

TIDINGS

The newsletter of The Church of the Incarnation, Rt. 522, Mineral, Virginia.

What Drives Your Church?

The vestry is reading this book. Here is a synopsis of page 75-83. We hope you will join us at the end of the month as we begin our conversation and discern what God is calling us to do as a church at this time. Our goal is to create an ongoing five year plan and budget.

Principles/opinions

a) Churches driven by Tradition. The goal of a tradition-driven church is to simply perpetuate the past. Change is almost always negative, and stagnation is interpreted as “stability”. Older churches tend to be bound together by rules, regulations, and rituals, and younger churches tend to be bound by purpose and mission.

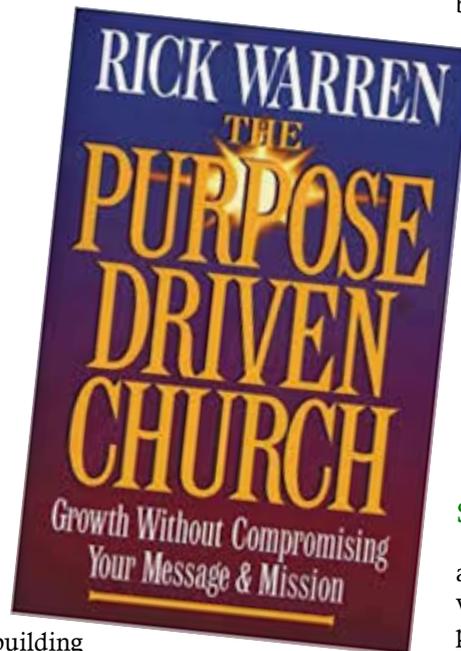
b) Churches driven by Personality. Its agenda is determined more by background, needs, and insecurities of the leader, rather than by God’s will or needs of the people. The church comes to a standstill when that driving personality leaves.

c) Churches driven by Finances. Nothing ever seems quite as important as finances. While good stewardship and cash flow are essential for a healthy church, finances should never be the controlling issue. Churches do NOT exist to make a profit. Many churches are driven by faith in the early years, and driven by finances in their later years.

d) Churches driven by Programs. All the energy is focused on maintaining and sustaining programs of the church. Often the goal subtly shifts from developing people to just filling

positions. No one questions if a program still works.

e) Churches driven by Buildings. Paying for and maintaining the



building becomes the biggest budget item; funds are sometimes diverted from ministries to pay mortgage. On the other hand, some churches allow the smallness of their buildings to set the limit for future growth. Staying with a historic, but inadequate building should never take priority over reaching the community.

f) Churches driven by Events. Impression is that the goal is to keep people busy. Something is going on every night of the week. A church may be busy without having a clear purpose for what it does. Attendance becomes the sole measurement of faithfulness and maturity.

g) Churches driven by Seekers. In an honest attempt to reach unbelievers, some churches allow the needs of unbelievers to drive them. The church should be seeker *sensitive*, but it must not be seeker driven.

h) Our church, regardless of size and location, will be healthier, stronger, and more effective by becoming a purpose-driven church. The key to building something that lasts is to build it on the right foundation.

i) Plans, programs, and personalities don’t last, but God’s purposes will last. Unless the driving force behind a church is biblical, the health and growth of the church will never be what God intended.

Suggested Application

a) Remember to ask if a program still works, and is meeting a church’s purpose.

b) Be wary of the tendency to allow meetings to replace ministry as the primary activity of believers.

c) Do NOT allow seekers to drive the TOTAL agenda for the church. Adapt the communication style to our culture without adopting the sinful elements of it or abdicating to it.

d) We must begin to look at everything the church is doing through the lens of 5 NT purposes, and see how God intends the church to balance all 5 purposes.

e) For a new church, the first step is to define your purpose. For an existing church, the most important task is to

Continued on back page



We would like to invite the congregation to a picnic at our home

Saturday June 23rd
3:30

(we'll plan to eat at 5).

We will provide burgers, hotdogs, and nonalcoholic drinks.

Please bring a picnic side dish or dessert to share (and a stronger drink if you prefer!).

Please sign up at church or **RSVP by June 13** so we can shop appropriately. Friends welcome!

If anyone wants to play in the water, we are on the lake. We have a lot of outdoor seating, but if a few of you can bring chairs, that would be great! We are hoping you can come!

Sandy and Tom Brockel
612 Winchester Trail
RSVP by June 13 to
brockel117@gmail.com

June Birthdays

Lisa Dahowski	11
Lura Kaval	14
Nancy Moser	18
Jim Utt	29



Summer Camp for Grown Ups

Saturday, June 30 – Tuesday, July 3; All Day

Shrine Mont presents a summer camp for those of us still young at heart at the perfect place for camp. This long weekend experience includes opportunities for fun, song, worship, learning and fellowship. At this summer camp your time is your own and the offerings are varied and rich. You can participate in:

- Bonfire and cookout
- Coffee house
- Trips to Bryce Resort for golf and zip line
- Wine tasting
- Hiking to Seven Springs
- Spiritual growth and reflection
- Porch sitting 101
- Rates (include 3 nights lodging 9 meals and program costs)
- Double Occupancy: \$285 per person
- Single Occupancy: \$325 per person
- [Register here.](#)

Our moon bounce at the church picnic.

Professional moon bounce for

Front Step Ministry

Patsy's family who owns a moon bounce company will donate to the church a Moon bounce and its oversight On Saturday, June 30th.



LECTORS FOR JUNE			
DATE	READING	READER	EP
June 10	I Samuel 8: 4-15 Psalm 138	Susan Utt	
Pentecost 3	2 Corinthians 4: 13-5:1	Maddie Madison	
Holy Eucharist	Mark 3: 20-35	The Rev Lura Kavel	
June 17 VESTRY MEETING	I Samuel 15: 34-16:13 Psalm 20	Jane Keller	
Pentecost 4	2Corinthians 5: 6-17	Edwin Keller	
Holy Eucharist	Mark 4: 26-34	The Rev Lura Kavel	
June 24 POT LUCK	I Samuel 17: 1a , 4-11, 19-23, 32-49 Psalm 9: 9-20	Nancy Moser	
Pentecost 5	2 Corinthians 6: 1-13	Samantha Perry	
Holy Eucharist	Mark 4: 35-41	The Rev Lura Kavel	
Altar Guild	Greeter	Acolytes	
June 3 P.Gibbons N. Moser	Rick Harlow	Abby and Jacob Barlow	
June 10 J.Keller and C DeBusk	Jane Gallagher	Maddie Madison	
June 17 J.Keller C. DeBusk	Nancy Thomas	Andrew Mostrag	
June 24 M. Wood K. Guagliardo, S.Perry	Kathy Mihoc	Abby and Jacob Barlow	

**FRONT STEP
MINISTRY!**

This sign-up sheet is available in the fellowship hall

Everyone and anyone can serve in the ministry of hospitality.

**SPECIAL
THANK YOU**

John and Kathy Mihoc

Bill Walling

Emmy Madison

Maddie

Jenny Barlow

Jacob

Abby

Doug Fuller

Pat & Jane

Gallagher

For serving for the first time in June!!!



	FRONT-PORCH	MINISTRY Please help fill-in	SIGN-UP the blanks
June 9	Cooking	Setup or Clean-up	Sales
7:00 10:00 am	1. Pat & Wayne G	1.	1.
	2.	2.	2.
9:00- Noon	1. Nancy M.	1. Pat & Jane Gallagher	1. Emmy Madison
	2.		2. Jenny Barlow
June 16	Cooking	Setup or Clean-up	Sales
7:00 10:00 am	1 Pat & Wayne G	1. Duane Sergent	1.
	2.	2.	2.
9:00- Noon	1.	1. Eileen Smith	1.
	2.	2.	2.
June 23	Cooking	Setup or Clean-up	Sales
7:00 10:00 am	1. Nancy M.	1.	1.
	2.	2.	2.
9:00- Noon	1.	1.	1.
	2.	2.	2.
June 30	Cooking	Setup or Clean-up	Sales
7:00 10:00 am	1.	1.	1.
	2.	2.	2.
9:00- Noon	1.	1.	1.
	2.	2.	2.

redefine your purpose – forget everything else until you have established it in the minds of your members. Nothing will revitalize a discouraged church faster than rediscovering its purpose.

10 TIPS FOR A SPIRITUAL SUMMER

1. Unplug the TV

2. Swim in real water. A spiritual summer calls for as much contact with a lake, river, or ocean as possible. Life begins in water.

3. Gaze at the night sky

4. Make Flying Friends. Plant a butterfly garden or set up a hummingbird feeder. Butterfly spirits will come to your garden in larger numbers if you plant a few herbs and flowering bushes that appeal to them.

5. Take a Meaningful Workshop. We've found a terrific site called [Find the Divine](#) where you can locate virtually every religious and spiritual retreat center in existence.

6. Walk Barefoot. Summer is a time to be more conscious of the sanctity of the earth. "Your feet walk upon the Earth and through this your spirit is connected to the universe," says Cherokee

"Moonmaiden" Jenny Wallace.

7. Make or Buy Presents for Loved Ones. If you are a person of the spirit, you know that now is the time to holiday shop or create. You can think. You can select, not grab, the right gift. But making your own gift might be even better.

8. Sit Under a Great Tree. You don't need to hug the tree--just sit and relate to it. Climb it. Meet someone you love under it. Eat a ripe fruit grown from it (another bright idea from Genesis).

9. Consider Where You Are Burning Out. Light a torch in the yard or start a bonfire on the beach, and acknowledge how far you've come. Then face where you are flaming out like a flamboyant, crazy maniac.

10. Read Eternally Beautiful Things. "Read a book of spiritual depth," says Rabbi David Wolpe, "and do it before a mountain, a sea, a forest, a cave, a flower, a star strewn sky."

10.+ Consider reading one of the book in the bible.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/wellness/2008/09/10-tips-for-a-spiritual-summer.aspx?p=11#EYfCwOTDSlwcQ2yd.99>



P.O. Box 307 Mineral 23117

Sundays 10:30 am

