

Sermon 2017-10-01 - Year A - Pentecost 9-28 - Rector's Address for Annual Meeting

The Rev. Christopher M. Klukas

Intro

- 5 Months into my rectorship - it is hard to believe that we have been with you for almost half of a year!
- We are so thankful to be a part of this community and we truly feel that this is exactly where God wants us to be.

Great Commission

- Matthew 28:18-20
 - The mission of the Church is to make disciples
 - Disciplemaking begins before someone is a Christian, and it ends in one of two ways. Death or the return of the Lord.

Vision

- Good Samaritan Anglican Church is a loving community reaching people and leading them to become followers of Christ by loving God, loving others, and serving the world.
- Welcoming Neighbors | Discipling Believers

Welcoming Neighbors

- Learning Tree - Reaching unchurched families
 - Robin Matheson has been a real answer to our prayers
 - 11 VPK students
 - 6 three-year-olds
 - Chapel program - you should hear them sing "Jesus Loves Me"!
- Food Giveaway
 - Each month we serve food to 130-150 people
 - God has blessed us abundantly this month so that we can help rebuild people's stores of food after the hurricane
 - Car Show is coming soon - \$2500 sponsorship from Florida Blue
 - Money from the Car Show will go to both the food giveaway and the mission to Cuba in 2018
- Graphic Identity Update and Website
 - In 2017, a church's website is the front door of the church. Very few people visit a church without first visiting the church's website. Our's now says "welcome"!
- Newcomers Luncheons
 - First one on Oct. 17 - we hope to do this 4-6 times per year
 - Welcoming Anne Eggers
- Missional Habits Class - Oct 25, 6:30 pm - 6 wks long, 4 before Thanksgiving and 2 after
 - We can spend lots of time, energy, and money on planning events and advertising them, but the most effective form of outreach is still a personal invitation from you to your friends, family, and neighbors.
- Whatever we do, we need to maintain a focus on reaching out and serving others.
 - Others First = Life. Me First = Death. When a church ceases to have a heart and ministry for its community, it is on the path toward death. Whenever local churches are mentioned in the New Testament, they are always exhorted to be

other-centered.¹

Discipling Believers

- “Why would God send us new people if we don’t have a plan to disciple them when they come?” - Canon Mark Eldredge
- Catechism Class
 - To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism
 - Lord’s Prayer | Ten Commandments | Apostles Creed
 - I intend for this to be a major way that we make disciples
 - This is also how I intend to prepare people for confirmation
 - If any of you are interested in getting confirmed this year, please speak to me about it now and plan to get involved in this class.
- Other weekly Discipleship Opportunities
 - Wednesday Discipleship Eucharist
 - Thursday Bible Study
 - Sunday School Bible Study
 - Other short-term classes
- As Christian we always need to be growing in our faith. This happens through personal spiritual disciplines, but it also happens through the church.
 - *“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”* (Proverbs 27:17, ESV)
 - *“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”* (John 15:2, ESV)
- Discipleship of Children
 - In the scriptures and throughout most of the history of the Church, the primary responsibility for this has been with Parents passing the faith to their children.
 - The church has an important role to play as well
 - The Church disciples parents and gives them support as they disciple children
 - The Church provides a second witness to the children and lets them know that the things which their parents believe are believed by their whole church community as well.
 - Sunday School
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Thank you to everyone who has contributed to children’s ministry this year!

Conclusion

- Please pray for this Church - “Lo I am with you always” we need Jesus to give us the strength and direction to do what we do.
 - Laborers for the harvest, and harvest for the laborers
 - Financial provision “give us this day our daily bread.”
 - Pray for me and for the leadership of this church - vision and direction
- Questions, concerns, ideas? Please come and talk to me.
 - My office is not a scary place. I don’t take offense easily. And I deeply desire to know what is on your hearts.

¹ Rainer, Thom S.. *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive* (p. 28). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.