



ST. AIDAN'S

STAG & STAFF

The growing community of St. Aidan's is called to be God's light and loving presence through faith, sacrament, and outreach.

MAY 2024 VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 5



We celebrate mothers —
past, present, and all
those who mother.
THANK YOU!

And

United Thank Offering Ingathering

Bring your Blue Boxes to church for
the collection!

“Our change changes lives!”



See UTO information on page 10



Men's Breakfast

First Saturdays

MAY 4

May the fourth be with you —

Cooking 8am — Eating 8:30am

Bring your friends and neighbors!

Home Grown Perennials and House Plants

Saturday, May 18
9 am to 1 pm



Please donate generously to this year's
sale! It's best to transplant your plants into
pots two weeks ahead [week of May 4!]
Please label your plants. Donations of new
or “gently used” garden and patio accesso-
ries gladly accepted!. Dates and times to
drop off donated items TBD.



The house that Jack built!

Creation Care Commission members built and installed birdhouses around St. Aidan's as part of their mission to care for the beauty God has given us.

Jack's house was installed and quickly hosted a nest. Mother bird has been sitting on the house, but no eggs yet.

Check out the bird house log on the bulletin board in the Narthex for updates!



*"Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young."
Psalm 84:3:*



Welcome to May in the church! This is the time of the year when the flowers bloom and many of us seem to "wake up!" We open our eyes, perceive the sweetness of new life, and we might just decide to adopt a new perspective. The month of May, in the church is a time when Christians are called to "wake up," to pay attention, and listen to people share their experience of God.

The season of Easter concludes on Sunday, May 12. On this Mother's Day, we honor and listen to those who love us in creative and empowering ways. We are called to pay attention to the way the Holy Spirit moves in and through family bonds and other relationships. Then, on May 19, we turn our attention to the way the Holy Spirit is involved in the life of the church. On this Day of Pentecost, we bring into the church beautiful red vestments and linens that are adorned with images of flames. These eye-catching hand-made liturgical pieces, get our attention and remind us that the Holy Spirit is a work among us. We read the story from the Acts of the Apostles about the way the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit, and they speak about their experience of God in their own way, in their own language. The great part of the story is that people in the "audience" perk up their ears! The people in the audience hear a testimony of "God experiences" from each disciple, and in a way they can understand.

The story of Pentecost is the story of the church! We are all called, throughout the year, to "wake up," to pay attention, to listen – as people share their experience of God and to learn from them. It is a great and amazing thing that the Holy Spirit offers understanding. We must, however, decide that we will receive this holy gift. On Saturday, May 11, St. Aidan's Vestry gathers in retreat to pray and discuss the life of this congregation. Our goal is to intentionally receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and listen to one another as we consider the way we are one, as the body of Christ. Our work involves learning from a timeline that we will construct and that represents the congregation. Our perceptions and ideas will then be communicated with the entire congregation, as together, we all prepare for the next years.

Spring is a special time for the church, and especially for this congregation. Let us remain inspired by God's promise and the ancient words of Joel: "I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy." Let us honor and appreciate the people who share their experience of God's love with us. Let us listen with a lively sense of curiosity and openness to the Holy Spirit as we discern our future together, the one body of Christ.



Mother Esther +



These stars shine on stage and in our hearts!



Leah in *Mary Poppins Jr.*, encouraged by her brother **CJ**.



JP as Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins Jr.* with an admiring fan — his sister **Addie**.



The Sunday School joined St. Aidan's Family Singers to celebrate Earth Day in song



Abby Schrunk as one of the Jesus dancers in *Godspell*, put on by Viterbo University.



From Donna's Desk —

Remember the idiom that when something bad happens other bad things usually happen at the same time - *When it rains, it pours*. Not only did one furnace fail in early March, the second furnace failed two weeks ago with the third ready to fail.

Eric Wetzel and I were at church for an annual alarm panel inspection when we smelled the same order as when the first furnace failed. The Thielmann Group did an assessment: the new furnace was fine; of the remaining two, the heat exchanger had failed on one, and the other could fail at any time. The Vestry decided to replace the remaining two furnaces. Both furnaces were replaced on Thursday (yes, amid all of the rummage sale set up). It was \$11,148.00 to replace the remaining two furnaces. We are fortunate that we can pay for the furnaces from the operating budget and the 'emergency' money market fund. We will not need to use money from the Endowment Fund. We received \$2,100 from a class action lawsuit against the heat exchanger warranty and will receive \$810 from Focus on Energy rebates for the Energy Star furnaces we installed.

We also encountered another problem this week with the fire protection sprinkler system. While setting up for the rummage sale we noticed that the compressor in the utility room was running several times an hour. *"It is not supposed to do that."* After three visits, Ahern found a small pinhole leak in a pipe above the hallway and a larger leak in a pipe above the pantry area and repaired them. They checked and replaced the AMD (Air maintenance device) valves. All is now working as intended. So far it has been good.

Outreach – We received a \$2,000 grant to upgrade our technology systems. Equipment purchased during Covid provided a reliable digital presence for St. Aidan's so we could be keep connected to our church family and the greater Hartford Community. Fast forward three+ years. We now have an online presence that *averages 25 viewers* every week. We have received feedback that audio is not always clear and the camera needs to be adjusted with movement. We had many problems with Facebook live so opted to discontinue livestreaming. Each week we 'welcome' 25 viewers to St. Aidan's. The fact that we continue to serve 25+ viewers each week is a testament to our outreach ministry. Do we communicate a vibrant, mission-focused gathering? Do we communicate an authentic sense of belonging and loving faith community? If the audio is hard to hear or the camera is too distant, outreach to people online is compromised. The grant will be used to purchase Recording/livestream technology (Camera, Monitor, Cables, and Ambient microphone (RODE); and an Office Computer System. This update would more efficiently send out our online newsletter, upload recorded services, and edit our church website. The current computer is very slow and the technology/software is outdated. Online ministries build a new outreach community, which includes our homebound members as well as non-members. A recent survey, *Steps to Increase Young Adult Engagement*, posted on ECF website, showed that 42% of those responding to the survey feel enhancing a congregation's social media presence is an important step in moving forward to engage young adults as well. We need to learn how an online presence 'fits' others' needs and 'fits' our mission, and how both online and in person worship intersect.

"Where flowers bloom so does hope." [Lady Bird Johnson]

Support for the St. Aidan's Little Pantry

– an excerpt from a note that was left: "...we are so blessed to have the pantry your church provides off Monroe Ave. It has helped us have a meal a couple times...and we would like to thank your church for providing this for us." This note reminds me how profound this outreach to the community is - whether we supply the pantry with a jar of peanut butter, a box of cereal, rice dishes, or mac and cheese, our gifts impact many in the community.



Vestry Retreat - *"When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps."* [Confucius]

The vestry is holding a day-long retreat on Saturday, May 11. It is important that we continue to plan, ask questions, and discern possibilities to live the mission of St. Aidan's. Deacon Terry will facilitate a discussion on timelines and history and how that impacts our vestry goals:

- ◆ Evangelism and growth
- ◆ Exploring parishioner's gifts, passions, and talents
- ◆ Supporting a culture of diversity
- ◆ Celebrating the unique qualities of the Episcopal Church.

"May is a month of rebirth, of renewed vitality and energy." [Lailah Gifty Akita]

Blessings,
Donna Dinco
Senior Warden

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAG & STAFF



Something amazing happened in April. Lori Beth "Betty" Weber was born April 2nd and joined the Weber family. She is welcomed by her grandparents Mike and Linda, her mom and dad Tim and Christen, and her siblings, Lena, Carina, and Elliott. She's loved by both her first family and her new family. The Webers are thrilled with the opportunity for this open adoption.



"Welcome Betty!"

Rummage memories –



Alice Pollock celebrates her birthday, rummage chair style!

Rummage worker-bees enjoy **Pat Paddon's** famous salmon salad!



MAY 2024



St. Aidan's Rummage Sale

The Treasure Room

As we wind up another church wide rummage sale, I love to reflect on the sale and what treasures we sold. We fill our treasure room with precious dishes and vintage items. We get great joy out of finding special treasures to add to the room.

As the week progressed, I realized that the treasures inside our building are not the things in the room, but the people. Here's what comes to mind.

The parishioners who --

- ◆ bring us lunch as we work each day.
- ◆ come after a day of work to help sort and price.
- ◆ are fluent in Spanish and can help the family from Honduras who has been in the US for 10 days.
- ◆ spend days cleaning and sorting tools that some might just throw away
- ◆ fold and refold clothing so it is neatly displayed.
- ◆ bring in friends and neighbors to shop
- ◆ facetime with their children so that they can shop remotely
- ◆ engage our shoppers in conversation and make them feel welcome in our building
- ◆ purchase hundreds of dollars of rummage themselves
- ◆ invite shoppers to come to church!
- ◆ are willing to price hundreds of items as long as they get to use the "green tape"
- ◆ help the Boy Scouts pack up all of our left over rummage
- ◆ provide cookies for the boy scouts as they work
- ◆ take unsold towels and blankets and drop them at the Humane Society
- ◆ take unsold books down to the library for their book sale
- ◆ volunteer to get rid of the extra boxes from the sale
- ◆ buy fabric to donate to the Operation Christmas Child program in Hartford
- ◆ celebrate their birthday by working the rummage sale

Our sale is part fundraiser, part outreach, and part pastoral care. Many thanks to all who made it possible!

Linda Weber

Editor's Note - All of the above happens because of the beautiful Christian tone set by extraordinary leadership!

“WE ARE THE **Episcopal** BRANCH OF THE **Jesus movement**”
 —Presiding Bishop Michael Curry



How to reach us —

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Donna Dinco , Senior Warden

Eric Wetzel, Junior Warden

Vestry

Charles Gardner

Laura Johnston

Lynn Molenda

Eileen Schmidt

Vestry Clerk

Geri Kelly

Stag and Staff — St. Aidan's Newsletter

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Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: mphoffmann70@gmail.com

or 262-673-2903



Prayer Chain

If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something, please call **Alice Pollock** [262-707-3456] or the church office.

Mondays --	Men's AA	7 - 8 pm	Parish Hall
Tuesdays --	Women's AA	Noon	Parish Hall
	Casa	6 - 7:30 pm	Class 1&2
	Casa	6 -- 7:30 pm	Parish Hall
Wednesdays	Office Open	9am - Noon	
Thursdays	Casa	6 - 7:30 pm	Class 1&2
Fridays	Office Open	9 am - Noon	
First Saturdays	Men B'fast	8 am	Parish Hall
Sundays	Worship Service	9:30 am	

For information about groups or scheduling the building, contact the Church Office.

Change in the Church Office

After over three years among us **Aimee Hennings** will focus on family life and work in Deforest. She and her family moved to their new home this spring, leaving her position at St. Aidan's as Parish Administrative Assistant. We will miss her smiling face and kind presence in our parish office, at our worship services, and within this community. Her many contributions to our parish life were celebrated at coffee hour.



Please welcome **Tara Nooyen** who has joined us and is working with Aimee during this time of transition. Tara has accepted the role of Parish Administrative Assistant and has served in that role for many years in the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. She lives in Menomonee Falls with her husband Mike. They have two children, a son graduating from MSOE this spring and a daughter at Loyola, Chicago. Tara brings a variety of gifts to this role and to St. Aidan's.

ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



2024

	5	12	19	26
Reader	M. Moran	B. Schrunk	M. Hoffmann	B. Pollock
Prayers	T. Schlaefer	C. Gardner	E. Schmidt	L. Schrunk
Acolyte	J.P. Schrunk	A.Schrunk	S. Schmidt	L. Daley
Usher	R. Schnorenberg	Schrunks	Schmidts	Pollocks
LEM	M. Weber	M. Hoffmann	A.Pollock	B. Schrunk
Counters	Gardner/Fairchild	Weber/M-Meigs	Moran/Schnorenberg	Pierce/Hoffmann
Altar	L. Weber			



Highlighted columns — Caring Sundays!

June 2024

	2	9	16	23	30
Reader	B. Mendoza	T. Schlaefer	C. Gardner	A. Pollock	K. Fairchild
Prayers	M. Hoffmann	K. Fairchild	A. Pollock	B. Pollock	D. Bemi
Acolyte	A. Schrunk	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	L. Daley	A. Schrunk
Usher	Webers	R. Schnorenberg	Pollocks	Schmidts	Schrunks
LEM	J. Pierce	M. Hoffmann	M. Weber	A. Pollock	B. Schrunk
Counters	Gardner/Weber	Moran/A.M-Meigs	Fairchild/Pierce	Gardner/Hoffmann	Moran/Schnorenberg
Altar	J. Neu				

If you cannot serve your appointed time, please arrange for a substitute. Thank you.
 Any **permanent** changes to the schedule should be reported to
Gail Hefti at gail.hefti@gmail.com or 920-740-3997.

PARISH EVENTS — MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>When you go shopping — DON'T FORGET THE LITTLE PANTRY! Food staples and hygiene items NEEDED!</p>		<p>1</p>  <p>St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU</p> <p>Men's B'fast 8:30 am</p>
<p>5 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Retreat</p>
<p>12 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am</p>   <p>Stag & Staff articles due</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Pentecost Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am</p> <p>Come Holy Spirit revive the church today</p> <p>Wear RED!</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st United Methodist</p>
<p>26 Worship — 9:30 am</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>Remember And Honor</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	



The Creation Care Commission met in April to celebrate progress on the resolutions sent to the Vestry for approval, especially —

Bird houses made and installed

Solar energy investigated

Land assessed for increased pollinator activity and native plantings

CCC will send a new resolution to the Vestry requesting a fund for Creation Care projects be established within the operating budget.

I am ensconced in my rocking chair with my feet up, my laptop on my knees, and my cat asleep on the footstool. It is Sunday afternoon with the sun shining and birds feasting at the feeders. I am recovering.

Yesterday was the last day of the Rummage Sale and once again the lesson was brought home to me that the sale is not about cleaning out my garage and closets. The days before we have a great time working with each other, folks coming in and out with donations and spending what time they can to help with the sorting and the laughter. There is always that mystery item that is too mysterious even for Google Search. There are donations that spark stories and shared histories. Recipes are shared, books are reviewed, and treasures are discovered.

However, the real Rummage Sale are the days when we get to share laughter and stories with the folks who come to shop. This year was the woman and her family, 10 days in this new country, able to purchase needed things for her new apartment. There were friends offering fashion advice back and forth across the tables. Children cuddled stuffed animals or clutched dinosaurs -- not a Dinosaur! A T-Rex! The perfect antique was found for a mother and another for a daughter in law. Donations were sorted out for several local charities. It was a pleasure to see so many things recycled to new homes and to hear the delight in finding something needed or special. The Rummage Sale is about community, our working together as a group, but also being there for our larger community, listening, sharing, being present to each other.

And finally, many many thanks to the West Bend Scouts who come in and pack, haul, and take away all our leftovers as well as help us set up our tables and chairs to get us back to normal. At the end of a full week of work you cannot imagine how much we appreciate their services!

I have felt very grateful this week, and so I give you Humble Pie. It is a simple, easy treat, especially if you get your piecrust ready-made.



Product Recycling

Do you wish there was an easier way to dispose of certain recyclable items? There is! TERRACYCLE has a website which provides information on how to recycle many items for FREE; all you need is a cardboard box, print the mailing label from the site and ship them to TERRACYCLE! Visit them at:

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>

View these pages for examples of items you can recycle with them:

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/iandloveandyou>

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/black-and-decker-home>

HUMBLE PIE.

475* 12-15 minutes

1 pie crust

Nestle into a pie plate or on a piece of parchment paper on a cookie sheet.

2-3 C. of fruit cut in chunks, peeled if you like.

1/4 to 1/3 C. sugar* (this will depend on how sweet your fruit is)

1 T. cornstarch

*Reserve a little sugar to sprinkle on the pie later.

Mix the rest with the fruit and cornstarch.

Mound the fruit in the middle of the crust and fold the edges toward the middle.

1 egg

Beat the egg and brush on the piecrust. Sprinkle with some sugar and bake in a preheated oven at 475* for 12-15 minutes.

Ice cream is a good idea!

Alice Pollock

For those who love stats and/or thinking!
See the poet's "answers" on page 12

A Word on Statistics

Out of every hundred people

those who always know better:
[X].

Unsure of every step:
[X].

Ready to help,
if it doesn't take long:
[X].

Always good,
because they cannot be otherwise:
four—well, maybe [X].

Able to admire without envy:
[X].

Led to error
by youth (which passes):
[X].
plus or minus.

Those not to be messed with:
[X].

Living in constant fear
of someone or something:
[X].

Capable of happiness:
[X] some—odd at most.

Harmless alone,
turning savage in crowds:
[X] for sure.

Cruel
when forced by circumstances:
[X].

Wise in hindsight:
[X].

Getting nothing out of life except things:
[X].
(though I would like to be wrong).

Doubled over in pain
and without a flashlight in the dark:
[X], sooner or later.

Those who are just:
quite a few at [X].

But if it takes effort to understand:
[X].

Worthy of empathy:
[X].

Mortal:
[X] a figure that has never varied yet.

*By Wisława Szymborska
Translated by Joanna Trzeciak
With thanks to Nadia Bolz-Weber*



UNITED THANK OFFERING

Ofrenda Unida de Accion de Gracias

"OUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES"

United Thank Offering: Over \$1M awarded for projects welcoming 'the stranger'

The Episcopal Church Executive Council approved more than \$1 million in United Thank Offering grants supporting 20 innovative mission and ministry projects during its April meeting.

The funds come from the United Thank Offering's yearly Ingathering, which includes monies collected in "blue boxes" at Episcopal churches, designated as thank offerings. This year's total includes a special **matching challenge grant** to raise funds for the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

This is the second of a three-year United Thank Offering grant focus on Matthew 25. This year's grants fund projects that explore new, meaningful ways to welcome people with differences that cause isolation, as well as projects that encourage truth-telling, acknowledging historic trauma, and establishing a path toward healing. The **2023 grants** supported projects related to the worldwide incarceration crisis.



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 8 Caitlyn Lenz
- 11 Pat Schnorenberg
Barb & Mike Morgan
- 17 Laura Johnston
- 19 CJ Daley
Kendra Gross
- 20 Lynn Behrendt
- 21 Loretta & Bert Mendoza
- 22 Sandi Lenz
- 24 Peter Hoffmann
Molly & Zachary Mertens
- 27 Linda Weber
- 29 Zachary Mertens

THE BISHOP ARRIVES FOR PENTECOST...



Episcopalians speaking in tongues. [Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham]



**Hartford
Community Lunch**
Saturday, **May 25**
11:30 am
1st United Methodist

Lunch is served at 11:30am. Come for a free hot meal with the Hartford Community! To volunteer [9 am—2 pm], just show up on the day.
If you have questions, please contact **Larry Thomas at 262-955-4900.**



Pizza party after the Earth Day service. Singing is hungry-making!

Custer, WI
[near Stevens Point]

2024 DEMO DAY

Friday, June 21

The MREA'S 33RD ANNUAL
ENERGY FAIR

CLEAN ENERGY + SUSTAINABLE LIVING FOR ALL

Saturday, June 22

The 33rd Annual Energy Fair

The Energy Fair is the nation's longest-running event of its kind, bringing together renewable energy and green living enthusiasts since 1990. Having evolved into a single-day, consumer-focused event, the Fair will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at the MREA headquarters in Custer, WI and will host a competitive selection of workshops, demonstrations, exhibit booths, and the usual music and fun that has always been at the heart of the Fair.



Break your silence.
Tell your truth.

A Word on Statistics

Out of every hundred people
those who always know better:
fifty-two.

Unsure of every step:
almost all the rest.

Ready to help,
if it doesn't take long:
forty-nine.

Always good,
because they cannot be otherwise:
four—well, maybe five.

Able to admire without envy:
eighteen.

Led to error
by youth (which passes):
sixty, plus or minus.

Those not to be messed with:
forty and four.

Living in constant fear
of someone or something:
seventy-seven.

Capable of happiness:
twenty-some-odd at most.

Harmless alone,
turning savage in crowds:
more than half, for sure.

Cruel
when forced by circumstances:
it's better not to know,
not even approximately.

Wise in hindsight:
not many more
than wise in foresight.

Getting nothing out of life except things:
thirty
(though I would like to be wrong).

Doubled over in pain
and without a flashlight in the dark:
eighty-three, sooner or later.

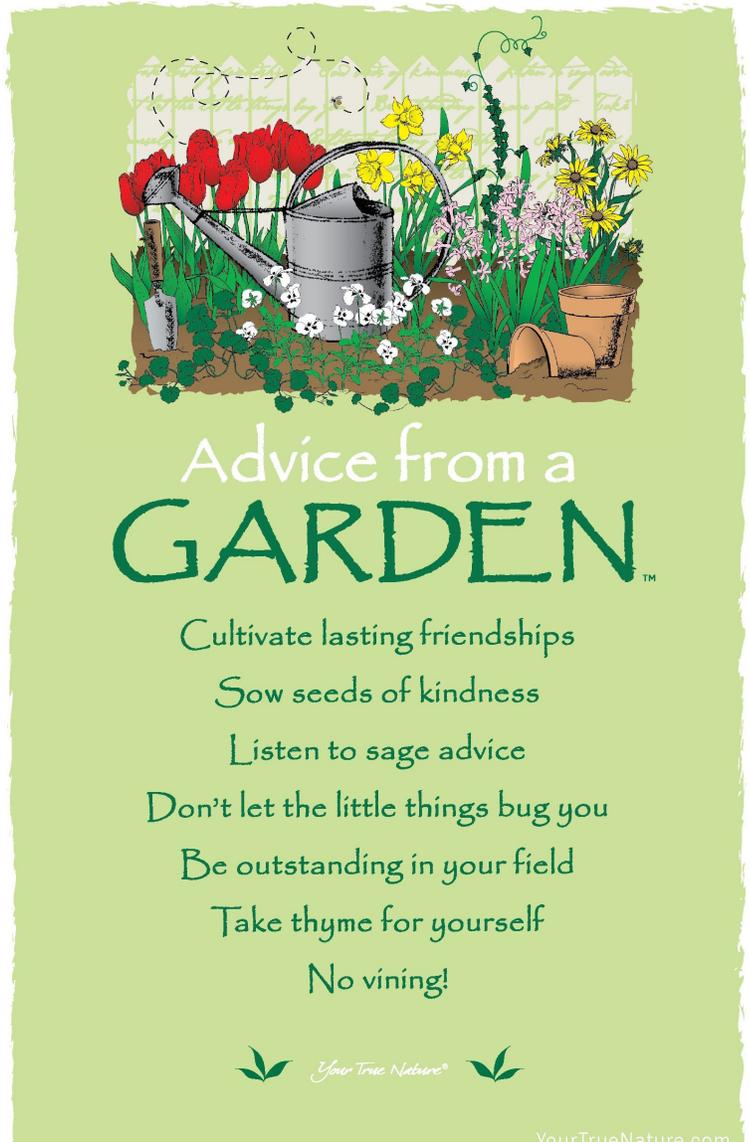
Those who are just:
quite a few at thirty-five.

But if it takes effort to understand:
three.

Worthy of empathy:
ninety-nine.

Mortal:
one hundred out of one hundred—
a figure that has never varied yet.

By Wisława Szymborska
Translated by Joanna Trzeciak



Advice from a
GARDEN

Cultivate lasting friendships

Sow seeds of kindness

Listen to sage advice

Don't let the little things bug you

Be outstanding in your field

Take thyme for yourself

No vining!



YourTrueNature.com

My Garden

A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!

Rose plot,

Fringed pool,

Fern'd grot —

The verist school

Of peace and yet the fool

Contentds that Got is not —

Not God! In gardens! When the eve is cool?

Nay, but I have a sign;

'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

Thomas Edward Brown