

MUSING FOR JUNE: “Nuts! It’s gnats...”

Fr Brian

My dog likes to roll in the grass. He takes his time.... He also has a nose for mushrooms, the little guys in June that crop up suddenly in the middle of the lawn??? I try to intervene, but even an old dog can have some surprising moves.

I did not mind the rolling in the lawn, the slow yawn, the favoring of this side and that in the early days of spring. Or earlier in the snow. But now, with the first humid days ruining paradise, telling us about the imperfections and inconveniences of the natural world, I have become far less patient when it comes to walking Snickers.

The reason is gnats. They are abundant this year and flavor conversations if not with their presence, with their reputation. They like the head, the hair, the ears, the nostrils. And in one small moment, they transform the experience of being out of doors from peaceable to provoking.

May, with that carpet of green transforming the landscape, makes everything look grand, abundant, inviting. But June...? In June, the initial vision may be wearing a bit thin. Temperatures soar. Humidity arrives. Pollen becomes even more abundant. June may be busting out all over, but also in June, mosquitoes play at the window screen. And gnats explode (if not earlier) into the scene. You may not agree with this dour perspective, but you get the picture.

I am always amazed how a little cloud of gnats can absolutely cloud and wipe away any sense of wonder and of enjoyment when I encounter them outdoors. They ruin my humanity, confound any sense of control. And why has the Creator provided them in our midst, anyway? Is it perhaps to warn us of our own behavior?

Before I have to put on some DEET or vanilla bug juice or something, I close with this small prayer: *O Lord, keep me from being like the annoying gnat. Save me from being the fly in the ointment, the wasp hiding in the raspberries, the slug after a summer rain busy at the leaf lettuce or the hapless bee, drowning in the iced tea.. And as I try to understand their place in the created order, may the gnat and other intruders of its ilk keep me humble and help me to*

grasp each day when gnat or wasp or mud dauber or mosquito threatens to rob me of presence and gratitude. Amen.

Trinity Episcopal – Mineral Point and Trinity Episcopal – Please contact Terrie, Parish Administrative Assistant, if needed. **608-348-6402 – Platteville Office** Office hours: Wednesday and Friday from 3:00-5:00 p.m.
trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com

***Please remember prayers for** Joan, Audrey, Colby, Conner, Sue, Betty, Quinn, Isabella, Kat, Jenny, Kurt, Jocelyn, Andrea, David+, Aaron, TJ, Richmond, Paul, Dottie, Bonnie, Ruthie, Patrick J., Patrick F., Jill, Derek, Brandy, Herbert and Jessica.*

VESTRY AND WARDENS

Beth McGehee, Senior Warden
 Tom Faull, Junior Warden
 Brent Bowers
 Annie Chapman
 Kathy Madigan
 Mark Prouty
 Mark Prouty, Clerk of the Parish
 Janean Faull, Treasurer

Church Schedules

| DATE | USHERS | LECTORS PRAYER READER | EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER | ACOLYTES | ALTAR GUILD |
|------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| JUNE | | | | | |
| 3 | T&J Faull | Claire Holland | Kathy Madigan | Beth McGehee | Ann Chapman Beth McGehee |
| 10 | Kathy Madigan | Jean Margaret Merrell-Beech | Claire Holland | Joan Faull | Clair Holland Kathy Madigan |
| 17 | Claire Holland | Chris Bowers | Pat Cole | Isabel Bowers | Carolyn Hunt Joan Faull |
| 24 | Mark Prouty | Carolyn Hunt | Kathy Madigan | Joan Faull | Jane Stenson Marilee Backstrand |

Dates to Remember

Thursday, June 7th through Wednesday, June 13th: Fr. Brian's schedule for June includes these days off. The Rev. Charles Orme-Rogers will be celebrating on Sunday, June 10th.

Thursday, June 14th: A Type 2 diabetes Meeting will be held at 1:00 pm at the Cunningham Center in Platteville for those interested in learning more. Susan Schlager, our Faith Community Nurse, will be leading this session. Additional follow-up meetings are planned. If you cannot attend on the 14th, please let Susan know. Her phone is 608-348-9575; her email is smschlager@yahoo.com. If you need a ride, please see Fr. Brian.

Sunday, June 17: Free-will offering for Standing Rock. More information will be forthcoming about a specific project that we might be supporting. From Fr. Floberg's time with us, however, we have learned about the persisting social issues on the reservation, including joblessness, fetal alcohol syndrome, teen suicide, drug and alcohol abuse.

Tuesday, June 19: Trinity Guild will meet at 1:30 pm at Catherine Whitford's garden; 150 Jail Alley.

Thursday, June 21: Vestry Meets at 6:30 pm in Legate Hall.

Friday, June 22: The Creation Care Committee meets in Legate Hall at 5:30 pm.

Saturday/Sunday, July 28 & 29: Don't forget the camping weekend at Blackhawk. We have reserved the shelter. Canoeing is available and I am hoping that we will also have hiking that will include foraging information and plant identification. You can camp with us, join us for the day, or just come to the informal Eucharist on that Sunday. Note: On the 29th, we are planning a brief 9:00 am worship service at Trinity for potential visitors and others who cannot make the camping service

Fr. Brian's dates off for July 2018 are Thursday, July 5 through Wednesday, July 11. His dates for August have been revised to Thursday, August 9 through Wednesday, August 15.

Note: Vestry will be putting a copy of the approved Vestry minutes up on the white board in Legate Hall each month so all can know about the business of the church. Please take time to read them.

Notes from the Creation Care Committee

A quote from the The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque:

WATER is LIFE

Nearly 75% of the Earth is covered with water, but only 1 % of it is fresh water available for use. Rivers provide most of the water we use in the world.

“ About 97% of the world’s water is salt water in the ocean. The remaining 3% is fresh water, with most of it locked in ice caps and glaciers. Only 1% of all water is rivers, ponds, lakes, and groundwater. Yet of all the Earth’s sources of fresh water, we depend on rivers the most.

“ Fresh water is vital to life. We use it for drinking, washing, growing crops, supporting industries, and for transportation. A person needs two and a half quarts of water a day from what they eat and drink to stay healthy.”

We produced two initiatives this spring - the rain barrel initiative which installed 30 barrels in the community, and a visit from Father John Floberg to speak about the WATER IS LIFE movement in Standing Rock, ND.

And now it is summer in Mineral Point! Restoration of our land is an on-going initiative. One clean-up day found 9 people helping to clean up the land, and as one friend said, “Oh! We saved some for you to do!” so another clean up morning is scheduled on June 30th at 9:00am. It would be lovely to have ALL HANDS ON DECK. In the meantime members of the committee will meet with Joel Hooks a member of the MP Tree Board and long-time arborist to determine what could be done to care better for our land and trees and shrubs.

The Bishop has charged each Episcopal parish to plant 100 trees. And we begin this Saturday. The committee will transplant into pots the maple saplings found in our perennial beds. We begin distributing these to those at the Sunday service June 3. Consider where you will plant these saplings which once securely rooted in your yard will grow tall and straight for the next generations.

We have begun planning for our fall film fest. We're expanding!

1. This year we will add a school groups concert at the Opera House on September 7th at 12:00. SCHOOL GROUPS COMME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FILMS FREE OF CHARGE. If you know of schools we can contact to offer this invitation, please speak to a member of the committee.
2. We have invited storyteller, author, musician, poet Joseph Bruchac for the weekend. He will tell a short story to the school group audience and the Saturday evening film audience as well as give a STORYTELLING CONCERT on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 in the Opera House. We need your help to establish a robust audience of families and adults for this 'new' adventure – hearing the message of stewardship in another way. Joseph is internationally famous (whoop! whoop!) with good reason - much of his work can be found online josephbruchac.com and KEEPERS OF THE EARTH is a well-known book.
3. Our second annual film fest Saturday, September 8th: This was so well received last year that we are offering it again. New films with the same message plus some hard science about how and why we can be good stewards of the earth.

HERE IS A LIST OF 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE PLANET :

10 Tips to Shrink Your Carbon Footprint

By now, just about everyone agrees that carbon pollution poses a serious threat to our planet. They're even building seawalls around Trump International Golf Links & Hotel in Ireland to protect the place against climate change.

At this point, we must accept the grim reality that some level of global warming is inevitable. But by taking action now as individuals, we can still avoid the worst effects. According to a recent study in the journal "Environmental Research Letters," the four steps that most substantially shrink a person's carbon footprint are: eating a plant-based diet, living without a car, avoiding air travel and having a smaller family. Americans emit 16.1 tons of carbon per person per year, according to the World Bank. This is less than in the 1970s when that number was around 22.5 tons, but it's still far above the 2050 goal set by the Paris Climate Accords, which is 2.1 tons of carbon per person per year.

We'd better get started. Here are 10 steps you can take to shrink your carbon footprint.

Go car-free. Short of having one less child (which cuts the climate change impact by 120 tons of CO₂ emissions per year, if you include carbon that the child's children would emit), living without a car is the biggest step you can take. According to the EPA, the typical passenger vehicle emits around 4.7 metric tons of CO₂ each year.

Inflate your tires. If you do drive, make sure your tires are properly inflated. This can cut your carbon emissions by up to 700 pounds a year.

Take a staycation. One round-trip [flight](#) from New York to Europe or New York to San Francisco creates a warming effect equivalent to an average year's worth of driving.

But don't worry about being cooped up too long. There's hope that changes in both [aircraft design and fuel source are on the horizon](#).

Eat less meat. People who eat more than 3.5 ounces of meat per day – a serving about the size of a deck of cards – generate 15.8 pounds of CO₂ each day, vegetarians just 8.4 pounds and vegans only 6.4 pounds.

Try going vegetarian or vegan one or two days a week. And when you do eat meat, choose poultry, which is less greenhouse-gas intensive than beef or pork.

Recycle. You likely recycle to some extent already, but you may not know what an impact it can have. If you recycle half your household waste, you can save 2,400 pounds of CO₂ annually.

Adjust your thermostat. Move your thermostat up 2 degrees in the summer and down 2 degrees in the winter. You'll reduce your carbon emissions by 1 ton per year.

Wash in cold water. Almost 90 percent of the energy used by a washing machine goes to heat the water. Switching to cold water for your wash cycle will cut your carbon dioxide emissions by around 1,600 pounds a year. While old laundry soaps worked well only with hot water, new soaps are formulated for cold water and perform as well as or better than traditional detergents.

Dry on a clothesline. Drying one load of laundry in a machine [puts](#) 0.1 metric tons of CO₂ into the air, so line-drying your clothes makes a real difference over time. Another plus: Your clothes will last longer because they won't get roughed up in the dryer.

Buy an Energy Star fridge. [Refrigerators](#) 15 years or older use twice as much energy as a new Energy Star fridges. Replace your old fridge with an Energy Star model, and you can cut your carbon footprint by 8,200 pounds, and save as much as \$260 in the first five years.

Tune up your water heater. There are two ways you can make your water heater more efficient. One, wrap it in an insulating blanket. It costs only about \$25 at your local home center, and it will cut your carbon emissions by up to 1,000 pounds annually. Two, turn down the thermostat from 140 degrees (the standard factory setting) to 120 degrees. Each 10-degree reduction reduces your carbon emissions by 600 pounds (electric) or 440 pounds (gas) a year.

There you have it: 10 tips to shrink your carbon footprint.