St. Matthews

Episcopal Church

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Kiddie Link

Follow Me

Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” Genesis 32:28

As we continue to read through Genesis, the text switches back and forth between “Jacob” and “Israel.” Though the names refer to the same person, they are not interchangeable. God is very specific about when and how each is used. All through his life, he is either “Jacob” or “Israel.” He never seems to fully evolve into “Israel.”

I have to admit I live the same split-personality life. I’m pretty confident we all do. I can get so frustrated when the same things that tripped me up ten years ago still send me in a tailspin. I can remember on my 30th birthday waiting all day for enlightenment to descend and the stupidity of my 20’s would be left behind. I’m still waiting…

Instead of giving up, Jacob’s story gives me hope. Despite living a reality TV life (four wives, twelve sons, family deceit, and one son sleeping with his stepmom) Jacob got it right. More correctly, God got it right. He was the promise maker and promise keeper. He was the hope of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was Joseph’s lifeline in prison. God continued to be Joseph’s anchor even when Joseph was second only to Pharaoh.

This coming fall, St. Matthew’s is starting a new program for post-graduates. The Commonwealth Fellows seeks to help young adults integrate their faith into their relationships, careers, and community. We want to help them move from “Jacob” and into “Israel.”

This integration is what we should all want for our children also. As parents we achieve this by using God’s word as the basis of our parenting. We learn God’s word through study, prayer and community. Sunday School is an obvious place to start. Your children see how much you value learning by watching you go to Sunday School too.

The call God has placed on each of our lives can seem impossible or at least incredible. God is our hope, he is our promise maker and promise keeper. As we welcome a new year, let us all strive towards being the “Israel” God wants us to be.

Joyfully yours,
Jill
Director of Child and Student Ministries

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Monthly Mentions

Gamers—stay tuned! Matinee Movie Day coming soon (either January 28 or February 4). Parents, watch your email and rsvp to Andrew Thompson.

VBS—Yes, I did say VBS. We're in need of helping hands to organize. Even if you can't be here during the week of VBS, you can still be part of this fun outreach program. Call Jill for more details, 288-1911.

Lenten readers needed. Believe it or not Lent is right around the corner and we are in need of volunteers willing to read a couple of chapters from 7:00 to 8:00 each Wednesday during Lent. If you and your BFF would be willing to commit to reading one of the five Wednesdays, it would be a great help. Contact Jill for more info—288-1911.

Children's Church is in need of extra hands to help out. If interested, call Megan Lloyd at 217-7892.

Nursery Schedule

Thank you to all from the congregation, as well as all the parents who have selflessly offered their time to care for our younger parishioners.

If you would like to be included on the schedule, call Jill at 288-1911.

Date	Infants	Toddlers	Preschoolers
January 8	Amy Knowles	Alison Barnes	Kate Garitz
	Pam Roach	Matt Barnes	Shawn Garitz
15	Gail Ridgeway	Laura Allin	Heather Creswick
	Barry Ridgeway	Natalie Axtell	Tom Veech
22	Heidi Wilkins	Carrine Marshall	January Britt
	Chris Wilkins	Calvin Marshall	Jeff Britt
29	Lee West	Ann Brown	Wynn Burr
	Nancy Knight	Boyd Brown	Blake Burr