

The Terrible “E” Word

Following up on the Purpose Driven Day conference

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Yes, Evangelism is what we speak quietly and with great fear, almost as if it has snuck up on us unawares. Really, though, it has been here ever since Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the Gospels and were given the title Evangelists -- that is, the bearers of the “Good News” that Jesus, God’s Son, lives among us and helps, cares for, and loves us. Some people of the parish are ready in the fall to share a high point of their encounter(s) with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. More people will be asked to join this group of “sharing one’s faith.” While this was started at St. Stephen’s back in the early spring in terms of asking and recruiting people to do this, it is now something that the Diocesan Council is doing, St. Mark’s, Perryville, will be doing, along with Trinity, Elkton, and St. Paul’s, Vienna. The various clergy have discussed this as a follow up to the Department of Missions “Imagine a Purpose Driven Day” conference in April. More church communities will most certainly join this effort of “sharing one’s faith” within their home parishes. Yet the plan is to help train people to speak clearly about their faith not just with friends, but with others whom they may not even know. The steps that are being outlined are as follows:

1. Share your faith with people in your own parish;
2. Share your faith with neighboring Episcopal churches;
3. Share your faith with other Episcopal Churches in your Convocation;
4. Share your faith with other Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Easton (training may be offered);
5. Share your faith with newcomers in your congregation; and
6. Share your faith with others at your work, or recreation, or other places.

This will take a while, but points 1, 2, and 3 look good for local sharing. Many have been asked at St. Stephen’s. Many have accepted the offer and often with much excitement.

In the fall, one or two couples and I will meet over food to do this, or one couple and two singles will meet with me to do this, or whatever configuration is possible.