



ST. PETER'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

302 MERCHANTS AVE.  
FORT ATKINSON, WI 920-563-3889



### WHEN ARE SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S?

There has been a bit of confusion about when services happen at St. Peter's. We do have two Sunday services which anyone may attend: 10:00 AM on Sundays inside, masks required, and 12:00 Noon outside, masks optional. We have encouraged people to attend the noon service, as Covid-19 cases are going up in our county, however, you are welcome to attend either service or to continue to watch our livestream at home. In addition to Sunday services, we have Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM Monday through Friday. We meet in the Gathering Room around the table. We have had up to 6 attending in the last couple of weeks and would love for Morning Prayer to grow even more. I am not always there, but Terrie leads and those present who wish to read take turns reading the scripture lessons. I am planning on adding a Midweek Mass in the morning with Morning Prayer being our Liturgy of the Word, so please stay tuned for that announcement. -Mother Mindy

### SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S

(All are welcome.)

8:00 AM Monday-Friday Morning Prayer

10:00 AM Sundays Indoor Mass, masked

12:00 Noon Sundays, Outside in the Peace Garden, masks not required.

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK INTO THE WATER....

Just when we were going to start having outdoor coffee hour, the Delta variant swept back in, so that is now on hold. When Delta calms down, we will make fellowship a priority.

### BAPTISMS OF THE WALLS FAMILY

On July 11, we welcomed five new members into the Body of Christ, the Church, and formally welcomed one more. The Walls Family then had a beautiful reception afterwards, for which the church provided the celebratory cake.

Jerry and Stephanie moved in next to the Church in the early days of the pandemic and have decided to make St. Peter's their church home. Stephanie has been regularly attending Morning Prayer, which has happily caused us the need for babyproofing in the Gathering Room! Please make sure to continue to welcome the whole family: Jerry, Stephanie, Elliott, Fiona, Piper, and Summer. Pictures from the baptism can be found on pages 8-9 of this newsletter.



From left to right: Piper, Summer, Jerry, Elliott, Stephanie, and Fiona Photo by Megan O'Leary Photography

*Pictures continued on Pages 8-9*



## WHAT IS A DISCIPLE, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

By Scott Gunn—October 29, 2019

Lately I've been on a bit of a speaking tour. It has been my great joy to have the opportunity to speak about discipleship. As more and more people focus on being disciples — rather than habitual Christians — lives are transformed and our church grows.

*But what is discipleship? And why does it matter?*

Discipleship matters because Jesus said so. In fact, Jesus said making disciples was the main thing for us followers to do. We'll get to that in a moment. First, we need to talk about the meaning of the word "disciple." There's a danger that it gets reduced to being a buzzword, something we slap onto the latest trends or whatever new program we want to implement.

In his excellent little book *Being Disciples*, Rowan Williams says that discipleship is a way of being not just set of particular decisions we make or activities we undertake. That said, there are ancient spiritual practices that can help us live as people transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ, people who are disciples.

The word "disciple" literally means "student." A disciple is a student of Jesus, someone who looks to Jesus as the image of the invisible God, for the revelation of God's great love for us. Adapting from the cultural context of the first century to the 21st, we might use the word "follower" instead of student. Those who are disciples follow in the ways of Jesus, patterning our lives after the example he

taught. Those who are disciples live our lives transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ, the free gift of his passion, death, and resurrection for our salvation.

Discipleship is the pattern of life for a disciple. As our baptismal service says, we are seeking to grow into the full stature of Christ when we are following him. Of course, we'll never manage to become fully Christlike, but that is the destination toward which we set our earthly pilgrimage.

What would the life of a disciple look like, if we managed to live this way? We would be loving at all times. We would love those at the margins of society. We would invite transformation in the lives of all whom we meet. We would be bearers of mercy, heralds of hope, and agents of grace. We would always speak the truth in love. We would be sacrificially generous, even willing to give our lives for the sake of the Gospel if necessary.

Living this way is not easy. In fact, it is impossible if we try to do it on our own. When we make impossible promises at baptism, we say, "I will, with God's help." If I try to follow Jesus on my own, I will fail every time. But by God's grace and with God's help, I can sometimes get it right.

Before we shift to spiritual practices, I should make one important point. We don't live this way so that God loves us. We don't need to live this way so that Jesus will save us. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit already loves us more than we can imagine. And our salvation has been accomplished on the cross and in the empty tomb. If you are baptized, you have been grafted into Christ's body the church; you have died to your old self and have been born again into the new creation. The reason we want to live as disciples is to know and to enjoy the gift that God has given us in Jesus Christ. If we know the breadth and the depth of God's love for us, we can share that love with others.

In other words, we aren't trying to be good Christians so that God will love us. We are being good Christians because God loves us.

There are several spiritual practices to help us live this way. Perhaps I'll say more in another blog post, but we'll give a quick glimpse here. By the way, I've written a small book on the spiritual practices of the Way of Love, and that book will be out early in 2020. For now, let's look very briefly at just a few spiritual practices that help disciples.

**Prayer.** Disciples have a habit of daily prayer. There are a zillion ways to pray, and I've already written a blog post with ten of them. The important thing is to talk to God – and, eventually, listen to God – every day. Maybe you say grace with meals. Maybe you pray the daily office. Maybe you have a few words with God at the start or end of your day. Whatever you do, talk to God. It's hard to maintain a relationship with someone we don't talk to!

**Study the scriptures.** Disciples delight in scripture. We are meant to know the stories of God's love for us, for each encounter between God and God's people in the past is also a promise of God's encounter with us in the future. The scriptures are not merely ancient texts to be dissected and scrutinized, but rather they are the words of life, the knowledge by which we are assured of God's loving purposes for us and all creation from the start of time until the end of time. Alongside the sacraments, the scriptures are one of the places we can know Jesus Christ. You might read your way through the whole Bible, or read a book or two, or read the daily lessons. But disciples certainly turn to the Bible regularly. In 2017, I wrote a series of three blog posts on how to get your whole congregation reading scripture.

**Worship.** Disciples make weekly worship attendance the priority. It is the most important hour (or two?) we spend each week of the 168 hours that God gave us. For Christians, this time

with fellow disciples can be inspiring as others offer the encouragement we need. And sometimes we offer the encouragement others need. More than that, however, is our need as humans to offer our thanks and praise to Almighty God. It is the glory of human existence to be able to offer our worship. Sometimes I hear people saying that we can find God anywhere. Perhaps that's true, but we can surely and certainly know God as the church gathers. Jesus himself was always going to weekly worship, and he kept the feasts. So if we're following Jesus, we should attend weekly worship and keep the feasts.

*The reason we want to live as disciples is to know and to enjoy the gift that God has given us in Jesus Christ. If we know the breadth and the depth of God's love for us, we can share that love with others.*

**Serve the poor and the outcast.** Read Matthew 25. Jesus taught that we are meeting him when we feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick, or visit prisoners. And when we fail to do these things, we are turning our backs on our Lord and Savior. This is not a case of me politicizing the church. Far from it. The Gospel itself calls us do this work. And when we do it, it offers blessings to us and to those we serve. It is Christ's way.

There are other spiritual practices, and one could write a library on how to be a disciple. The thing is that it's not just checking off a list: pray daily, read a book of the Bible now and then, volunteer at the soup kitchen, and so on. Sure, those activities are key, but the real essence of discipleship is the transformation that follows our encounters with God and the awareness we develop of God's love for us. As we do these things, our very lives will become more grace filled. Our problems do not go away by any means, but we might begin to know the peace of God which passes all understanding.

And here's the thing. Once I am a disciple, I'm going to want to share this great gift with others. I'm going to want to invite others to know Jesus Christ. I'm going to want to share God's vast love with a world in need of healing and hope. A focus on discipleship is not a vain exercise that is limited

to an inward focus. The church that focuses on discipleship is a church that forms a stronger community. The church that focuses on discipleship turns outward to embrace the world with the love of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus met his disciples after the resurrection, he gave them some marching orders. Until he comes again, Jesus' instructions still apply to us: Jesus came and said to the disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt. 28:19-20)

Our primary task as followers of Jesus is to make disciples. And the disciples we make are to make

more disciples. We don't just baptize them, though that is of life-changing importance. We are also to teach the commandments that Jesus taught us. And we don't have to do it alone. We are accompanied by Jesus' eternal presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Being a disciple is highest calling. It's a gift too great to keep to ourselves. Let us go and make disciples.

Source: <https://www.sevenwholedays.org/2019/10/28/what-is-a-disciple-and-why-does-it-matter/>

Scott Gunn is an Episcopal priest and executive director of Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church.



### Book Study: The Bible Tells Me So

Have you ever started reading the Bible and wondered, 'Why is it full of violence?' 'Why would God do/say that?' How do we reconcile what is in the Bible with what it means for us today? This class is for anyone with questions about the Bible, God, or faith. It is for anyone who is comfortable with the Bible, God, or faith. It is, truly, for anyone.

In our 7 sessions, we will use the book and video series from author and theologian Pete Enns. "The Bible Tells Me So chronicles Enns's spiritual odyssey, how he came to see beyond restrictive doctrine and learned to embrace God's Word as it is actually written."

Sign up now to join Pastor Amy on Mondays at 11:30 (in person) or 6:30 (online) for The Bible Tells Me So. Classes will be 60-90 minutes long.

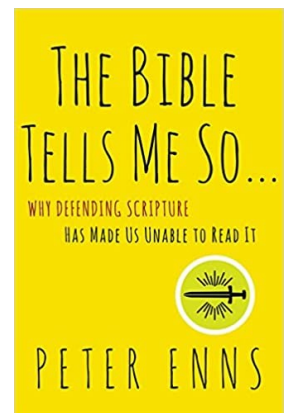
#### Dates:

September 13, September 20, October 4, October 11, October 18, October 25, November 1

**In Person:** gather in the sanctuary at 11:30 am for the video. We will adjourn to the large group classroom for conversation. Feel free to bring your lunch!

**On-line:** Zoom capability required

All are welcome to join this class – invite a friend!



## PRAYERS

- Parishioner Cycle of Prayer - Annie Stinson
- Ministry Rotation Prayer - The Vestry
- For those who are sick: Bob & Kitty Martin, Jerry Swanson, Jack Schark, Gary, Vickie, Janet, Joleen, Charlie, Obi
- Happy Anniversary John and Brenda Donohue
- Prayer for difficult times (coronavirus)

### LAY EUCHARISTIC LEADERS SCHEDULE

#### SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

##### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Ginny Laurent

AV Technician: Breck

##### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Ginny Laurent

Usher: Bill Cannon

Setup & Teardown: Scott, Bill

#### SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

##### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Bev

AV Technician: Bob

##### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Eda

Usher: Breck

Setup & Teardown: Scott

#### SEPTEMBER 26

##### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Randy Ridout

AV Technician: Breck

##### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Randy Ridout

Usher: Bob

Setup & Teardown: Scott, Bob

#### OCTOBER 3, 2020

##### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Cole Jones

AV Technician: Bob Krumm

##### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Cole Jones

Usher: Scott

Setup & Teardown: Scott, Cole

### ACTIVITIES AT ST. PETER'S

#### Monday—Friday 8:00 AM

Morning Prayer in the Gathering Room

#### Sunday, September 12

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube  
(Masks Required inside the church)

**12:00 PM Outdoor In-Person Worship**  
(No Mask required)

5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
Premieres on YouTube

#### Wednesday, September 15

6:00 PM Vestry Meeting (On Zoom)

#### Sunday, September 19

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube  
(Masks Required inside the church)

**12:00 PM Outdoor In-Person Worship**  
(No Mask required)

5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
Premieres on YouTube

#### Sunday, September 26

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube  
(Masks Required inside the church)

**12:00 PM Outdoor In-Person Worship**  
(No Mask required)

5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
Premieres on YouTube

## FROM THE DESK OF MOTHER MINDY

Dear St. Peter's Community,

What a year it has been! Nothing is normal during this time of pandemic. I want to thank you all for your patience with me and with our Vestry as we have tried to navigate this time. There are a couple of things that I'd like you to know as we continue together on this journey.



### **We are going through a time of shared trauma.**

The pandemic has been a trauma that we've all shared together. On a dime, our lives turned upside down. Those things which we could count on to order our lives: church, clubs, even the gym or pool, were all closed. We did not know how the virus was spread at first, so everything we touched, everywhere we went, every person to whom we were exposed was suspect. This is not life as we knew it and meandering through this shadowy valley has been difficult for everyone. We may be used to the unknown now, but that's still uncomfortable.

### **We all have different ways of coping.**

Sometimes I think about how angry everyone seems to be with everything right now. I think this is partially a response to the trauma we're sharing. When people go through trauma, there are stages of grief: denial and isolation, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. These grief stages happen, and not necessarily in order. Grief is something that seems to come in waves as well. One can be doing OK one minute and the next there is anger, depression, hopelessness, etc. I grieve for church as it was: no masks, the body and blood of Christ, coffee hour, Bible Study, hugs and handshakes at The Peace. We will get this all back eventually, but we must be patient. Please remember that we are in a congregation that is diverse of thought: some think our safety measures are ridiculous, others think they are not enough. It is impossible to make everyone content.

### **God is with us.**

Yea though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, the Lord is with us. Let His rod and His staff comfort you. I fully believe that the pandemic was not sent by God to punish everyone. I do believe that God is with us as we go through this. I do believe in the promises of resurrection for those who have died. Please, bring your anger, your sorrows, your fears to the Lord. We have a friend in Jesus, who knows what it means to suffer, and who can help you bear your grief and troubles.

### **I am with you.**

God has called me to this place to walk with you through life's changes and chances. If you need an ear, if you want to rail, if you want to cry, if you want to pray together, please get ahold of me. You are all and each a blessing to me. My favorite part of being a priest is pastoring. I may be busy, but I am never too busy for you. I wish you God's blessings and the peace that passes all understanding as we walk together through this valley.

With love,  
Mother Mindy

**Safe Above the Storm—**  
by Leslie Scoopmire

As the sun rises into the sky  
on the songs of sparrows,  
let me think on God, and praise  
God's Name.



You refresh my soul, Lord Christ,  
and knit my tattered heart to-  
gether again.  
You draw to me the solace of  
friendship,  
the prayers of friends to lift me up  
and ease my burdens.

Blessings upon you, Eternal One:  
You are my rock,  
my refuge to keep me safe above the  
raging storm.  
Even when the heat of turmoil and trial swirls  
about me,  
You, O God, are cooling water,  
and my ever-present help.  
You dry my anxious tears,  
and comfort the mourning;  
I find my home in your tender embrace.

Your love, O Savior, forever will I sing,  
and I will sing to You even in the darkest hour.

May I stand upright before You, O Holy One,  
and this day grow deeper in charity, faith, and  
hope.  
Turn the eyes of my heart outward, O God,  
that I may sing anew your grace in your  
community.  
Blessed Jesus, take us by the hand,  
and grant your blessing upon those we  
remember before you.  
Amen.

Source: <https://www.episcopalcafe.com/safe-above-the-storm/>

## ALEXANDER CRUMMELL

### PRIEST, MISSIONARY, EDUCATOR (10 SEP 1898)

Alexander Crummell was born in New York City in 1819, and wished to study for the priesthood, but received many rebuffs because he was black. He was ordained in the Diocese of Massachusetts in 1844, when he was 25 years old, but was excluded from a meeting of priests of the diocese, and decided to go to England. After graduating from Cambridge, he went to Liberia, an African country founded under American auspices for the repatriation of freed slaves. Crummell hoped to see established in Liberia a black Christian republic, combining the best of European and African culture, and led by a Western-educated black bishop. He visited the United States and urged blacks to join him in Liberia and swell the ranks of the church there. His work in Liberia ran into opposition and indifference, and he returned to the United States, where he undertook the founding and strengthening of urban black congregations that would provide worship, education, and social services for their communities. When some bishops proposed a separate missionary district for black parishes, he organized a group, now known as the Union of Black Episcopalians, to fight the proposal.



Source: [http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Alex\\_Crummell.htm](http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Alex_Crummell.htm)

## WALLS FAMILY BAPTISMS PHOTOS

Stephanie and Jerry hired a professional photographer to capture this special day.

Please enjoy these photos taken by Megan O'Leary Photography.



Elliott is Baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Mini Chalices were used for the family's First Communion.



Baptismal Candles and gifts from the parish of Bibles and a Prayer Book wait for the service.

Piper checks out the fountain while the symbol of our faith presides.



Jerry is anointed and marked as Christ's own forever.



Fiona giggles in glee at her baptism



Above: Piper grins and giggles at her baptism

Below: Mother Mindy Celebrates with the Paschal Candle present as a sign of our resurrection

Far Below: The Walls family is welcomed



Above: Stephanie claps and grins at Piper's Baptism

Below: Summer and her Godmother, Teresa



## Vestry Meeting— June 16 (On Zoom)



**Present:** Scott Fernhaber, Breck McHenry, Mother Mindy Valentine Davis, Bev Wille, Bob Krumm, Bill Cannon, Cole Jones, Ginny Laurent

**Guest:** Sue Blank

### CHECK-INS

**PRAYER** - Mother Mindy opened with prayer

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Sue Blank gave a little introduction of herself. Then, all the others did the same.

**MINUTES** - Bill moved and Scott seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS-** Budget vs. actual Jan-May. Contributions about 10,000. Budgeted for 14,000.

But, many people give at the end of the year. Expenses are down. All looks good.

Balance Sheet: making good money on our investments. Endowment is doing very well. Cole said that it would be good to compare to 2019 rather than 2020 of the *Budget*, rather than the Balance sheet. Mother Mindy said the Diocese sent a video with some good ideas. Will send this to the rest of the Vestry. 2020 and 2019 were compared on the Budget analysis. In 2019 we didn't have a priest, but were paying a long-term supply. Bill moved and Bev Seconded to accept the financial reports as presented.

### BUSINESS

#### Update from Finance Committee and projects:

Had a Zoom meeting with Finance Committee. They would like to "tick off" one thing at a time of the special projects we are proposing. They would like to see estimates on everything before coming up with a plan. Vestry agreed that we should get the porches done. Miles (from **Fixit Mr.**) gave us a quote **lower** than our original quote. His quote was accepted. Work will start next month.

**Undercroft-** waiting for a quote. Joleen is not be able to help with this selection process right now, but we can springboard from what she and Virginia did over a year ago. Mother Mindy asked: does anyone else wish to be on that small committee. Bev said she could, and listed times she can be available.

#### Vital ministries and Children's Ministries:

This Sunday will be the first time to meet inside the church. Outdoor noon services will continue. On July 11 we are baptizing 5 members of the Walls family and welcome them into the church family.

Mother Mindy asked if a couple of people could help her understand the flow of the Mass for the inside service - since she has never done it here at St. Peter's. Bob, Bill, Scott offered help.

#### Vital Ministries—Acolytes, Digital Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministries

(Breck also brought up that the digital service will take place at the in-person Mass ...meaning they will have a camera going and other equipment in place during the Mass.)

### SPECIAL SUMMER MEETING

Scott led discussion about the special meeting for electing new vestry members. Breck and Scott are open to staying on the Vestry until January 2022. Right now there does not seem to be anyone who attends regularly and has been engaged that is interested. So, electing new Vestry members at the meeting is not likely to happen. Mother Mindy has a minimum requirement for Vestry Members: that they show up for church regularly and are engaged in church life as they are able. She said that anyone who is currently on Vestry, and wants off, let her know. Bev said that she thinks that once we start meeting together again, people will most likely be more willing to serve as they become

more engaged and familiar with one another. It would be good to get those who are watching the Live stream (that we don't know yet), to somehow get them involved. Cole's concern is that every time we talk about a special meeting, we postpone it. Should we do it anyway? And see who shows up? Bev said that before she was on the Vestry, she didn't know that she could attend the Vestry Meetings as a non-Vestry member. Some have been asked point blank if they would be willing to serve on the Vestry and have declined. Some may have questions about why the Vestry has continued, or about what they're doing. Maybe the meeting should be a "State of the Parish" Meeting, rather than a meeting to elect new Vestry members.

In conclusion, all agreed to have a Parish Town Hall in July. (July 25 at 1 PM).

Bill moved to adjourn. Scott seconded. All were in favor.

Mother Mindy closed in prayer at 7:00

Respectfully Submitted, Barb Werner

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### Vestry Meeting— July 21 (On Zoom)

Present: Scott Fernhaber, Mother Mindy Valentine Davis, Cole Jones, Bob Krumm, Ginny Laurent, Breck McHenry, Bev Wille.

Absent: Bill Cannon.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Mother Mindy gave a brief explanation of church size dynamics. While St. Peter's is a Family Sized congregation, it functions more as a Pastoral Sized congregation.

Davis/Laurent motion: Allow temporary Clerk of the meeting to have a voice. **Passed.**

Town Hall meeting July 25, 2021 discussion:

**Getting on the same page with everyone** - "in concert with one another", understanding where people are coming from.

**Getting back to "normal"** - resuming coffee hours, ending the wearing of masks, gathering, reconnecting.

**New things:** new faces on the Vestry, new outreach activities.

**Parish picnic?**

**Encourage parishioners to bring ideas** - feedback to the Vestry.

#### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS:**

**Squirrel problem!** Eight squirrels have accessed the attic. Several tree branches that touch the roof made it easy for the squirrels to gain access to the roof. Breck trimmed back a number of the branches. The hole (NE corner where old and new church connect) needs to be repaired.

**Fix It Mr.!** LLC has provided a written bid/estimate for repairing and painting the porch and several areas that need work: *Remodeling of two degraded porches. Repairing many substrate surfaces; both wood and concrete. Painting of all trim, ornamental moldings and front porch inside and outside.* ( a copy of the written estimate is available.) The "porch part" of the project is already approved. If FixItMr! does the entire project, there is a \$6,000 discount. There was discussion about the project being done in one phase or in two phases. Having the whole project done at once is preferred. Discussion included a concern that if the initial work isn't satisfactory, can we get out of the contract? Should this proposal be discussed with the Finance Committee?

Fernhaber/Jones motion to accept the written bid/estimate with the caveat that if the porch work is determined to be unacceptable, then no further work would be done by FixItMr.! **passed** with an abstention by Breck McHenry. Breck McHenry made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Eda Wilson

September 9, 2021 Newsletter

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

302 Merchants Avenue

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested

	<b>ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b>	302 MERCHANTS AVE. FORT ATKINSON, WI 920-563-3889	<a href="mailto:office@stpetersfort.org">office@stpetersfort.org</a> <a href="http://www.stpetersfort.org">www.stpetersfort.org</a> Rector: Mother Mindy Valentine Davis
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**ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT**

To Lead Each Person into a Living Relationship with Jesus Christ,  
Train Them as Disciples, and Make Jesus Known to Others.