



What is Abiding All About?

Abiding as Disciples of Christ—This is the first line of our mission at Church of the Lamb. It is what we aspire to. It helps guide our decision-making. I've thought about this phrase a lot. I've asked Kevin—and some of you—what does it look like to abide as a disciple of Christ. What does it mean to you?

Our minds might automatically turn to the famous abide passage in John 15:4, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." This whole chapter of John merits some serious contemplation and meditation. For instance, Jesus goes on to say, "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so *prove to be my disciples*. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." There are some serious promises in this chapter: fruit? love? joy? Yes, please.

The trouble is, we are hard-wired to go it alone. Many of us, if we are honest, put abiding pretty low on our priority list. We may feel like we are doing pretty well on our own. Or maybe we just don't know how to abide in him.

I think that one way to think about abiding is to be deeply present and attentive to Jesus. He loves to hear our sorrows and our prayers, our gratefulness and our requests. But I can't imagine any abiding relationship not including at least as much listening to our beloved one—as well as a fair amount of just being together in silence. What has Jesus showed you lately?

This summer, our services in the barn on the property start at 9 a.m. Following the service and a subsequent break for some coffee and conversation, we welcome those of you who can to join us back in the barn to explore this phrase more in-depth together. C.J. Goeller will lead the first three weeks. Ben Sharpe will lead four of the five weeks in July with one class led by Scott Hansen. They will share aspects and perspectives that they have learned on what it means to abide as disciples of Christ and invite your response.

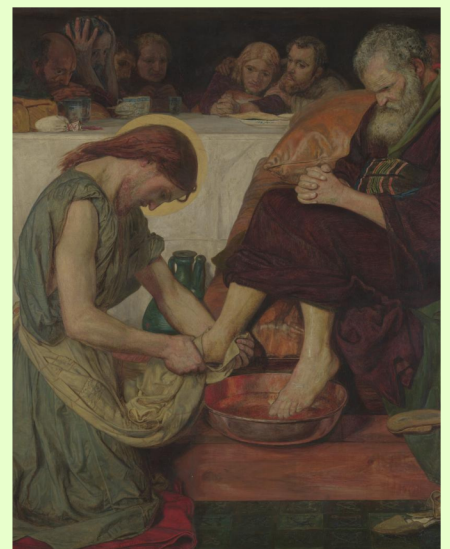
We have no scheduled childcare during this hour, but hope that some of you can get creative with helping each other out.

I'm looking forward to learning together about abiding more deeply in Jesus' love!

Zoe Hansen

Interim Director of Spiritual Formation

New this summer An Adult Study Group Abiding as Disciples of Christ



Sundays at 11 am
June 11- July 30
in the barn
tag team led by CJ Goeller, Ben Sharpe, and Scott Hansen

Helping to Reunite a Family

Getachew (aka 'Getch') Temare sent Katrina Didot and me an email on March 5 asking us to help raise \$13,000 by April 20 to enable him to reunite with his wife and son in July in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). As I read the email, my first thoughts were, "I've helped Getch write an official letter, but how does that translate into fundraising? There is no way. Lord, you know I'm not a fundraiser, and in six weeks??"

Immediately, my doubts were answered. "Haven't you been praying that he can reunite with his wife and son? Are you willing to act on what you've been praying? I know you can't raise the money, but I can. Do you trust me to do this?"

Remembering how hard it was during Covid when I couldn't hug my grandchildren, I imagined how Getch, his wife, and son have suffered over the past seven years. Seven years. No visits, only computer and phone contact. During that time, his son has grown from a boy to a teenager.

When Katrina and I talked later, we both agreed that God would be the one to raise the money, and we would do what He asked us to do. Getch had determined that a social media campaign such as GoFundMe would be a security risk. The UAE is on the border of Ethiopia, and it would be too easy for their government to discover his whereabouts and come after him. Not using social media made the fundraising more difficult; however, we decided to put the request out to the Church of the Lamb (COTL) family first and to Zion Mennonite Church where Getch had spoken last summer. We

would both also talk to our friends, and Katrina would talk to some of the Ethiopians who live around Harrisonburg.

By March 31, \$3,600 had been raised—\$600 from COTL's rector's fund, \$1,000 from Zion's church fund, and the rest from individual donations. That was wonderful, but we weren't even halfway to the goal. Oh ye of little faith! (That would be me!) On April 2, a Sunday, people from Lamb and Zion gave an additional \$3,600, putting us over the half-way mark!

Donations continued over the next two weeks, and a few days before April 20, a local business offered to match up to \$2,500. Katrina asked Church of the Incarnation for a donation, and they gave \$1,650 from their rector's fund, which put us at \$13,000 - goal met!

Being involved in this fundraising effort has been a true blessing. God has used it to show me that the significant limits in my fundraising ability do not affect his lavish generosity. I've also been allowed to witness first hand the compassion and generosity of our church family. When we were presented with the \$5 million projected cost of building the Parish Hall, I knew we will raise the money if we only look to our God and trust him to show us the way.

Zoe Myers

Zoe enjoys serving with the Eucharist Guild, loves to read, is currently writing her fifth book.

A Message from Getachew



Getch has been attending Church of the Lamb since 2020.

Dear Lamb Church Community,

May the grace of the Lord be upon you as you read this email. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your generous donations as we have been able to raise the whole funds of \$13,000. Your contributions have brought hope and healing in my life and the life of my family, as I will be able to meet my wife and son.

As you may know, my situation has been very lengthy and complicated, but your donations have enabled me once again to plan ahead and move forward with the grace of God.

I cannot begin to express how much your kindness means to me and my family. In the name of the Lord, I want to thank you for your kindness, compassion, and unwavering support. May the Lord continue to bless the church community for your generosity, and may you always find joy in serving others.

Your brother In Christ,
Getachew Temare

A Conversation about Collaborating with Children

Martha McDaniel serves our children in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) in the Level One Atria (children ages 3 to 6) serving alongside two other adults. Her husband Bernard serves in the Level Two Atria (ages 6 to 9). CGS Director Renee Velker recently interviewed them both. The following is what Martha had to say. (Stay tuned for Bernard's interview in another newsletter edition.)

Renee: Tell us about your time in the atrium.

Martha: During the entire atria time the children are in tune with what they are to do. When they arrive they independently take their shoes off and then go off and choose a “work.” Some of them work on their own. Some of them choose to work in groups. They like to choose to do their own thing.

It is not just the Bible teaching in a presentation or at the prayer table that is meaningful. The children’s time in the atria is a hands-on experience. They are allowed to choose what they would like to work on.

There are many works in the atria the children can choose from, like threading a needle . . . The children see how God is in everything. They concentrate and spend a long time returning to the same work.

When I went in and saw the hand washing station I wondered if it was because of Covid. But it teaches them so clearly. The cleansing, the slowing down. A LOT of the children enjoy it. They spend a lot of time concentrating. It is amazing to watch the children. We are privileged to be here.

Renee: Tell me about the prayer table time.

Martha: The prayer table is set up by the children. The catechist has shown them how to set it up. They know where the Bible goes and where the candle is placed and the prayer card. They choose the prayer card. They sometimes will set it up independently or do it with another child.

The catechist presents the Scriptures with them. Each one is able to snuff the candle and share. It is a blessing to see how the entire atrium time works together.

The catechist is so adept at presenting to small groups of children while the others are working independently.

Throughout the year the catechists present the Good Shepherd to each child. One time a child declared, “I want to be the lost sheep. Another one retorted strongly, “Well I WANT TO BE THE FOUND SHEEP.” Each child has a chance to think and speak and interact with the Scriptures.



As an observer in the atrium around Easter the presentations on Jesus rising from the grave and the crucifixion are received with great joy. The children cheerfully exclaim, “Jesus is the Light of the World.” You can see it in their faces. The joy.

The atrium is all about the life of Jesus. Him. The children knowing him.

Renee: What thoughts would you share with those considering helping with CGS?

Martha: You have to forget about yourself and trust God to be with you in any situation. Children will be children. It is not difficult. The children are loved. You need to love the children to participate. The catechists are adept to guide the children.

I can't imagine a better way to share Jesus. We grew up in Sunday School. We didn't have hands on. We had the lesson. The Bible. By being able to work with the materials to set up the altar and sit with the parables and Bible stories. The children will never forget these.

To God be the Glory! It is such a gift to see the faithfulness of parents to get their children to this beautiful place. It is a dedication to see that your children get this teaching. I think of this Bible Verse, “Bring up your child in the way you would grow and they will not depart from it.” This is my prayer—that these children will know Jesus and it will help them as they grow older and face difficult decisions.

Introducing *John and Kappy Barnes and their Daughter Lesley*

Last August John and I knew we needed a change. After losing my mom and our sweet daughter-in-law, we both felt like we were in a spiritual desert. We have known Frank and Linda Doherty forever, and when we saw how much fun her posts on Facebook about Church of the Lamb sounded, we decided to give it a try. We felt overwhelmed immediately by the kindness and caring we received. I couldn't believe Kevin could call us by name the second Sunday we attended. We joined the Crossroads Farm Parish Group led by Joe and LaVonne Martin and the care and connectedness just continues. We feel so blessed to be part of the Church of the Lamb.

John recently retired from Sentara RMH and is finally getting to play golf and read. Our daughter Lesley attends Lamb with us. She enjoys knitting and reading. I love to garden, craft and read too. We are also the parents of two sons, Kent (married to Rachel), and Joe. We have four beautiful grandchildren that we adore.

(Kappy also helps the Land Team with her gardening gifts.)

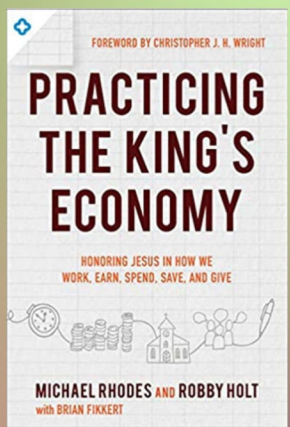


SUMMER BOOK STUDY GROUP

MONDAYS AT 7 PM
JUNE 5 - JULY 31
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
362 INDIAN TRAIL RD

Grab a copy of this book and read along with others who are concerned about wisely stewarding the resources entrusted to us.

Discussion led by Kelly Ostergren. To sign up or get more details, contact kelly@churchofthelamb.org.



Blue Ridge Deanery

Women's Retreat

"REST IN ME"

SEPTEMBER 29, 6:45PM - OCTOBER 1, 12:00PM
SPEAKER: SALLY BREEDLOVE

You are invited to join women from churches across the Blue Ridge Deanery at The Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, VA for a weekend of worship and fellowship.

Register at:
<https://incarnation.regfox.com/deanery-womens>

Prices include room & meals for Saturday and breakfast Sunday morning

\$230 Double Room
\$275 Single Room
Prices go up after June 15th