

Camden Convocation Lay

Dwelling in the Word

- Do we stay in our comfort zone in our congregations?
- What do we gain when we connect? It's a lot of work but it's worth it.
- When we get older, we have to look for the nudging of God when things get painful, and how do we change from what we've done for a long time.
- We are embarrassed to talk about Jesus outside the church. We can do it in the group but not at the supermarket. Get yourself to heaven first and the works will follow.
- This passage supports evangelism and the Jesus movement. We've been compartmentalized for so long, and now we want to spread the word.
- The total of our being gets put into it.
- It's not one person spreading the word, it's a group effort.
- Persecution - why is that happening? Their vision of a different kind of world is upsetting the establishment. We've lost some of our radical subversion.

Vital Questions

- The Episcopal Church allows us to be who I am, and everyone is welcome.
- There us no second generation in the church. Kids raised in the church, but they are not raising theirs in the church.
- We should preach the Gospel, sometimes in words. The church is seen as inward, need more purpose. We have joint advocacy with the Lutheran church. Not many Episcopalians involved.
- When you take kids to church, they get terrible looks from others. Today's parents want the kids with them, not in a separate service. Significant problem.
- Churches who temporarily don't have a priest might lose younger people. But can we be lay driven? Churches that need Deacons too.
- 450 priests retiring, 250 coming in. 109 currently active in NJ (76 fulltime) 144 parishes.
- Who is Jesus? Worship, study and service makes a balanced Christian life. Some Episcopalians are so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good.
- Send to the elders - sent to someone who you trust, who you know will care for all. (Not by age)
- Generations don't know much about the scripture - we need to teach! Educate people in the service.
- Meet people where they are, then lead them.
- Acknowledge people for who they are and what their gifts are. Leaders need to be inclusive.
- Kids want tradition but maybe more relaxed and teach within the service,
- Keep kids involved. Young people resonate with young people.