

Subject: Equipped
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Date: 6/13/2013 11:03 AM
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June 12, 2013

What Should Your Pastor Do All Day?

And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others . . . Luke 8:2+3

Pastoral Responsibilities

Most people would say that the primary responsibility of any pastoral leader is to take care of the members of the congregation. That is true, but it is also too narrow of a description. The Book of Common Prayer lists the responsibilities of a priest. This is the first one on the list:

The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and His Church, particularly as pastor to the people . . . (BCP, page 855).

It's interesting that our Book of Common Prayer outlines the particular way a priest would represent Christ and His Church- as a pastor to the people. I want to suggest to you that the work of being a pastor to the people is primarily equipping the members, and others, to do the work of ministry to which each one is called.

Being a pastor to the people means that in some very foundational way the congregation can be equipped to:

1. start new things (apostolic)
2. prompt, build up, and encourage others (prophetic)
3. gather people (evangelistic)
4. help others take the next step in their lives (pastoral)
5. show the richness of the Christian Faith(teacher)

An equipped disciple of Christ will major in one of those items according to the gift "He has given each one" and will minor in all of the others at one time or another during his or her lifetime.

How Do You Know You Are Being Equipped?

The primary "litmus test" is that you see yourself as being with Jesus, just like the twelve, the women named, and the many. The two key words in this section are "with Him." The work of equipping the members all boils down to those two words. Your pastor is to equip you to be with Jesus. As you grow in that you will grow in prayer, serving others, understanding the Bible, worshipping, giving, and taking the place God wants you to have in the church.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, June 16, 2013 Worship at 10:00am. Sermon Topic: Jesus Builds the Church. We will also have special prayers for Father's Day.

Many thanks to all who participated on the St. Francis Team for the Goochland Relay for Life. It was a great evening. Here's a photo of the team together at the event:



June 23, 2013 The first session for our summer book study People Of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity by Dwight Zscheile. We will gather after worship to discuss the Introduction and first chapter. The rest of the meetings schedule is

July 1 Chapters 2+3

July 15 Chapters 4+5

July 29 Chapters 6+7

You can buy People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity at amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com

Interested in some deeper, contemplative style Bible Study? Let's form a group to look at Luke 10. Get together for a few minutes after church to pull something together.

As you pray please remember:

1. In the Centerville Circle of Prayer please pray for River City Gymnastics, especially for
 - a. Tucker who needs a double lung transplant
 - b. Safety for all the clients as they train

2. From the Metro Richmond at Prayer calendar please pray for the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: For the victims of violent crime and for situations that perpetuate violence

Keep Saturday morning, October 5, open for the Blessing of the Animals

Our website has added some new features and information recently. Please check it out at www.stfrancisva.org

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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