

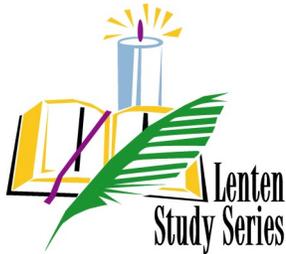


Saint Francis Journal

February, 2023



A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom



"When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day." John 1:38-39a NRSV

I bring a message that is good. I cannot think of a better word for what we as Christians are called to do beyond the word evangelism. Which comes from the Greek word *euangelion* with "eu" meaning "good" + "angelion" meaning "I bring a message." From this we get the term "Good News." It is, and should never be, interpreted in any other way beyond Good News, or the delivery of good. For the message Jesus brought with him is repentance and the forgiveness of sins and that is Good News which we are to share. We all have stories of God's work in our lives. When we share these stories with people we are being evangelists. In the Episcopal Church evangelism is called a Spiritual Practice.¹ A practice where we embody the life and practice of Jesus and are filled with the Spirit forming us into a greater likeness of Jesus.

In this Episcopal spiritual practice of evangelism, we:

Seek: actively listen, and look, for God's activity in others and in the world.

Name: name God's activity encountered in the other.

Celebrate: like the widow finding her lost coin, we celebrate with people God's activity in our lives.

Share Jesus' Loving Presence: We share our experience of Jesus' loving presence in our lives with others.

Tell our story: Our faith is based on what is called the greatest story every told, or the Bible. Our own stories are a part of that ongoing narrative and we should share the Bible and our own stories.

Invite: Not necessarily to church, but to meet again and again share stories about God's activity in our lives.

Evangelism is more about discipleship than about membership. Membership is about giving money to others that do ministry, maintaining an institution, and living an upright life and being a good citizen. This definition has the assumptions that ministry of transformation is somewhere distant, that the goal of the congregation is to get and keep members, and that congregations have low expectations of members. Discipleship is about doing ministry and is shared between congregations and paid ministers-that is, that ministry is for all; along with prayer, worship and serving, giving is a part of a growing relationship with Christ; that we live life in community. This definition assumes the mission field begins at the doors of the church and maybe even a little inside, that membership is not enough and a deep relationship with Jesus comes from discipleship, and that there are high expectations of disciples.²

The goal of evangelism in the Episcopal church is more about discipleship than membership. Membership comes from

the community formed by discipleship.

God's Peace,
Mitch+



¹https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/evangelism_practical_theology.pdf
²Charles R. Lane, *Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in your Congregation* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2006), 12-17.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Mitch Tollett, Rector

The Rev. Joel McAlister, Curate

Dr. Cameron Rose, Director of Music

Hailey Matthews, Children/Youth Director

Carol Lanthrum, Parish Administrator

Susan Kohler, Treasurer

Alberto Cruz, Sexton

VESTRY

Lisa Kraus, Senior Warden (2024)

Todd Lestage (2023)

Paul Streufert (2023)

Doug Clark (2024)

Nancy Earls (2024)

Jeremy Cole (2025)

Claire Hodges (2025)

Gipsy Schneider (2025)

Kathy Dunn, Clerk

A Word from Joel...

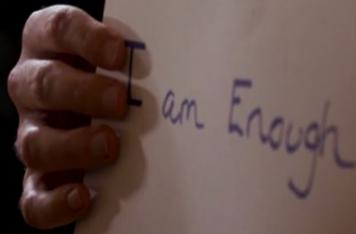


Enlighten the Dark Places

Epiphany is the season of light. As followers of Christ, it is part of our calling to continue to invite that light to enter our lives so that it shines on all the dark places. One offering at St. Francis that is dedicated to the work of illumination is the monthly Conversation on Race meeting. In this meeting people are bravely engaging the issues of race both on a societal level and on a personal level as well. On a societal level by learning about specific ways that racism still plays a role in our community and nation today. And on a personal level by understanding and confronting the implicit biases that we may be holding even unbeknownst to us. Just like light shining in the dark, education and awareness can bring us new understanding about the world we live in and the role that we play in that world. If you are interested in becoming more aware of the ongoing problem of race, I encourage you to attend the upcoming Conversation on Race meeting, Sunday, February 12th after the 10:45pm service (usually starting at noon). May you have a blessed Epiphany season and may God's light continue to shine brightly in all of us.

Blessings,
Fr. Joel+

embracing EVANGELISM



Will you proclaim by word and example
the Good News of God in Christ?

episcopalchurch.org/embracingevangelism

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

This year St. Francis is going to focus on evangelism. We will be doing a six week study as a church during Lent. There will be one class each week of Lent and it will be offered three times during the week. That is how much I want to encourage participation. The times are:

- Sundays between services, 9:45 to 10:30am.
- Wednesdays following the Healing Eucharist around 12:30pm.
- Wednesdays at 6:00pm.

We will also post the videos on Thursdays.

I want to encourage you to come to this series, even if you can only make it in part. The videos are nice but to experience the discussion is priceless.

See you there!

Fr. Mitch & Kathy Clark

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lara Tabri (2/2)

Kiley Munger (2/6)

Freddie Hodges (2/15)

Christian Pierce (11/25)

Janice Teasdale (2/3)

Dave Meyer (2/6)

Tom Cummins (1/27)

Pat Sarubbi (2/21)

Robin Seely (2/27)

Don Earls (2/6)

Michelle Wells (2/11)

Jeremy Cole (1/28)

Mason Miller (2/25)

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Royal & Joyce Daniel (2/24)

*Ordination of
Robert Carl Jerger
January 24, 2023*



First Communion



*Bill Cornett Tree
Dedication*



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♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

February Special Events

Sun. February 12, noon
Conversation on Race

Fri. February 17, 6:00pm
Serendipity Dinner at Gagliano's

Sun. February 19, noon
Parent Time Out

Tues. February 21, 6:00pm
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday, February 22
Ashes to Go: 7:30a—8:30a
Ash Wednesday Service: Noon
Ash Wednesday Service: 6:00pm

Fri. February 24 & Sat. February 25
Diocesan Council

Embracing Evangelism
Thru Lent (begins Sun. Feb. 26)
Sundays: 9:30a
Wednesdays: 12:30pm & 6:00pm

Lenten Lunches
Thru Lent (begins March 1)
Wednesdays: 12:30pm

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Subject to change due to COVID restrictions
Nursery available from 8:00 am—1:00 pm

Sunday

- 8:30 am: Rite I—No music
- 9:30 am: Adult—Gospel Lectionary thru 2/19—Adult Ed Rm
Adult—Living Well thru Lent begins 2/26—Library
Adult—Embracing Evangelism—Adult Ed Rm
Confirmation Class—Begins 2/19
Children—Sunday School—Children Ed Room
- 10:45 am: Rite II—Traditional Music
Broadcast Live on Facebook
- 6:00 pm: Yoga—Children's Ed Room

Wednesday

- Noon: Noon Eucharist & Bible Study
- 2:00 pm: Grief Support Group—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: God's Grace—St. Clare's
- 7:00 pm: Choir Practice—Sanctuary

Thursday

- 5:00 pm: Handbell Practice—Music Room