

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a saying that one can be so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good. I completely disagree. To be of any earthly good, one must be thoroughly and completely heavenly minded. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, I fear that we have become so fluent in the "dialect" and culture of this present life that no one is able to hear any accent of heaven from us.

Several months ago, I was challenged by a church leader to frame our preaching to help prepare St. John's for its occupation and use

of 1150 Bristol Road. I understood the basic premise underlying that request; namely, that the gift and use of 1150 being one of the most significant events in the

history of this congregation, we want to be sure that the minds and hearts of St. John's clergy, staff, and laity are aligned on biblical principles and goals.

For this reason, we have recently changed several things in the life of St. John's.

We have instituted a Wednesday night prayer meeting called "Plowing The Ground For 1150". It takes place at my home, starts at 6 PM with a simple meal, begins at 7

PM with prayer, and concludes by 8 PM sharp.

The vestry and wardens are engaged in an ongoing discussion in which we are reviewing and strengthening our understanding of both our history and our intentions for the future. The purpose of this discussion is to be sure that we turn our principles into actions in the years to come.

We have instituted a series of small discipleship groups which differ from the typical Bible study or prayer group, in that reading, discussion, prayer, and obedience all go together. These discipleship groups are (for the moment) "invitation only" as we train leaders who will lead additional groups.

We have preached through the book of James.

We are now taking up a series through the book of Acts for essentially the same reason that we selected James; namely, we want to dig more deeply into practical Christianity.

Why the book of Acts?

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church
1150 Bristol Road, Southampton, PA 18966
Worshipping at Abington Baptist Church,
1501 Huntingdon Rd., Abington, PA 19001
Church Office: (215) 396.1970
Family Resource Center: (215) 337-2018 ext. 3
email: info@toknowchrist.org



Inside This Issue:

Opening Letter	1
Baker Library Book Brief	2
Agree in the Lord	3
Secrets of the Heart	4
Update from Santa Maria	5
A Letter from Lauren Kretzer	6
Moving the Office	8
Nov. thr Dec. 2016 Calendar	9

ment. The Gospels therefore comprise the answer to the questions of the *past*.

The Gospels also are the basis on which the church — the body of Christ — lives, moves, and has its being. They are the written word which reveals to us the living Word in whom we believe and upon whom our eternities depend. That means that the Gospels therefore are the foundation on which our *futures* depend.

Nevertheless, like the disciples, we have a right to be interested in what happens when Jesus is no longer around.

That is where the remainder of the New Testament comes into view, beginning with the book of Acts. They demonstrate to us that the early church, the apostles, and all the other followers of Jesus did not fade into obscurity after Jesus' ascension. More importantly, they demonstrate that God continued to make himself known after the Ascension of Jesus. And most importantly for us, they demonstrate that God can and does still work today.

Acts has 28 chapters. If we think of the books of Romans through Jude to be the 29th chapter of Acts and the book of the Revelation to be Acts chapter 31, we are living in Acts chapter 30 right now.

Acts' full title is "The Acts of the Apostles". It has been observed by commentators that the book could rightly be renamed "The Acts of the Holy Spirit". We will find that this observation carries a great deal of weight. It is my hope and prayer that the same Holy Spirit will encourage and strengthen

us as He points us to Jesus through this sermon series on Acts and in all other aspects of our life together.

Your fellow servant,



Baker Library Book Brief By Ken Cook

Recently, our Adult Christian Education classes on the second and fourth Sundays of the month have become focused on the opening chapters of *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughan Roberts. While quite a few people in the congregation have purchased a copy of the book, we intend to increase access to this imminently readable introduction to biblical theology by adding a loaner copy to the library.



Vaughan Roberts is the rector of St. Ebbe's Church in Oxford, England. [It is interesting to note that this veteran congregation dates from the Middle Ages (over 1300 years, to be specific), and has weathered two deadly bouts with the plague. Several times, St. Ebbe's has faced the distinct displeasure of the Crown and of England's oldest and most prestigious university. Today, the congregation is a vital and prospering Evangelical Anglican church.] Several members of our own congregation - Vikki and Ray Baker and Margie and Ken Cook - had the privilege of hearing Vaughan Roberts preach his



Picture taken from Wikipedia.org.
To read more about St. Ebbe's Church Oxford, visit <http://www.stebbes.org.uk/>

way through John chapter 15 last Fall at a PEAR-USA conference. This volume originally came to our attention through (the Rev.) Phil Hanner's love for the volume.

Throughout, *God's Big Picture* does an excellent job of pulling together the many small pieces of Bible knowledge which any reader is likely to have and then putting the puzzle together. The Introduction reminds us at once that although the Bible is a collection of significantly diverse ancient writings, the Bible is one book with one author (God) and one subject (Christ). God has had a plan. He has promised to bring about his plan and that plan has seen fulfillment through God's own action within history through Christ and the Holy Spirit. That plan is the unfolding of the Kingdom of God, even within our own lives, as we have trusted Christ as our Lord and Savior and have begun to follow him. It is likely that we have not always seen things quite that clearly, but it is a good thing that Roberts has done so.

Our author, standing on the shoulders of many other Christian theologians, perceives that the Old Testament promises may be seen in five stages. "The Pattern of the Kingdom" may be seen in the creation narrative of Genesis 1-2. God is the author of all creation; all his creation is good; he is the King over creation and the goal of divine creation is that of the blessed relationship of all his creation (including the man and the woman) with the Creator. "The Perished Creation" (Genesis 3-11) is the story of deception, rebellion and broken relationships - the Fall - that has had lasting effects even to the pre-

sent day. Ahead of us lay a tour of "The Promised Kingdom", "The Partial Kingdom" (with its sometimes glorious, sometimes frustrating, partial fulfillments of God's gracious reign with needy folk like ourselves) and "The Prophesied Kingdom". Beyond the Old Testament context, we encounter "The Present Kingdom" effected by Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection revealed in the Gospels, "The Proclaimed Kingdom" in which we presently live, and the coming, eventual consummation of all of God's gracious promises in "The Perfected Kingdom" brought about at Christ's Return with the making of all things new in a new heaven and a new earth where sin, death, disease and disorder are, thankfully, banned.

If you have wondered how it might be possible to integrate Leviticus, Ruth, Job, Ecclesiastes, Mark, 1 Corinthians and Revelation get a copy of *God's Big Picture*, read it and join the Sunday morning classes.

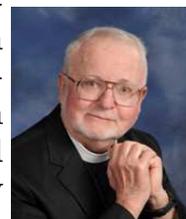
Yours in Christ,



Agree in the Lord

By Bill Kenney

Euodia and Syntyche, residents of the city of Philippi 2,000 years ago provide an example for us. Those two women had responded in faith to St. Paul's message of salvation through Christ. Paul said of them both, "They have labored side by side with me in the Gospel together



with...the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life."

But Paul's words of appreciation for them are balanced by his words of dire warning for them. "I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord." Their shared commitment to the Lord was now jeopardized by unresolved rancor toward each other.

It grieved Paul deeply that they "did not agree" on some disputed issue, which for us today is unknown.

He knew that true Christians, when they do not agree with one another, are obliged in love to work out their differences with fear and trembling, with humility and gentleness. Apparently, Paul could detect no sign at all of these essential godly characteristics, because they had been smothered by a smog of perpetual hostility that had settled between the two women.

Note that Paul did not merely advise or recommend that together they should work out a solution to their differences. Instead, he entreated, implored, begged, and besought them to do so. He could foresee that their hostility, left unchecked, would have eventually destroyed them and probably would have infected their fellow Christians.

This little incident serves as a warning to us today in our church family as we tackle our disagreements over the details in our planned move to Bristol Road.

Bill

Secrets of the Heart
By Helen Miller

John 2:23-25

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs He was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people, and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

Luke 12:2-3

There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms shall be proclaimed from the roofs.

There are no secrets from God. Do you have thoughts or memories that come unbidden in the middle of the night that make you cringe, or wonder to yourself, "How could I have said that?" or "Why did I do that?"

I do.

Words, in particular, are as cutting as knives.

Jesus knows my hidden thoughts and actions. No one else in the world may know about them, but He knows me inside and out. And He died for me to forgive for the stinky messes I've created in this life.

He also says that nothing will stay hidden forever. Eventually all things are revealed.

What have I done in my life that I would not care to reveal to the public? What have I said that was hurtful, especially when I was young

and foolish, and later in my life, as well? I hate to admit that there are specific instances that come to mind, but there you are—now you know! I'm definitely in need of God's amazing grace and forgiveness.

There is only one person who was perfect, and that was Jesus Christ. If we trust in other people to make us happy, or to feel safe, we'll always be disappointed. Jesus had confidence in God alone, not man, and God never disappointed Him.

I'm not allowed to judge others' actions, as that isn't my responsibility. Instead, I'm called to pray for the ones who appear to need it desperately, and let God deal with the judging and consequences. What a blessing to know He is the one who is in control!

THANK YOU!

I want to thank Deb Hedrick, Lynn Rudolph, and Eleanor and Ron Fell for helping us pack up in preparation for our move to 1150 Bristol Road. We're grateful to have their planning and packing skills! Thanks so much to all of you.

Family Resource Center: 215-345-1970
helen@toknowchrist.org



*An Update from Santa Maria,
Nicaragua
From Juan Gonzalez*

I cannot thank God enough for leading me to Santa Maria, Chinandega with St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church. The experience for me has been life-changing. The com-

ination of academic and Biblical knowledge with personal heart knowledge of God and practical experience among the students has been invaluable. My heart is to continually point people to Jesus throughout my job as a tutor.

As I remember going on my firsts trips to Santa Maria as an interpreter, I realized how much God was preparing me to help people in that area. Has this job been easy? Not at all. It has taken courage, lots of prayers and commitment. Quite honestly, I can say that I have sometimes felt discouraged, worried, challenged and alone, but Praise God for those trials I have gone through, because those bad times have made me stronger. Chris has been there almost 24/7 for me and has lifted me up when needed. I appreciate his support and love for not only me but also towards my family.

To become a tutor was just the beginning of opening up a whole new world academically and spiritually. It has changed the course of my life, family and the things I go after and the decisions I have made since. I knew my time there would be amazing, but I didn't expect the foundational impact it would have on the rest of my life! I can't even imagine how all this will also impact the life of the kids in Santa Maria. Sometimes I wonder if all my effort, time and St. John's investment is worthy, but then I realize that indeed it is.

I served Jesus with different organizations here in Nicaragua beginning in 2004 and since then, mission work has become my passion. I do miss serving with missionaries and missionary teams all over my country, but I also know that God's



calling to my life is in Santa Maria for now. Rev. Mark and Chris keep telling me that I am a missionary in my own country for what I do for the kids and I believe it is true. Before coming to Santa Maria I felt totally unprepared to go to the mission field. I had a desire to serve but had no idea what that would look like. I thank God for the missionaries who helped me with some training as they have equipped me to serve in my own country today. It stretched me to go deeper with God and know him more intimately. St. John's played a vital role in fueling and directing my passion for missions while serving with their teams in years past. The training



and teaching I received there from Rev. Mark and Rev. Phil has not only continued to help me in my work, but has also made me much more willing and able to share Christ with this community that surrounds me every week. Today I am able to teach about 5 new kids from elementary school how to write in cursive letters, as well as reading.

Finally, I want to ask you to keep me and my family and your prayers, that we remain strong and faithful to God. Pray for my daugh-

ter Valentina who has been facing serious health condition in the last two weeks as she was diagnosed with sinusitis and bronchitis. Also pray for the students as they get closer to the end of their school year next month, that they all can finish their classes with successful grades and knowledge. I feel very proud of, and want to congratulate, Gloria, Yesika and Tamara who will graduate from high school in within a month or so. I want to also congratulate Felipe who just recently graduated from the University. I pray God open doors of job opportunities for him and that the 3 kids graduating from high school will be able to continue studying in university.

We are disciples,
Juan and Alejandra!

A Letter from Lauren Kretzer

Dear Family,

First, thank you for being such a blessing to me as I follow God's clear calling to allow Him to use my story. After a very quiet summer, it seems that so much is happening all at once.

Thank you for praying for the Annual Philadelphia March for Life across the street from City Hall on 9/24. This event is sponsored by the Philadelphia Archdiocese and I was asked to speak on behalf of people who had been hurt by abortion. I was one of seven (7) speakers representing every area of life. I am expecting to see some videos of the speakers posted at some point on their web site.

The weekend of 10/8-9 was our Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. When I joined the team 2 ½ years ago, I felt like a "fly on the wall." My friend and mentor, Gerri Simboli has had a powerful influence on me. Sadly, her health is failing so her time at the retreat is becoming less and less. For this reason, I am being given more and more responsibilities. I know that this is God's timing but with any new "job" comes a little stress because I want to do this with excellence. At the same time I do not feel worthy and am sad about the circumstances. 2 Cor 12:9 is my verse for this weekend. Please remember the 12 retreatants. I remember walking into my first retreat and feeling so scared and vulnerable. It would not have taken much for me to turn and run. But I stayed. I cried from beginning to end. The beginning was fear and the end was overwhelming joy.

40 Days For Life

This is a campaign to get people to come out to abortion facilities all over the world to simply pray. The goal is to have people pray continuously for 24 hours a day in one hour shifts. The current campaign is going until Nov 6. I want to encourage you to commit to an hour of prayer at our local Planned Parenthood on Louis Drive in Warminster. Fr. Ken and I will be organizing a group of participants from St. John's soon; please plan to join us for this ministry.

This year someone donated a huge RV to the 40 Days for Life ministry. They are travelling to all 50 states in an effort to encourage us. At each stop they have a vigil or a

rally. On 10/4 they made two stops in our area. I am excited to say that St John's was represented at both sites. Our own Ken was at the Warminster stop yesterday at 3:15.

40daysforlife.com/2016/10/05/united-tour-new-york-pennsylvania/
<<https://40daysforlife.com/2016/10/05/united-tour-new-york-pennsylvania/>>

As well, I was invited to share a short testimony at 12th and Locust in Philadelphia. What a night! It was a very emotional time for me because this is the first time I had ever spoken outside of an abortion facility. In addition to that I was introduced by David Bereit, CEO of 40 Days for Life and one of my heroes.

So to wrap this up, here is an action point:

Please donate some of your time to lovingly pray outside the Warminster Planned Parenthood. It is not just about the babies. There are a lot of workers in the facility. Some of them even feel trapped in a job that gives them nightmares but supper still has to go on the table.

Thank you,
Lauren Kretzer

Moving the Office *By Cindy Kamm*

Moving an office is no small task, but Deb Hedrick promised us we would have fun. If you did happen to stop by our office at 709 Easton Road in Willow Grove, you would have seen the many boxes packed and stacked in preparation for November 7th move. The Library was packed into boxes on Thursday, October 20th. Many

volunteers have given us their strong backs and arms to complete this move. We'd like to thank Julia Hutchins, Carol McKnight and Eleanor Fell, all of you who are "fervently" praying, donating beautiful office furniture, and making decisions, i.e. our Wardens, the Vestry, and the Property Discernment Committee.

With this move, we are transitioning some bible studies, prayer groups and meetings to 1150 Bristol Road as follows:

Wednesday Evening Supper & Prayer Group — November 2nd at 6pm/7pm

Monday Evening Bible Study — November 7th at 7:30 pm

Tuesday Morning Staff Meeting — November 8th at 9:30 am

Thursday Morning Men's Study — November 10th at 6:30 am

God has called the St. John's family to Southampton and its surrounding communities with its Family Resource Center to serve those in need. Personally, I can't wait to see the possibilities awaiting us. WE ARE ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH!

Yours in Christ,



If you make your donations to St. John's through your online banking service, please remember to change the address to:

***1150 Bristol Church
Southampton, PA 18966***

Thanks!

Editor's Note: Many of these articles were written before November 1st.

~ November 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
13 7:45a Holy Communion—Parlor 9a Holy Communion-Sanctuary 10:45a Christian Education-Hall 2p Holy Communion—Lancaster 5p Community Life Group	14 7:30p Study of 1 John SJ Office	15 9:30a Staff Meeting - SJ Office 7p Women's Bible Study Chalfont	16 9a Holy Communion 10a Women's Bible Study - P 6p Light Meal @ St. John's 7p Weekly Evening Prayer @ St. John's 7:30p Men's Group-How People Change	17 What's the Buzz Due 6:30a Men's Morning Bible Study 8:30a Clergy Prayer-SJ Office 7:30p Choir Practice	18	19 7p Kingdom Fellowship	
20 7:45a Holy Communion—Parlor 9a Holy Communion-Sanctuary 10:45a ADVENT WREATH MAKING 2p Holy Communion—Lancaster 5p Community Life Group	21 7p Eve Women's Fellowship 7:30p Study of 1 John SJ Office	22 9:30a Staff Meeting - SJ Office	23 9a Holy Communion 7:30p Thanksgiving Eve	24 Evangelist Articles Due What's the Buzz Due 6:30a Men's Morning Bible Study	25 7p Friday Night Bible Study	26	
27 Advent begins 7:45a Holy Communion—Parlor 9a Holy Communion-Sanctuary 9a Holy Communion-Sanctuary 10:30a ADVENT WREATH MAKING 2p Holy Communion—Lancaster 5p Community Life Group	28 7:30p Study of 1 John SJ Office	29 9:30a Staff Meeting - SJ Office	30 9a Holy Communion 10a Women's Bible Study - P 6p Light Meal @ St. John's 7p Weekly Evening Prayer @ St. John's				

~ December 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 What's the Buzz Due 6:30a Men's Morning Bible Study 8:30a Clergy Prayer-SJ Office 10a Caregivers 7:30p Choir Practice	2 10a DECORATING ABC SANCTUARY 7:30p Kingdom Fellowship	
4 7:45a Holy Communion—Parlor 9a Morning Prayer—Sanctuary 11a Pot Luck-DICKEN'S CHRISTMAS 2p Holy Communion—Lancaster 5p Community Life Group	5 7p Eve Women's Fellowship 7:30p Missions Committee 7:30p Study of 1 John SJ Office	6 9:30a Staff Meeting - SJ Office 7p Womens Bible Study Chalfont 7:30p Christian Ed Mtg	7 9a Holy Communion 10a Women's Bible Study - P	8 What's the Buzz Due 6:30a Men's Morning Bible Study 8:30a Clergy Prayer-SJ Office 11a Redeemer Village Communion 7:30p Choir Practice	9 7p Friday Night Abington Bible Study	
11 7:45a Holy Communion—Parlor 9a Holy Communion-Sanctuary 10:45a Christian Education-Hall 2p Holy Communion—Lancaster 5p Community Life Group	12 7:30p Study of 1 John SJ Office	13 9:30a Staff Meeting - SJ Office 7:30p Vestry Meeting-SJ Office	14 9a Holy Communion 10a Women's Bible Study - P	15 What's the Buzz Due 6:30a Men's Morning Bible Study 8:30a Clergy Prayer-SJ Office 7:30p Choir Practice	16	17 7p Kingdom Fellowship

~ December 2016 (continued)~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 7:45a Holy Communion—Parlor 9a LESSONS & CAROLS 10:30a WASSAIL BOWL 2p Holy Communion—Lancaster 5p Community Life Group	19 7:30p Study of 1 John SJ Office	20 9:30a Staff Meeting - SJ Office 7p Women's Bible Study Chalfont	21 9a Holy Communion 7:30p Men's Group-How People Change	22 What's the Buzz Due 6:30a Men's Morning Bible Study 8:30a Clergy Prayer-SJ Office 7:30p Choir Practice	23 7p Friday Night Bible Study	24 Evangelist Articles Due 10p Christmas Eve Service
25 7:45a Holy Communion—Parlor 9a Holy Communion-Sanctuary 2p Holy Communion—Lancaster 5p Community Life Group	26 7:30p Study of 1 John SJ Office	27 9:30a Staff Meeting - SJ Office	28 9a Holy Communion	29 What's the Buzz Due 6:30a Men's Morning Bible Study 8:30a Clergy Prayer-SJ Office 7:30p Choir Practice	30	31

