

The Misonary

The Quarterly Newsletter of **St. James Episcopal Church** West Bend, Wisconsin

July/August/ September 2021

From Mother Maureen

Sometimes the most familiar Biblical texts become invisible to us. Like the drive home from work, they are so familiar that we go on autopilot. The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of those; we assume that Jesus is telling us to not be like the two men who run past the guy on the side of the road. We want to believe that we are the Samaritan if we can get it right, try harder. It may be that we need to consider that the Samaritan is Jesus. He walks beside us in our mortal lives bandaging our wounds, offering his cup, anointing us with oil, and carrying us to safety. My experience at the Thistle Farms National Network Conference this past June taught me many things, but this is the core of what I learned there: that Jesus comes to us in our darkest moments regardless of who we are or where we have been.

“When I was at the bottom, Jesus came for me.” The woman speaking is short, with a shaved and tattooed head, the little hair she has is dyed in a rainbow of colors. She dresses in big bulky sweatshirts and jeans and has the face of an angel. She goes on to say, “In the group home I run I ask all the women to make a road map of their lives and in all the darkest places on that map I ask them to look for Jesus. They find him, and they see that they have never been alone...” He was there when their mothers sold them for drugs, or when their pimp confined them to the same square mile radius for 20 years. She goes on to tell me that we can provide all the health care, housing, and therapy we want, but until people find Jesus inside their own Hell, they will not be spiritually healed. “Without spiritual healing, we are nothing”

I met women whose lives are like big black holes. For example, one survivor had never set foot inside a high school and was hazy on the details that make it easy for adults to create new connections in life. What do you say, she asked, when women try to strike up a conversation with what they believe will be shared experiences? Tennis team, student council, embarrassing moments on the school bus? A different woman had never heard of beaches or even that the planet has oceans until she had been freed from the prison of human trafficking. It doesn't seem possible, but there are women and children in this country right now who are so confined that they have no knowledge of anything in this world except abuse. Despite their past, though, they can live lives that trumpet the evidence of God's saving grace in the world. We don't expect to see survivors of this kind of abuse smiling and laughing, let alone dancing in a conference center. I met authors, women engaged to be married, mothers of young children, and women who have become marketing executives and entered into all kinds of professional lives. These results come from a long term commitment, and most treatment programs in the United States are short term and not very comprehensive. Thistle Farms takes an entirely different approach.

I learned about Thistle Farms when writing a paper on the Anglican sisterhoods which flowered during the Oxford Movement of the mid 19th century. I was curious to see if any of the Magdalen Houses still existed and found out that we have a Magdalen House movement in the US, with over 50 participating houses nationwide.

Joyfully Proclaiming, Living, and Sharing Christ's Love

Thistle Farms began as a single Magdalen House for trafficked women and has sprouted into the largest justice-oriented social enterprise in America. They offer free comprehensive care for two years, and at the end of that time, graduates become sisters for life, staying active as mentors to the women following in their footsteps.

Recovery is built on the theological reality that Love Heals. Initially, the women take part in an intensive outpatient recovery program, then after three months, they have access to additional therapy, and on-site psycho-social programming. Community volunteers teach them how life works. Sometimes it's yoga, or cooking, or whatever creative offerings are available in the community in which they live. The key to their success is the care of the whole person. People are not just problems that need to be solved, but human beings lovingly made to live creative and productive lives.

Love, of course, isn't all poetry and flower arranging. Over the course of the program, the women learn to thrive within a structured environment.

Gradually they earn more freedom, but at first, they have to prove themselves. They may make mistakes, but they are never thrown back out onto the street. Losing privileges is called receiving a "spiritual training," and connects them to their need to develop discipline. I love how the emphasis is on learning the connection between spirituality and daily life. They also learn about structure by living under a shared Rule of Life.

A Benedictine ethos is embedded in the program. Prayer, work, study, and stability are all part of the life open to the survivors at Thistle Farms. As the program grew, the need arose to give the women real work. Thistle Farms produces essential oil based soaps and candles and runs a top-notch cafe where anyone can grab lunch, host a meeting, or cater an event. Most of the women have served jail time which makes employment hard to find. Thistle Farms teaches marketable skills and helps them to build a resume for a successful life long after they graduate from the program.

The keynote speaker at the conference put it well when she said that our healed wounds find the wounds in others. Our wounds become an immune

system in us that reaches out to strengthen the immune system in others. She went on to say that it is like the way mother's milk passes along antibodies to the baby and strengthens them. The baby's body communicates with the mother's body. But, if the mother's immune system is low, she won't be able to produce the antibodies that her baby needs. She cautioned us against searching for ways to care when we haven't looked at our own woundedness first. I think one way to approach this tendency is to see the Good Samaritan as Jesus and not us, which creates a healthier path to healing because it . This approach limits the us/them mentality that creeps in when we see ourselves taking on the primary role of savior. A misunderstanding that I believe blocks God's grace from entering in. We become the neighbor as a collective whole, which leads to the ultimate goal of union with God.

This collect from the BCP beautifully sums up a way to see how we can be present with Christ. We work, watch, and weep, but he heals us in whatever way is best for us.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

It was eye-opening to see women who were healed after lives of torture beginning in childhood. They are strengthened by knowing that when problems resurface, they are only problems and that if they stumble, it will be into the arms of Jesus. For more information on how you can take part in healing the wounds of sex trafficking visit <https://thistlefarms.org> Every candle sold lights the way for a woman to come back home.

Senior Warden's Report

I am so excited to be in the final stretch of our big celebration. This has been two years in planning but now is time to put it all together. Thanks, you to many of you who have stepped up to help in many ways. We will schedule workdays to put together the memory boards for display. More info to follow. We will need help in many other ways, and I will have a list shortly. Anyone having pictures or things to share, please bring them to the church: place your name on the item so we can return them to you.



The friendship dinners are continuing and going well. Thanks to Joan Noren in helping with these. If you have not been invited yet, you will be soon. It has been a fun way to have small group socials.

It is amazing to see all of your faces without masks and to celebrate our Lord together IN PERSON. Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as we navigated uncharted territory. We survived the pandemic, no priest, new priest and so many mandates from the diocese and government. All we wanted was to survive and come out the other side. We not only did this but grew and became stronger. That is what St. James has always been about. We are a family!

Laurie Wagner
Sr. Warden

Junior Warden's Report

The church is getting a long overdue facelift. The outside is being stained to protect the wood and make it look fresh. This has not been done since the new church was built in 1983.

The entry area garden and Columbarium garden are looking amazing thanks to Tom Rogers. We have had a good response to the watering schedule. Thank you to all who volunteered. Luckily the rain has given us a break.

We will be having a overall spruce up both inside and outside before the 150+1 party. More info to follow on that.

Work has begun on the drainage area near the walkway. We have a had a generous anonymous donation to make this area look beautiful and function better. It will have rock and plantings.

Tom Wagner
Jr. Warden

Treasurer's Report **Through May 26, 2021**

	Actual	Budgeted
Year to Date Income	\$ 73,947	\$ 49,398
Support from Diocese	.0	0
Drawn from Investments	____.0	\$ 13,358
Total Income	\$73,947	\$62,756
Year to Date all Expenses	\$ 62,616	\$ 71,763

Operations Investment income through **Ma7 26, 2021**

Opening Balance, Mar 26	\$123,880
Deposits	0
Investments Earnings	\$ <u>2,026</u>
Balance, Nov.27	\$ 125,906



On Saturday, June 12th, I had the pleasure of working with The Rev. Kevin Stewart, the Diocese's Community Engagement Missioner, along with others at the corner of 51st & Center in the city of Milwaukee. We met at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose to hand out free water and offer prayers to any passersby seeking refreshment of Body & Spirit. We were set up on the lawn of a Catholic Church with our cooler of water and a prayer box. This was a day that the local food pantry was operating from that church. As people strolled by they were offered free bottled water. Some requested prayers right there on the sidewalk. Some were alone. Some wanted those with them to join us in a prayer circle. I prayed with some by leaning into their cars while double parked on a very busy, fast-paced intersection. What to say to them was no problem – the Holy Spirit always supplied the right words for each person. There were some homeless individuals carrying their sleeping bags & carts with all of their worldly possessions; men, women, kids, young & old – some on foot & some in cars.

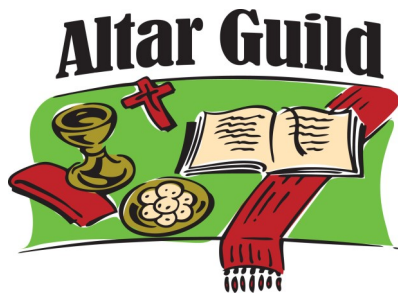
The prayer time and visiting time was precious. We ran up to cars, trucks and even city buses to offer water while they had a red light on Center St. being sure to get back to the sidewalk before the light turned green!! (Traffic on Center St. appears to know no speed limit for those driving on it!! It is FAST!!)

We were joined by other clergy – Catholic priests & a Muslim leader in his long garment & cap. Another volunteer came from Germantown. It was so easy to work with strangers when we all share a common goal. My close moment to Christ – a mother and her 3 small children walked up & I gave them each a bottle of water. All said “thank you”. The littlest girl just looked up at me with her big brown eyes. I removed the cap so she could take a drink. Then she was going to give it back to me & I told her could keep it to finish later. Again, those big brown eyes! As they all left her older brother kept bowing in front of me. He was not just acting silly; he was thanking me with such a sincere respect. That just floored me! I didn't think I would ever see this in a world sometimes so void of respect.

I came to this corner to try and spread some hope. I left at about 10:30 that morning with more hope than my Jeep could hold! I needed to be involved in this ministry ever since St. James last had its “Prayer Booth” at the Washington County Fair.

We see & hear all the bad things that happen in this section of Milwaukee on TV & in newspapers. Saturday I saw good people looking for hope. They are just like us but need and appreciate any hope offered to them.

Contributor; Frankie A



July 4 Patti and Joan Green
 July 11 Geri and Pam Green
 July 18 Sandy and Nadine Green
 July 25 Patti and Joan Green
 Aug. 1 Geri and Pam Green
 Aug. 8 Sandy and Nadine Green
 Aug. 15 Patti and Joan Green
 Aug. 22 Geri and Pam Green
 Aug. 29 Sandy and Nadine Green
 Sept. 5 Patti and Joan Green
 Sept. 12 Geri and Pam Green
 Sept. 19 Sandy and Nadine Green
 Sept. 26 Patti and Joan Green

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Women's Friendship Circle News



Our Friendship Circle Group met on Monday, March 22nd for the first time in two years! It was so good to see everyone and share our stories since the "shut down".

All the women of St. James' are invited to join us at our first outing on Monday July 12th at 9 a.m. at the Idle Hour for breakfast. I can't wait to have my usual "Toad in the Hole" breakfast there and visit with everyone.

Mark your calendars for our breakfast meeting at church on Monday, July 26th at 9 a.m. for discussion and planning for the rest of 2021. We usually have an egg bake, fruit, rolls and coffee at the meeting. Come to share ideas on where we go from here.

Sue Opelt



Summer Choir

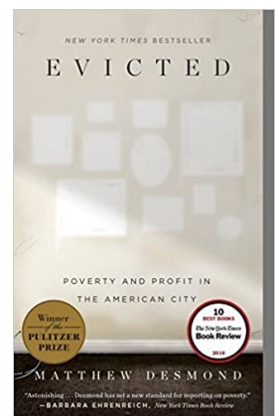
We will sing together again this summer for our July 25 and August 8 Sunday Morning Services. Rehearsals will be from 7:15pm-8:30pm on Wednesdays July 14, 21, 28, and August 4. All are welcome to join us!

If you have never sung in our choir before, please know that we welcome all new faces, all ages and all voices. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask Deanna after the service, or contact her at 414-446-1000.

BOOK DISCUSSION

- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Mathew Desmond
- *When: Wednesday, August 11th*
Wednesday, August 18th
- *Time: 6:30 PM*
- *Where: Church*

For more information
contact Geri Kelly @
geriannekelly@gmail.com



*July/August/September Birthdays*July

05 Charlie Burns
 05 George Lockwood
 07 Loretta Laatsch
 09 Mary Ann Peterson
 17 Ron Branta
 17 Izenosa Igiehon
 20 Joyce Goebel
 24 Nadine Monroe
 25- Pat Roecker
 29 Teddy Igiehon

August

03 Jean Richter
 06 Pat Meyer
 30 Kara Petzold
 31 Mary Miller

September

02 Tom Wagner
 05 Dennis Boese
 14 Roger Grosz
 17 Margaret Zimmerman
 29 Laurie Hess

*July/August/September Anniversaries*July

09 Laurie Hess & Joyce Goebel
 10 Delia & Dennis Boese
 11 Ron & Alice Kegley
 12 Megan & Noah Burgard
 12 Janice & Roger Grosz

August

06 Alice & Ron Branta
 19 Daryl & Loretta Laatsch

September

11 Frank & Nadine Monroe
 26 Samuel & Jamie Giessen



Do you have a location where we can place our cards about the St. James Food Pantry? Please let Mother Maureen know. Also we hope to share fresh veggies/fruits later in the summer, so if you have extra from your garden let the church office know.

LAITY SCHEDULE

I am working on the July 19 through August 22nd Lay Schedule. I've added and subtracted some people as requested. If you are interested in joining this crew of dedicated volunteers, please let me know. You can call me at (262) 338-0058 to sign up for the Lay Ministry that interests you. We have the following ministries available:

8 a.m. Sunday Service: Altar Server / Reader / 2 Ushers

10 a.m. Sunday Service: Altar Server / Reader / 2 Ushers

We also have a dedicated group of volunteers who count the week's offering after the 10 a.m. service. If you're good with math and would like to be trained for this ministry you can give me a call at the above number.

Sue Opelt, Lay Scheduler



Readings for this Sunday, July 4th, 2021

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm: 123

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

Collect: O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A link to the readings can be found [here](#)

8:00 AM Service

Acolyte: Sue Opelt Reader: Frank Monroe

Ushers: Nadine Monroe & Jim Opelt

10:00 AM Service

Acolyte: Judy Koepple Cantor: Robert Davis

Reader: Julie Maresh

Ushers: Ron Rabe & Frankie Aliota

JULY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ST. JAMES' BUILDING SCHEDULE				1 10 – 2 Office Hours	2 9 am Men's Brkf. Copper Penny	3 10 am - ? 7 th Day Adventists
4 8 am Eucharist 9 am Coffee Hour 10 am Eucharist	5 10 – 2 Office Hours 6 pm - AA	6 9:30 150+1 meeting 6 pm Friendship Dinner	7 M. Maureen Off	8 10 – 2 Office Hours	9 9 am Men's Brkf. Copper Penny	10 10 am - ? 7 th Day Adventists
11 8 am Eucharist 9 am Coffee Hour 10 am Eucharist	12 9 am Womens Brkf. Idle Hour 10 – 2 Office Hours 6 pm Finance Comm Mtg 6 pm - AA	13 6 pm Vestry Mtg	14 M. Maureen Off	15 10 – 2 Office Hours	16 9 am Men's Brkf. Copper Penny	17 10 am - ? 7 th Day Adventists
18 8 am Eucharist 9 am Coffee Hour 10 am Eucharist	19 10 – 2 Office Hours 6 pm - AA	20	21 M. Maureen Off	22 10 – 2 Office Hours	23 9 am Men's Brkf. Copper Penny	24 10 am - ? 7 th Day Adventists
25 8 am Eucharist 9 am Coffee Hour 10 am Eucharist	26 9 am Women's Brkf At Church 10 – 2 Office Hours 6 pm - AA	27	28 M. Maureen Off	29 10 – 2 Office Hours	30 9 am Men's Brkf. Copper Penny	31 10 am - ? 7 th Day Adventists

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