

Subject: Who Is Your Minister?

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June 6, 2013

Who Is Your Minister?

*. . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry . . . Ephesians
4:11*

Anniversaries

Last week was the thirty-third anniversary of my ordination as a priest (I prefer the term "presbyter"-I'll tell you why some other time). Next week will mark the thirty-fourth anniversary of my ordination as a deacon. One way I shared this occasion was to say that the first-thirty four years are the hardest.

The Actual Work

All kidding aside, there is a specific aspect of serving as an ordained leader that I find very challenging and fulfilling. That is overseeing the work of equipping people for the work of ministry. I get this highly atypical idea from the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. Here are two references:

Ephesians 4:11 " . . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry (the saints are any and all Christians, the leaders are to see they are all equipped for ministry)."

Book of Common Prayer, p. 855

The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and His Church; to bear witness to Him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

I draw several ideas from all of this:

1. The job of the priest, especially the priest serving a local congregation, is to see that the members are equipped to do the ministry God has called each one to do.
 - a. Making disciples of Jesus is part of the foundation of this work.
 - b. Recognizing and releasing the gifts of Christ already in each person is also part of the foundation of this work.
2. The job of every Christian is to actively represent Christ and His Church anywhere and everywhere.

I take this quote from Phyllis Tickle as personal advice:

The ditches beside the road to renewal are littered with clergy good ideas. Stop thinking about what people might like and let them dream it up and do it.

The photo above is a great example of this. It is the St. Francis Relay for Life Team coming together with others in our county to raise money to find a cure for cancer. Several members wanted to be involved. Others joined in and now there is a team. It is a step into the healing ministry of Jesus.

My job: equip the members for the work of ministry.

The job of the members of St. Francis (and other Christians): do the work of ministry

Christ has given you to do.

What has Jesus given you to do?

Coming Attractions

Friday June 7, 2013 7:00pm (new time) Relay for Life kick off at Goochland High School Gym. The whole event will last from 7pm until midnight.

Sunday, June 9, 2013 10:00am worship, pot luck to follow. Sermon Topic "Moving From Private To Public Makes It Personal"

Book Study Group for the summer:

Those who would like to join in a study of People of the Way by Dwight Zcheille please meet during the pot luck meal after worship. We will meet at the "People of the Way table." In People of the Way, Dwight Zcheille describes the changes in American culture, how that has affected the Episcopal Church, and what some very helpful next steps might be.

Centerville Circle

Would you join in praying each Thursday for a business in Centerville? Sometime each Thursday if you would remember one of the businesses asking God to bless it and build it up. Today would you remember Dollar General in your prayers? The staff specifically asks that we pray for the inventory to sell at a higher pace so that newer inventory can come into their stock.

Metro Richmond At Prayer

Would you join in praying each week for the Metropolitan Richmond Area?

Metro Richmond at Prayer is a weekly prayer guide coordinated by Richmond Hill. Each week there is a different prayer topic that is of importance to our area.

Would you pray this week for the criminal justice system: for all who are incarcerated in jails and prisons, their families, and their loved ones?

More Summer Reading

Any of the books written by Brene Brown would be very valuable. Her books are

Daring Greatly
I Thought It Was Just Me
The Gifts of Imperfection
Connections

Brene Brown also has two TED talks

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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