cares for us and provides for our needs. We need you to beseech Him to guide us and lead us as we move forward. We don't want to rush into decisions. We don't want to do things simply as a reaction. We want to follow Him in everything we do. And so, what follows are some ways you can pray for us this year.

GODLY PLAY

Godly Play continues to grow as we have about 15 kids currently in class and look to add at least 3 more students in the fall. Please pray for:

- God to guide us as we look at the possibility of expanding our ministry—additional staff, volunteers, and materials.
- That kids and volunteers both would be ready and expecting to hear from God during our times together in Godly Play.
- That kids would come to know and follow God personally as they come to know more *about* Him.
- That God would bless volunteers for using their gifts to invest in the children of our church.

NURSERY

Our biggest desire for nursery is to find a way to teach our littlest ones about God and His love, through our words and actions, and by teaching basic truths about God that children can hold onto as they grow. Please pray for:

- The possibility of having the consistent, weekly presence of a teacher in the classroom, where kids can develop a relationship with our nursery teacher and know what to expect week to week.
- Our volunteers to realize how vital they are to showing these little ones what God is like by their actions and words.
- Little ones to feel safe, loved, and cared for.

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

During the past year, we've launched Arts Camp, Mentoring, and family games during Community Meals. As we look into the next year, pray for:

- The preparation of Arts Camp 2018—finding instructors, volunteers, and financial support to give an amazing experience for local kids.
- Guidance in how to come alongside each child and family as they grow in their walk with Christ.
- The development of Family Events that can serve not only our own families, but families in the community.
- The opportunity for our ministry to support a mission-minded effort so we—volunteers, kids, and families—can give and help others.
- Our team as we proactively continue to look at ways to keep our kids safe and well cared for.

Kari 

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

2018 Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28th

congregational
MEETING

Following worship we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting to receive reports for Session as well as hear and approve the budget for 2018. All active members are encouraged to attend to exercise their vote.

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