

A Reflection from The Rev. Ben Robertson // July 24, 2024

You may have heard of, or have read, the work of Marie Kondo, the popular organizational guru and author of "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up." Part of her method is asking if something "sparks joy." According to Ms. Kondo, when one is determining if a thing should be tidied, "the key is to pick up each object one at a time, and ask yourself quietly, 'does this spark joy?'" She continues, "joy is personal, so everyone will experience it differently." Joy can be, "a little thrill, as if the cells in your body are slowly rising."

Ms. Kondo's concepts remind me of something ++Rowan Williams said after being called to be the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury. He remarked, "if there is one thing I long for above all else is that the years to come will see Christianity in this country able to capture the imagination of our culture, to draw the strongest energies of our thinking and feeling."

I have been praying and thinking about how these concepts might relate to our work and ministries at All Saints. What sparks our joy and captures our imagination? What might engage folks seeking a spiritual home? How might our joy and imagination interface with the joys and imaginations of our community?

I want to know what captures your imagination at All Saints. What about our mission and ministries spark joy? As we prepare for a new school year, and as the Vestry prepares for a strategic retreat in September, knowing your joys and imaginations would be quite valuable. [You can share your joys and imaginations electronically using the linked anonymous Google form or look for the very analog suggestion box in the Narthex.](#) Thank you in advance!

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, the angel promises Elizabeth that she, "will have joy and gladness." May God continue to bless us and our fellowship. And together, may we have joy in our mission as All Saints.