

This article was written by The Rev. Erin Wathen, Senior Pastor of Saint Andrew Christian Church in Olathe, Kansas. I wanted to share it with each of you as food for thought.....



Your Church Does Not Need Volunteers

Erin Wathen

I was writing my weekly note to the congregation. Usually in this note, I share a few words about the message for Sunday so that we can all be reflecting on the same topic throughout the week. It makes the sermon more of an ongoing conversation. I sometimes discuss something that's going on in the life of the church, as well. But this week, it was more of a thank you note. Because when I think about how much work my church folks did over the last few weeks to get our place ready for Easter, it blows my mind. And as I look around the property, I can see the fruits of many hours of shared labor.

Sparkling windows and floors; finely manicured landscaping; dramatic paraments, hung with a complex pulley system by dedicated House Elves in the wee hours... And then I start thinking about the work of the worship team, the children's ministry team and musicians; not to mention greeters, hand-shakers, bulletin-hander-outers, and coffee makers; and the youth group out there hiding eggs for the little ones; plus more behind the scenes workers I have not mentioned. Just thinking about it makes me overwhelmed with gratitude. It's enough to make my mascara run. (I'm not crying, you are).

In writing this note to my people, I wrote that *it takes a whole village of volunteers to make all of this happen*... But then I found myself hitting the backspace button. Because "volunteer" is not quite the right word for what our people do at church. I know I'm not the only one who cringes when someone sees me, without kids in tow, and asks if my husband is "babysitting." Well, no. I mean, yes, he is at home with the kids tonight. But I do not think you can effectively say "babysitting" when it is *your own dang kid*. I'd say we could just call that parenting. I feel the same when people talk about "volunteering" at church. And yes, I know it's just a word. But it's the wrong word, for a lot of reasons. If you ask a grandparent, or an elder of your church, I'm pretty sure they will tell you that the church they grew up in never asked them to volunteer. Historically, the church has asked people to serve—as deacons, as greeters, as Sunday school teachers, or on the property committee. Whatever the job, it was considered a service. A ministry.

The language of volunteerism is a pretty recent addition to the church lexicon. It has emerged with the mega-church of the last few decades—and the culture in which small to moderate size churches replicate the language and practices of larger churches. "Volunteering" is something you're asked to do, right off the bat in these places. It gets folks engaged, which is great. Maybe you give them a flashy name badge that says "VOLUNTEER" in big red letters, or a brightly colored t-shirt that declares "VOLUNTEER" on the back. This identifies you as someone who's there to help; one who can answer questions, give directions, or generally point you toward the donuts. That's a good thing. But I balk at the secular nature of what it means to volunteer. To volunteer means that you are an outside resource, stepping in to help an organization in need. Volunteering is what we do when we

pick up trash at the park, or build a house with Habitat, or help sort food at the local food pantry. Volunteering is what I do at my kids' school on Fridays.

In other words, it's what you do at a place that is important to you—but not at a place that belongs to you.



And I guess that is the important distinction for me... You cannot volunteer at your own church, in the same way you cannot babysit your own kid. Because the church belongs to you in the same way your family does. It's your own place, your own people. So of course you help take care of it. Of course you do yard work and make coffee and teach the kids and sing in the choir and whatever all else it is you do for the home and the people that you love. A volunteer, in most cases, is just visiting. A fly-by. Maybe it's a helpful fly-by, but it's not the same as belonging to something. It's not the same as contributing to something bigger than you, something that's part of who you are.

Maybe some practices of inordinately large churches are good ones, systems from which we can learn a great deal about connection and engagement. But ultimately, the language of volunteerism is secular, and more to the point, it is corporate. The notion is rooted in consumer culture, in which we can swoop in and give or take a measure that we deem fit, and then dart out again feeling we have done our part. We do a disservice to our faith, and to the gospel itself, when we reduce the work of the church to something you can mark on a time card.

All that said, we live in the world we live in, and we cannot realistically extract this word from the life of the church. It is both a noun and a verb, and it's the one that just rolls off the tongue when we are asking people to come and do work. Which, in the church, we are forever asking people to do. Still, as I plan for a summer sermon series on discipleship and what it means to let the church be the church, I feel a strong nudge to challenge how we talk about—and think about—the time and energy we spend in ministry. It's important to recognize those gifts for what they are—ministry—and I'm not sure the word “volunteer” does justice to the depths contained in the work people actually do in their churches.

Call it serving. Call it discipleship. Call it the priesthood of believers, or mission, or the ministry that we all share together. Admittedly, “Priesthood of Believers” does not look great on a t-shirt. And it maybe doesn't invite visitors to ask you where the bathrooms are... But whatever we do, we should remember that we don't just belong to the church—it belongs to us.

And we do not babysit that which is ours.

Fr. Bill +



“Raise the Roof”

-A reflection from the Executive Director of Education Equals Hope

Upon arriving in Port au Prince, Haiti, I really did not know what to expect. As we left the airport, however, my eyes soaked up every ounce of poverty that sank to my very soul. The traffic was crazy. Garbage was on every corner, some of which was burning. People washing their clothing at curbside while a child played in the water beside her. Women were carrying rice on their heads, and street upon street of vendors selling the same merchandise. Dirt, heat, and chaos were everywhere. After living in Ecuador for more than 10 years, I thought I was desensitized to poverty, but after seeing the poorest in the world, I am not sure if anyone living outside Haiti could really be desensitized to it.

We were taken to the southern part of the island, to Les Cayes, a town that received the brunt of Hurricane Matthew last October. In town I could not see the devastation until we entered the countryside. We fund two schools one in Savanette and the other in Cavaillon. One day on our trip to Savanette, it appeared the hurricane had hit just a few weeks ago. Trees were still on their sides, roofs half off their buildings, homes destroyed, and churches crumbled to bits. Arriving at Savanette, on a very rainy day, the students were outside the classrooms and under a large overhang to keep dry. The classrooms had water dripping from the roof seams that were damaged from the high winds. The building appeared like it survived, but in reality it was severely damaged. Many of the children walk an hour and a half to get to school, sometimes in pouring rain in hopes of a dry place with protected walls in which to learn, but after seeing cold and wet children I feel that is something we currently cannot provide.

On another day we traveled to a school we sponsor in Cavaillon, Haiti 7 miles outside of Les Cayes. The 40 minute drive there was due to the road, unpaved and muddy in some places, donkeys with people on their backs, and motorcycles. Even though I had seen photos of the school previously, I was taken aback by the damage from the hurricane seven months ago. The church, which holds three classrooms because there is no other building to house the students was horribly damaged. One of the classes taught in the church is kindergarten because the kindergarten building was reduced to large cement stumps and dust. Unfortunately, on rainy days or extremely sunny days, children and adults run from the gap in the roof so not to get rained on or get burned by the hot Caribbean sun. Even though seeing the poverty there, I saw smiling, warm, happy faces, grateful for another day of life and a ray of hope.

Education Equals Hope needs to raise funds for the school to RAISE THE ROOF. Please help us give these children a safe haven to learn. We need to raise more than \$24,000.00 to raise the roofs on two schools. Your help is needed now more than ever because last week the southern part of Haiti has received a lot of rain, which continue to damage homes and schools.

To donate you can go online to: https://educationequalshope.giv.sh/fundraisers/fnd_c75baac8916579a5 or send a check to: Education Equals Hope, 102 Academy Street, Fort Mill, SC, 29715 in the memo add Raise the Roof.

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Emily K. Caldwell
Executive Director
www.educationequalshope.org
Cellphone: 1-704-671-8592

Before printing please consider the environment. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela

"Be the change you want to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi



According to God's Holy Word, we are to care for our relatives. It is written in 1 Timothy 5:8 "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." Then there is the reality of it.

It's one of the biggest assumptions in healthcare: everybody benefits from early discharges. Providers expect that after discharge to home, family and friends can and will provide care and support as well as coordinate services, supplies and medications. The term "family caregiver" refers to the unpaid person who helps another, typically a family member, who is unable to perform an activity or instrumental activity of daily living (IADL) independently.

Typically, not enough thought is given to evaluating a family caregiver's capabilities, the home situation, the availability of financial and community resources, or the long-term impact of illness on the family. It is not unusual for the family to not realize what is in store for everyone once their loved one comes home.

Examples of people who need caregiving include those who have a sudden loss of independence from an injury, an acute episode (such as a stroke), or a gradual loss of function from debilitating, chronic health conditions. Some people require help because of special needs due to impaired vision or hearing loss, while others may need help because of a tendency to fall, mobility problems, dementia, neurological disorders, mental illness or developmental disabilities.

Delivery of long-term care services in the U.S. has changed significantly during the last 30 years. While nursing homes are still a major provider of those services, there has been an expansion of adult day care, assisted living and homecare service options. Public concern about the quality of nursing home care combined with the desire of older adults to remain independent has kept potential residents at home. In other cases, facility care is an unthinkable option for some family members, even when the need for skilled care or the physical demands of caregiving at home are overwhelming and unsafe.

Few families have the financial resources or long-term care insurance coverage to afford nursing home care or provide adequate paid services at home. Other families are dependent on Social Security or disability income and cannot make ends meet when these funds are diverted for nursing home care.

Among caregivers, one in five of those who helped another for more than five years reports that his or her health had declined as a result of caregiving responsibilities. However, while wealth buys services, it does not relieve the burden of stress on the family caregiver who may now need to manage two lives instead of one. Seeing a loved one with ill health compounded by an inability to alleviate the suffering and feeling personally overwhelmed and fatigued, the family caregiver can also become a patient.

Caring for a loved one is a stressful situation. It is one of the most stressful life events according to the Holmes and Rahe Stress Scale; and the more stressful the event, the higher the likelihood of illness. Family caregivers need to protect their health and receive support. So, let's be there for our church family, folks!

Most of the information is from nurse.com as a continuing education hour. There were a few thoughts added from my own experience. The article contains many resources below. Also, feel free to call me if you have any questions. I may not have the answer right away; but I will probably be able to find it.

I pray that God would give each of us the grace to face our various challenges.

Lilly Duncan
Parish Nurse

Philippians 4:8b, “Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” (NLT)

Here are more resources than you’ve dreamed of:

National Caregiver Resources

- American Association of Caregiving Youth (AACY): provides information and resources for pre-teens, teens, families and professionals; 800-725-2512; <http://www.aacy.org> .
- Family Caregiver Alliance: provides information, education, research, services, and advocacy for family caregivers with information in English, Spanish and Chinese; 800-445-8106; <http://www.caregiver.org> .
- Health in Aging: offers information and referrals, support groups, educational outreach, speaker’s bureau and publications; <http://www.healthinaging.org/resources/resource:children-of-aging-parents> .
- National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP: joint executive summary report about family caregiving in the United States; <http://www.caregiving.org/research/general-caregiving>.
- Caregiver Action Network: membership for all family caregivers, including a pharmacy discount program, toll-free advisory service, information, education, publications, and advocacy; 202-454-3970; <http://caregiveraction.org> .
- Well Spouse Association: the international support organization for wives, husbands and partners of the chronically ill or disabled; 800-838-0879; <http://www.wellspouse.org> .

Internet Support sites:

ARCH National Respite Network and Research Center <http://archrespite.org>
 BenefitsCheckUp <https://www.benefitscheckup.org>
 Caregiving.com <http://www.caregiving.com>
 Aging Lifecare Association <http://www.aginglifecare.org>
 Eldercare Locator <http://www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Index.aspx>
 Life Ledger <http://www.elderissues.com>
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html>
 Strength for Caring <http://www.strengthforcaring.com>



**We can share Communion,
even if you can't get to church**

If you or someone you love is ill or unable to attend church, we have Lay Eucharistic Visitors who can bring Communion to them. This is a servant ministry of our church and those who are involved would be pleased to come to you.

**Please call the Church Office at 803-684-4021
or talk to Father Bill, 803-818-8257.**

MAY

Birthdays

**5/2 David Sims
5/7 Sharon Greeley
5/9 Kevin Duncan
5/9 Benjamin Cotter
5/11 Clara Whitehead
5/13 Murray Somerville
5/20 Jim Linkous
5/21 Hazel Somerville
5/23 Annah Whitehead
5/24 Andrew Tiblier
5/24 April Weinzierl
5/26 Scott McNeely
5/28 Jennifer Lawler-Mecca**

Anniversaries

**5/2/2003 Diane & Jim Linkous
5/2/1998 Kelly & Jack Ferguson**

**(If your birthday or anniversary is not listed,
please call or email the parish office with the
information.)**



BAPTISM AT GOOD SHEPHERD

If you or a family member wishes to be baptized,
please contact Father Bill at:

billgreeley@gmail.com or call 803-818-8257

General Email: thegoodshepherd@comporium.net
or call 803-684-4021.



SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 7th, The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion Rite Two

May 14th, The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion Rite Two

May 21st: the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion Rite Two

May 28th: The Seventh Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion Rite Two

SERVICE TIMES:

8:00AM SAID EUCHARIST

10:30AM CHORAL EUCHARIST

2017 Vestry Members

Libby Bradford, Junior Warden

Home: 803-684-9300

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Ron Carter

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Meade Wilson

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Attending to Those in Need

Officer James Givens has served with the Cincinnati Police Department for over 26 years, but has never experienced this before. He was sitting in his patrol car in a parking lot when he got an unexpected visitor. A goose came to his car and started pecking on the side of it. He threw her food, thinking that's what she wanted, but she didn't take it. She continued to peck and quack, then walked away, stopped, and looked back at Officer Givens. Then she came back to the car and pecked again. She made it very obvious that she wanted Officer Givens to follow her, so he finally got out of the car and did just that. The goose led him 100 yards away to a grassy area near a creek. Sitting there was one of her babies, tangled up in a balloon string. The baby was kicking his feet, desperate for help. Being wary of helping the baby on his own, and worried that the goose may attack him, Givens called for the SPCA, but no wildlife resources were available at the moment. Luckily, Givens' colleague, Officer Cecilia Charron, came to help. She began to untangle the baby, as the mother goose just stood there and watched, quacking. Officer Charron did her job and set the baby free. It was like the mother goose knew they were helping. Once Charron untangled the baby, she put it down and it ran right to the mother goose and they went right to swimming in the creek. Charron tensed up and said it was the highlight of her 24 years on the force.



Shared by Mrs. Joyce Ballard

Thomas Merton, from *No Man Is an Island*

“The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image. If in loving them we do not love what they are, but only their potential likeness to ourselves, then we do not love them: we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them.”

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR GOOD SHEPHERD

First Tuesday: ECW

The ECW meets the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm in the Conference Room, unless otherwise notified.

Second Sunday: Finance Committee

The Committee will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Noon in the Conference Room, unless otherwise notified.

Third Sunday: Building & Grounds Committee

The Committee will meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month, when called.

Fourth Sunday: Vestry Meeting

The Vestry's new meeting times are on the 4th Sunday of each month at Noon in the Conference Room, unless otherwise notified.

STAFF

Barbara Wilson, Parish Coordinator

Cell: 704-641-0302

Email: bwallwilson@gmail.com

Randy Neff, Treasurer

Home: 803-684-4889

Email: wrn@comporium.net

Steven Aycock, Organist/Choirmaster

Cell: 704-965-4588

Email: 1aycock@bellsouth.net

Lilly Duncan, Parish Nurse

Home: 803-684-4966

Email: lillylandstreet@yahoo.com

The Rev'd Dr. P. William Greeley

Priest in Charge

Cell: 803-818-8257

Email: billgreeley@gmail.com

Church of the Good Shepherd

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Mailing Address: PO Box 437, York, SC 29745-0437

Phone: (803) 684-4021

Office Hours: 9am to Noon Monday through Thursday

ALTAR GUILD FOR MAY:

Team #2: Libby Bradford & Barbara Wilson

EASTER 4 5/7/2017**8am** LEM John Ness**10:30** LEM Glenn Gilbert

Acolytes: Quaid, McKenna & Aydan Lawler

Lector 1: John Shiflet

Lector 2: Barbara Wilson

Ushers: John Duda & Randy Neff

Greeter: Beatrice w/John

Coffee Hour: Marietta Morrison
& Joyce Sanders

Nursery: Susan Mason & Libby Bradford

Alms: John Duda & Randy Neff

Vestry Person: Meade Wilson**EASTER 5 5/14/2017****8AM** LEM John Duda**10:30** LEM Ron Carter

Acolytes: Heidi & April Weinzierl

Lector 1: Michael Weinzierl

Lector 2: Wood Caldwell

Ushers: John McNeely & Glenn Gilbert

Greeter: Beatrice w/Glenn

Coffee Hour: Barbara & Meade Wilson

Nursery: Maiah Whitehead

Alms: Henry McMaster & John McNeely

Vestry Person: Libby Bradford**EASTER 6 5/21/2017****8am** LEM Randy Neff**10:30** LEM Ike Waters

Acolytes: Quaid, McKenna & Aydan Lawler

Lector 1: Beth Hanson

Lector 2: Lori Ray

Ushers: Bob Ballard & John Shiflet

Greeter: Beatrice w/ John

Coffee Hour: Thressa & Scott Elam

Nursery: Renae Waters & Maiah Whitehead

Alms: Ron Carter & Jim Knubel

Vestry Person: Ron Carter**EASTER 7 5/28/2017****8am** LEM John Duda**10:30** LEM Henry McMaster

Acolytes: NA

Lector 1: Barbara Wilson

Lector 2: Ron Carter

Ushers: Michael Weinzierl & Meade Wilson

Greeter: Beatrice w/Michael

Coffee Hour: Susan & Tracy Ferguson

Nursery: Debbie & Maxi Shiflet

Alms: Glenn Gilbert & Barbara Wilson

Vestry Person: Diane Linkous**NOTE FOR LECTORS:****IN EASTER SEASON WE USE HOLY
COMMUNION RITE TWO, EUCHARISTIC
PRAYER D SO THERE ARE NO SEPARATE
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.**