

May 6, 2018 draft of Summary Report of Renewal Works Committee (hereafter RWC) for the Vestry Meeting on May 16, 2018

Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it?... Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?... Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove. James 2:14, 18 The Message

Introduction

The RWC was organized to encourage St. Philip's parishioners to participate and complete a Spiritual Life Inventory, to analyze and consider the reports and data produced by Renewal Works based on the surveys completed (234-48% response rate), and creating concrete ideas to the vestry who is responsible for the overall implementation of the Renewal Works Process.

Based on the current state of St. Philip's spiritual life and the most important opportunities that analysis introduced by the survey process, we proceeded to focus on spiritual growth in three key areas.

1. the need for all leadership of the church to model moving forward in regards to spiritual development;
2. the encouragement of spiritual practices centered on embedding the Bible
3. the pastoring of the community by demonstrating more clearly how our spiritual journeys and growth connect to the various actions/programs/events we engage in. And ultimately continue to support and enhance all efforts to impact the larger community by the demonstration of our faith in action.

Note: The data provided by Renewal Works in the form of 2 reports are accessible in the Vestry Drop Box.

Overall Initial Recommendations

Addressing the three areas identified in the survey where we need to put our attention we recommend the following actions to the Vestry of St. Philip's In The Hills:

We wish to note that Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry has a proposed rule which we believe seems much like what we are wanting to happen at St. Philip's with our recommendations. **the Rule for Jesus-Centered Life** (electronic survey of the Rule is **available here**)

1. Immediately start using Bible reflection to begin all meetings at St. Philip's. This includes groups like the Fixers, Gardeners, Book Study, etc.
2. Vestry members be periodic contributors to Daily Bread and take part in the Morning Prayer rota.
3. Vestry members be able to talk about their faith journey and spiritual practice.
4. Vestry members be faithful to their practice of daily praying for the clergy, staff and each other.
5. Identify non-clergy leaders in the church, encourage and support them.
6. Assess the ministry resources in the parish and how they are being used. What are the opportunities and priorities of these ministries and how does our mission statement support that vision and does each program reflect the core values of the mission?

Additional ideas for the vestry created by sub-groups of the RWC

During our preparation for developing a final report, the RWC developed 3 sub-teams to begin generating other ideas to promote the three areas of focus. Below are some edited additional ideas that resulted from that sub-team work.

GET MOVING: Fr. Robert, Beth, Virginia, David—subteam members

1. Spiritual Homework on Sundays and Wednesdays that is followed up with via email, Facebook, &c
2. Use Daily Bread email to encourage next steps
3. Call people two weeks before birthday and let them know we will pray for them in birthday and ask if there is anything in particular they would like prayers for
4. Small practice groups (Mothers in Ministry for example)
5. On Ramps to spiritual growth - charts in pews that people can take that have clear next steps in key areas, prayer, study, service with classes, events, services updated regularly. A “here's how you do it” guide to going deeper
6. Saint John's Bible as a tool for going deeper into scripture study

7. New member orientations that assume next steps in spiritual growth
8. Work, Pray, Grow, Give as basic framework for formation with clearly communicated on ramps to each

Intercessory prayer lists made more available for the congregation to pray with

EMBED THE BIBLE: Donna, Mary, Jeannette, Frank—subteam members

1. Keep scripture the core of preaching and teaching.
2. Ensure all parishioners have access to a Bible.
3. Encourage “going to the Bible” for readings rather than printed in bulletin.
4. Parish-wide commitment/policy to include scripture reflection in every meeting, gathering.
5. Encourage individual daily reflection, e.g., *Forward Day by Day*. Currently, clergy are creating daily meditations to be available in variety of delivery formats.
6. Teach how to use the *Daily Office*

PASTOR THE COMMUNITY: Richard, Dick, Patty---sub-team members

1. Make it an expectation that everyone will do some service. For those with energy, identify opportunities in the community to “go out”; for those limited in energy provide prayer lists that focus on community needs and ask them to pray daily.
2. Begin to build a culture of “pastoring the community” by sharing our stories with each other (small groups, community meals focused on service, sermons). Many individuals are already out in the community serving, working – does anyone know?
3. Build a culture that honors, respects and encourages community service. If someone is doing a community service, provide a means of recognition –e.g. bring people involved in community service forward at a Sunday service and send them forth with prayer.

4. Explicitly anchor service projects in the Baptismal Covenant.
5. Form a “discernment” team to assist parishioners to discover how their skills/gifts can be used in community service. Support parishioners on how to connect faith to service.
6. Encourage the Parish to name and support a “Parish Community Project” that can involve everyone – mission trip to Navajo Land, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Contact Episcopal Relief & Development for ideas or projects.
7. Build connections between the parish and other entities that are already at work in the community. Publicize those connections with the Parish and encourage participation.
8. Encourage and honor ministry groups within the parish (study groups, prayer groups, etc.) to identify and support a community project.
9. Use current parish wide events – like the Thanksgiving Dinner – to reach out into the community.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen. (BCP 366)

Respectfully submitted by RWC-----think our names after Jeannette and Frank should be alphabetized

Jeanette Renouf, Chair

Frank Williams, Co-chair

Father Robert Hendrickson

David Hass

Richard Kuns

Donna McArthur

Mary Herring

Virginia Kat

Beth Brouillette

Patty Gill Webber

Dick Powell