



# The Jerusalem ★ Star

## Summer 2013:

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**W**e've been noting a lot of first anniversaries around here lately:

Jessie, Jordan, and Nathaniel's arrival to Kansas City, the Farm's dedication mass, and Andrea and Abhi's arrival to Kansas City, among others. As we reflect on these milestones, we also notice how we've grown: as a community, as individuals, and as an organization. Sometimes growth comes along so gradually, like in the case of our community, that we just look back and suddenly see how far we have come. We see how natural community feels, how few arguments we have, how many moments of laughter and joy, and how many signs of God are present. And that growth has only happened through intentional discernment, which is a major part of our life here at Jerusalem Farm: we are constantly discerning our personal lives, the life of our community, and the direction of our organization.

In the past year, we've grown from an idea to a fully formed community that is constantly growing, changing, and striving to look more closely like the kingdom of God here on earth. We have added seven adult community members and watched our youngest community

Tomatoes growing in our garden; almost time for Grandma Warmbold's famous fried green tomatoes!



member grow from a crawling baby into a chatty toddler. We have celebrated the service of

**GROWTH IS THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF LIFE**  
 — JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

many group week and day volunteers. We have updated our farm house to suit the needs of our program. And while we were all being intentional about planning and discerning the next steps that Jerusalem Farm was taking, we were all discerning life as a community, as well. We all gathered together last December to write our community handbook, the values that we

want to live by, and the responsibilities to which we hold ourselves and the rest of the community. And we were learning the methods of consensus decision-making in order to better meet everyone's needs when making major decisions. We have shared our faith with one another, we have looked to the future to what it might bring, and we were laughing, sharing, loving, and growing community together through it all.

It was somewhere in here that we started discerning our own paths, as well. We were all trying to figure out how this new organization was going to work and trying to discern what role

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Stories of transformation, hope and joy because you support Prayer, Community, Simplicity and Service in Kansas City



Thanks to the help of so many volunteers since March, we've been able to assist nine neighbors and three local non-profits with their much needed home repairs. These projects included drywall work, painting, building a wheelchair ramp,

remodeling a shower to be wheelchair accessible, and repairing a roof.

We are grateful to Christmas in October for providing many of the building materials used in these projects. Our home repair program has experienced substantial growth; through our partnership with CIO we have been able to help people we could not on our own, such as Amy who had a very leaky and very steep roof. We are particularly grateful for over \$2,500 in roofing materials CIO provided for Amy's roof replacement, which we hired a contractor to install because of the steepness.

I was told that the Sojourner Program would be a time of both service and spiritual discernment. Residing in Northeast Kansas City, service naturally materializes as we engage the community around us, specifically when working on home repair projects. However, before starting, I was unsure what spiritual discernment looked like. The term seems quite abstract, suggesting a strengthening of one's faith, which we may agree is beneficial. Perhaps it is ironic that the implication of an abstract term is in itself abstract.

## Service and Spiritual Discernment

Spiritual discernment looks different for everyone. Thus far, my time at Jerusalem Farm has allowed me to study in depth the Christian faith, specifically in regard to Catholic Social Teaching. As a new Catholic, understanding my faith is invaluable and strengthens and solidifies my beliefs. Service only strengthens the concept of spiritual discernment by providing literal examples. In a sense, they complement each other in application and theory, respectively. The result draws us nearer to our Father.

A Sojourner is a transitional member of the community, neither residing full-time nor dropping by for a brief duration. The lack of a multi-year commitment underscores how much I will miss the time allowed for in-depth studying and service among fellow believers in this unique environment. Yet, there is a season for everything and I am fortunate to have been granted this opportunity at Jerusalem Farm.

★ Timothy Aderman  
*Timothy is a recent college graduate participating in our Sojourner Program.*

Through our Pendleton Heights Curbside Compost program we have diverted over 600 lbs. of food from the landfill to our chickens' bellies. As our program continues to grow we hope many more neighbors will join us in turning "waste" to life giving humus.



# how have we grown?

July 2012: Dave (our board chair), Alice, Nathaniel and Abhi watch our 6-week old chickens play in the yard.



wasn't surprising to me that very soon after I joined Jerusalem Farm, I started being more intentional about my faith life and discerning whether God was calling me to settle down in Kansas City for the foreseeable future.

It was through this intentional discernment and with the invaluable support of my fellow community members that I have realized it is my time to move on from the Farm; I will be moving to Chicago in July to further pursue my vocation as a teacher. As I prepare to move on, I look back and see that I have grown very much, and that I have been changed by this community at Jerusalem Farm. I am so grateful for everyone

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each of us felt called to play in the Farm. As time went on, we began reflecting whether the roles we had taken on were truly fulfilling our hearts and were an expression of what God had made us to do. While we all hope that Jerusalem Farm fosters long-term community commitment, each of us in the current community, as well as those who join the community in the future, must continue to discern if this is the place for us.

The reason I was drawn to community in the beginning was for the opportunity to be intentional about growth and discernment. Living in community is not always easy; in fact, it can actually take a lot of time and effort to be intentional, selfless, and loving with community members. But while being more intentional, selfless, and loving with others, I've learned how to be that way with myself in my own life. So it



June 2013: Nathaniel waits for friends to join us for community night; check our website for upcoming community night dates.

who has helped me and the Farm to grow in the past year. It hasn't always been easy, but as John Henry Newman says, "growth is the only evidence of life," and in the past year, I have certainly lived abundantly. Alice Foreman



You have stripped off your old behavior with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its Creator.

Colossians 3:9b-10

"DO THE BEST YOU CAN DO UNTIL YOU KNOW BETTER. THEN WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER, DO BETTER."

-MAYA ANGELOU

Babies are funny and cute but toddlers are hilarious and a lot of work. Mostly, we as parents just start to realize our great responsibility in raising this little wild person into a functioning member of society. We all have great hopes and dreams when babies are born (cloth diapers only, then potty trained by 9 months, solely local organic homemade baby food, never raising

and cloth toys, certainly not any refined sugar). Then at some point we realize, "This is a lot of work, and I am falling short of my very high standards." It is easy to get caught up in all these ideals, standards, rules, and guidelines. As mother to Nathaniel, I personally want to hold myself to high standards

## Growing Future Hope

our voice and using a kinder alternative to the word "no," exclusively American made wooden

which I believe will bring



As the growing season has come upon us we have been blessed with so much rain that our tomatoes are having a party with the beans; while the greens are singing their praises to the Lord. Thanks to "Farmer John" (pictured above), who works day and night, the weeds have not overcome us yet (or was it our wonderful volunteers?!).

closer to peace, but the danger is that I end up like the Pharisees and follow the law—portraying myself as a martyr—but forget about the motivation for the law: sacrificing for love. Love is our motivating factor and when we fall short, we are lifted up by the grace of God and realize that we are not self-made men and women. By cultivating love, we cultivate hope. Raising children is less about all our high standards and more about giving our children our love and passing on Christ's values, which will in turn grow a future generation full of hope with passion to change tomorrow.

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians and said, "...the greatest of these is LOVE," he meant it, and he means it now in talking about our families, our coworkers, our neighbors, our lives. Growing future hope is not just the job of parents, it is everyone's job and it can only be done one day at a time, small action by small action. Similarly, our faith is not going to grow unless we feed it. We need to find the values and principles to build a foundation and nurture our growth (going to church, actually READING what the Bible has to say, and finding a faith community to share experiences with) but most importantly we need to love. Start small: Thank your parents or an elderly mentor for what they have done for you. Call a friend just to tell

me

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them how much they mean to you. Offer to help someone at work and allow yourself to take help from others. Shop at a local store. Hang your laundry out to dry. Plant some seeds in the ground and then share the harvest with your neighbors. Take some time to be quiet with the Lord.

We'll start sharing these ideas with Nathaniel (right after he gets everybody's names down—Andrea is a hard name!), and we will most likely not reach our high standards, at least not overnight. However, another thing about

children is they remind us of God's loving acceptance, despite our failings. Nathaniel loves me even when I put him on time out for being noisy or needy (really I should be the one on time out sometimes!). God keeps growth on our minds at all times with Nathaniel; each day he can do a bit more, pronounce a few extra words, or show affection in a new way. All this growth reminds me to sow the seed of hope daily, in him and in the work we do.

At Jerusalem Farm we strive to grow future hope—encouraging young people to grow in their faith and to stay engaged—in addition to sharing hope in our neighborhood. I pray that today while you read this you are stirred to let go of the law and grow future hope through a loving action today; maybe something off the list shared above or somewhere else you find a need. If you feel moved you could share what you've done (or something someone did for you) with us on our Facebook page. We can all use an uplifting story and some encouragement but we



Nati sharing with the chickens; you can share with us at [facebook.com/JerusalemFarm](http://facebook.com/JerusalemFarm)

also need to spread the word that people are sowing seeds of future hope. The more people know the more people

will join in for a better tomorrow. ★ Jessie Schiele

## Jerusalem Farm

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[www.jerusalemfarm.org](http://www.jerusalemfarm.org)  
Prayer - Community - Service - Simplicity

Jerusalem Farm is a Catholic Intentional community located in Kansas City, Missouri, built on the four cornerstones of Prayer, Community, Service and Simplicity. We strive to transform our lives and those around us through service retreat experiences, sustainable living and home repair.

**Save the Date: October 5th 2013**  
**Community Harvest in the Park**  
A disc golf tournament and celebration of the Historic Northeast!  
Come out and support Jerusalem Farm, eat local foods, play disc golf and enjoy Cliff Drive.

**Our Community:**  
Jessie, Jordan, & Nathaniel Schiele  
Andrea & Abhi Dutt  
Kristina & Zack DiVozzo  
Alice Foreman

**Our Board of Directors:**  
Dave Armstrong - *Chair*  
Sr. Rose McLarney - *Secretary*  
Bill Cordaro  
James Cianciaruso  
Jude Huntz  
Ken Mayo  
Regina Staves  
John Summers  
Fr. Bob Stone  
Angela Torres



## Don't forget to stop by the Farm next year!

We have lots of home repair projects to work on, along with composting and gardening chores that never seem to end; we need your help! We have started taking reservations for 2014 high school group weeks, check out our website for a calendar of dates.

Your reservation form and deposit are due Nov. 1st. We had a great time the last two weeks with Holy Trinity parish, St. Suzanna's parish, and Loyola Academy High School and look forward to welcoming them back next summer!

**Available spots for College age volunteers:**  
2013: Oct. 13-19 (4 spots)  
2014: March 2-8 (17 spots)  
March 23-29 (9 spots)  
May 11-17 (16 spots)

All are welcome!

**Holy Week 2014**  
April 13-19

**Retreat Weekend**  
info available on our website

**Food & Faith**  
8/30 - 9/3

**A Sainly Retreat**  
11/1-3

2014 Retreats coming soon!

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact Kristina at [volunteer@jerusalemfarm.org](mailto:volunteer@jerusalemfarm.org) for available weeks and opportunities

## Thank You to:

Jeff and Angela Schiele, CSJ - St. Therese Little Flower Community, Bill Cordaro, The Society of the Precious Blood, Kevin and Maggie Lambi, Kathleen and John Barry, Don and Mary Benson, Beth Scanlon, Gary and Patti Crowder, St. Teresa's Academy, Paul and Maggi Choplin, Erin Ronan, Howard and Sharon Schwantes, Danny and Beth Patton, Joe and Jeannine Wambold, Dan and Denise Davis, Gary and Mary Kruger, Carol and Larry Frevert, Denise + David Brummel, Arlene and Bernie Reusz, Bonne Haghirian, Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph, Jude Huntz, Maureen Poulin, Randy Barth + Bernadette Weeks, Lee and Katie-Rose Imbriano, Saint Patrick Parish, Jim and Cathy Osborne, Karen and Dean Cox, Dave and Kelly Armstrong, Jeremy Lillig, CSJA, Dave & Shirley Marshall-Deitch, Ron and Suzanne Slepitz, Brandon and Lucie Pomeroy, Jordan and Jessie Schiele, The Ferguson/McGuire Family, and Gary and Mary Novak

for pledging  
to our Planting Roots Campaign

## Our Wish List

- ✓ Ear Protection — \$15
- ✓ Long fitted twin sheets — \$20
- ✓ Norwex Enviro cleaning cloths (see amazon.com) — \$25
- ✓ Canning jars, lids, and rings of all sizes
- ✓ Local accountant
- ✓ Your pledge of \$393 for our Planting Roots Campaign!

For a complete list visit  
[www.jerusalemfarm.org](http://www.jerusalemfarm.org)