

At times we get disenfranchised, dissatisfied, or downright disgruntled with the world around us. The pressures that exist in the world, the preponderance of negative and depressing news, and the uncertainty of life itself weigh heavy upon us. There are moments, however, where we see a bit more clearly the wonder and mystery and promise of the world. The recent PBS *Nature* program on *Animal Reunions* is nothing short of inspired. While it may be poo pooped by some as unrealistic and wishful thinking, it offers a powerful glimpse at the connection that humans have with the other creatures of the creation. We are definitely *not* alone in our emotional make-up and the need for love and security. If you did not see it, this episode is well worth the viewing. You can see it [here](#).

While the discussion of a potential lease for a small parish in north Stamford pales in comparison to the connections raised in the *Animal Reunions* piece, the connections are not lost on me. The unanimous vote this past Sunday to proceed in developing a lease with A Place Like Home Daycare and to send onto the Episcopal Church in Connecticut that St. Francis is extremely supportive of this endeavor is a step in continuing to make these types of connections. Sue Rutz wonderfully led the meeting and deftly set the table for the work that had been done--and will need to be done--to secure the lease and answered the various questions from a curious and supportive group. We are extremely fortunate to have such gifted and strong leaders as Sue and her counterpart, Kim Henderson. We are doubly blessed by a vestry that works closely together and finds consensus on issues that could otherwise be divisive. And we are triply blessed by a congregation that understands our current situation and possesses a passion for this community and the work that we do together in God's name.

When it comes right down to it, the focus of *Animal Reunions*--LOVE--is the focus of our life together. To the degree that we are able, in the various places that we find ourselves, and given evidence to the contrary, we reach out in love to our own situations in life, to those who are companions on life's journey at St. Francis, to the larger human world, and to the larger creation. It is about love. God's love for you. God's love for the whole creation. And our part in sharing God's love with one another. The potential lease with A Place Like Home is a way to support the love for children in a very specific way (through the childcare that the owner, Glauca Maruca, provides) as well as a vehicle for our community to continue to maintain our life together and to reach out in love to a world sore in need of it.

There will, of course, be issues that continue to arise, and we will not always agree with what could be or should be done. However, I hope that we will always possess a spirit of grace and love as we deal with one another. Again, watch *Animal Reunions*. You cannot help *but* recognize the power of simple, faithful, consistent, and loving responses to the world. Such is what we are called into. Again, thank you to Sue and Kim and to the leadership at St. Francis. Thank you, as well, to all of you who make our life together what it is. The spirit is alive and

well here, alive and well in each of you, and I give thanks to God for the grace and love that is shared.