



Stop

I've been watching the series of videos about time offered by the Brothers of SSJE. Thursday's meditation was about the commandment to rest – the commandment to stop. The commandment to rest is a part of the commandment to love, says Br. Jonathan Maury said was this, and then he continues:

God is not *commanding* us to love but *drawing* us to love, and for that we must stop. We must stop periodically. Stop to give thanks – gratitude for our very being apart from anything that we do or achieve or seek to bring about in the world, any kind of productivity – to simply rejoice in our bodies, minds, and spirits as the whole of a reflection of the image and likeness of God; that we are like none other.

I was particularly struck by the contrast between being drawn to something, and being commanded to do something – with respect to the Ten Commandments or the Great Commandment or any other commandment. The word “commandment” suggests that we are being told what to do, and implies an “or else” to follow. But the commandments are given to us as gifts, as reminders of what it means to be in a healthy relationship with God, to have the right priorities, and so I love the language of God drawing us to love. The question that's asked at the end of the meditation is this:

Where are you drawn when you follow your heart?

So often our lives push us to keep our hearts well protected and well hidden. But it is our hearts and guts that usually tell us the most important things even if our minds can't put words to our response. Sometimes we can feel our hearts tremble or seem like they'll burst out of our chests with joy. Sometimes we feel butterflies in our stomach, telling us that we're nervous or excited or both; sometimes our stomachs are in knots because we're anxious and stressed. Sometimes we experience a sense of peace and calm that can only come from God. So perhaps another way to ask the question is: what makes our hearts break, or break open, reminding us that we are alive?

Whatever it is, we need to stop if we're to pay attention to our bodies and our spirits and what they are telling us about God's love and care for us. As Isaiah puts it so beautifully:

I have called you by name: you are mine.
(Isaiah 43:1)

You are precious in my eyes
and honored, and I love you.
(Isaiah 43:4)

I pray that each of us will find some time to stop and pay attention to the ways in which God draws us ever closer to God's heart, God's beloved Son, God's messenger the Spirit.

- Margaret



**Happy Birthday
to those celebrating birthdays in March:**

Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace.

<i>Harold McGurk</i>	<i>3/4</i>
<i>Denise Smith</i>	<i>3/4</i>
<i>Joanne Dawson</i>	<i>3/10</i>
<i>Cassidy Clowtis</i>	<i>3/11</i>
<i>Gretchen Gerken</i>	<i>3/13</i>
<i>Dean Sheldon</i>	<i>3/14</i>
<i>Otis Houtz</i>	<i>3/14</i>
<i>Taylor Robustellini</i>	<i>3/20</i>
<i>Joyce Pearce</i>	<i>3/20</i>
<i>John Dawson</i>	<i>3/30</i>
<i>Mary Jean Hammann</i>	<i>3/30</i>



**Happy Anniversary to all those who celebrate
anniversaries in February:**

*Give them grace to live in love and fidelity,
with care for one another.*

Jeremy & Jessica Pifer *3/22*

Community Meal

A big Thank you to all who worked at the Community Meal in February. There was a very good turnout due to it being cancelled in January. The next Community Meal is scheduled for March 20th. If you are planning on helping at the meal, please include your name on the sign-up sheet on the counter in Benedict Hall.



Saturday, March 7 at 7 p.m.

The Singing Men of Ohio University (SMO) will be making a stop in the Huron County area on Saturday, March 7, 2015 as a result of an invitation from the Edison Music Boosters and the Edison High School Music Department. The Singing Men of Ohio is a collegiate level performance group available by audition to male students of all majors at Ohio University. The group has roots dating back to 1906.

SMO prizes musical excellence and has an extensive repertoire. A performance typically covers many genres of music from very serious, demanding works to much lighter pieces. This is a diverse group of about 70 young men from many ethnic and social backgrounds.

Last year the group toured the New England states and performed in many cities in Ohio as well as the East Coast. The 2015 tour is a sweep through the Midwest. Huron County is honored to be the last stop on tour with many seniors making their final tour performances with the group.

Schedule for Saturday, March 7:

- ◆ 2:00 p.m. -- Clinic for high school choir members (Open to all students in our area)
- ◆ Performance here at 7:00 p.m. with one intermission (Open to the public).

Address Update

Roy and Eva Giles are now at the Providence Care Center in Sandusky. The new address is: 2025 Hayes Avenue, Sandusky, 44870

VESTRY NEWS

At the February 8 meeting of the Vestry, the following officers were elected for this term: Mert Lewis will serve another year as Senior Warden. Dick Thayer is Junior Warden. Cathy Robustellini will serve another term as Clerk, and Meg Anderson will continue her service as Treasurer.

Minutes from each monthly Vestry meeting are kept in a binder in Benedict Chapel if you wish to review them. Vestry usually meets the second Sunday of each month, and meetings are open for all to attend.

EASTER FLOWERS

The Easter flowers this year are a pink star gazer lily which can be planted to come up annually in your garden.



Cost is \$17.00 each.

Please place money in the envelope attached to the sign-up sheet at the time of the order. Contact Martha Shample with any questions.

Youth Group News

The youth group meets again here at Norwalk on March 15 at 1 p.m. Our joint youth group hosted youth from around the Diocese at Winter Convocation, and helped lead worship. Shown are two of the young including Taylor's friend Katie, and one not-so-young leading the percussion section.



LENTEN OFFERINGS

Thursday Mid-day Worship, Lunch and Learn

On Thursdays during Lent (and one Wednesday, April 1st), we'll have Holy Eucharist at 11:30 at the side altar in the sanctuary, and then spend an hour with some of the key Scripture passages for Lent. Bring your own lunch, and come for one or both. The Scripture for study will be available for everyone, even if you can't make the daytime gatherings.

Friday Noonday Prayers

On Fridays in March, we'll have either Stations of the Cross or Noonday Prayers at 12 pm. You can join in at home, saying the Noonday Office which begins on p. 103 of the Prayer Book.

Society of St. John the Evangelist:

So much of our stress and anxiety derives from our pollution of Time. God has given us the gift of time, and called it holy, yet we often experience time as a curse. In a series of short, daily videos over five weeks, the Brothers of SSJE invite us to recapture time as a gift. Join the Brothers as they wrestle with questions of time and discover how to experience the joy of the present moment.

Each week has a theme, with a two minute video for each day ending with a question for contemplation. There is also a free workbook available for download, all at <http://ssje.org/ssje/time/>

ChurchNext

ChurchNext offers on-line classes on numerous topics, from Holy Habits to Lent with Families to The Book of Common Prayer. You can browse the offerings at <https://churchnextblog.wordpress.com/courses/> \$15 gets you unlimited access for a month; \$10 per course.

PLANTING FOR TOMORROW GROWING IN FAITH TODAY

Over the last few months St. Paul's has been participating in a capital campaign to address our most pressing needs including repairing the organ, expanding our outreach and mission, maintaining the building and improving accessibility, and contributing to the new Camp and Retreat Center in Wakeman. St. Paul's is one of thirty parishes across the Diocese that has participated in this collaborative capital campaign called *Planting for Tomorrow – Growing in Faith Today*, with the hopes of raising \$8 million for the new center in Wakeman and \$4 million for individual parish needs. As a Diocese, we are rapidly approaching our goal of \$12 million. Locally, our goal is to raise \$175,000 in pledges over five years. We are pleased to share that we have raised \$95,500 from just the first eleven gifts! Through this process we have visited individually with parishioners and contacted other families and friends of the parish by mail. If you have not yet been contacted about the campaign and projects for our parish, you'll be hearing from us soon! Please continue to prayerfully consider how your family can participate. We know that with the participation of every parish family, we can leave a legacy for future generations of St. Paul's parishioners.

For more information on Planting for Tomorrow – Growing in Faith Today and the new Camp and Retreat Center in Wakeman, you can visit this website www.dohiocampandretreatfarm.com. If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact Margaret D'Anieri or Mert Lewis.

Community Meal

We got back on track on February 19th after January's cancellation. Our regular guests were glad to see us, and we to see them! Our next Community Meal is on March 19th.

Trust in the slow work of God

(by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.
Yet it is the law of all progress, that it is made by passing through some stages of instability, and that may take a very long time.
And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow.
Let them shape themselves without undue haste.
Do not try to force them on as though you could be today what time—that is to say, grace—and circumstances acting on your own goodwill will make you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new Spirit gradually forming in you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God, our loving vine-dresser.

Holy Week Schedule



3/29 Palm Sunday Worship, ending with the Passion story. We leave church in silence immediately following worship.

4/1 Wednesday in Holy Week: Midday Eucharist at 11:30 am

4/2 Holy (Maundy) Thursday Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar at 7 pm

4/3 Good Friday (FAST DAY)

- Community worship - 12:15 pm at First Baptist Church.

- Book of Common Prayer service, 7 pm

4/4 Great Vigil of Easter, 8 pm with the Baptism of Persephone Houtz

4/5 Easter Day Festival Eucharist

March 2015

- Episcopal Liturgical Calendar
- Benedict Chapel
- Rector
- Wider Church and Community
- Parish Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Second Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Coffee hour	2 ECOT 9-2	3 11:15 AM Spiritual Direction	4 10:30 AM Office til noon 12:00 PM Narcotics Anon	5 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist 12:15 PM Lenten Lunch and Learn 1:30 PM Choir Practice	6 10:00 AM Office til 11 11:15 AM Twilight Gardens 4:00 PM Dinner with Seminaryarians	7 2:00 PM Choir Workshop 7:00 PM Men of Ohio Concert
8 Third Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Coffee hour 11:45 AM Vestry	9	10 12:30 PM KinderCasa	11 10:30 AM Office til noon 12:00 PM Narcotics Anon	12 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist 12:15 PM Lenten Lunch and Learn 1:30 PM Choir Practice	13 10:00 AM Office til noon	14 9:00 AM Diocesan CGDM
15 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Coffee hour 1:00 PM Youth group Norwalk	16 ECOT 9-1 Rector on retreat 9:45 AM Standing Committee	17	18 12:00 PM Narcotics Anon	19 St Joseph 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist 12:15 PM Lenten Lunch and Learn 1:30 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM Community Meal	20 10:00 AM Office til 11 11:15 AM Twilight Gardens	21
22 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Coffee hour	23 ECOT 9-1	24 10:00 AM Clericus	25 The Annunciation 10:30 AM Office til noon 12:00 PM Narcotics Anon	26 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist 12:15 PM Lenten Lunch and Learn 1:30 PM Choir Practice	27 10:00 AM Office til noon	28
29 Palm Sunday 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Leave in silence - no coffee hour	30	31	1 10:30 AM Office til noon 12:00 PM Narcotics Anon	2 Maundy Thursday 5:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy	3 Good Friday 10:00 AM Office til 11 11:15 AM Twilight Gardens 12:15 PM Community Good Friday Worship at First Baptist	4 Holy Saturday 8:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter

Scripture Readings for February, 2015

Second Sunday in Lent, March 1:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:22-30;
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Third Sunday in Lent, March 8:

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 15:

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 22:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, March 29:

Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 118:19-29;
Phillippians 2:5-11; Mark 11:1-11

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