

the Sursum Corda



News & Inspiration from Epiphany
Anglican Fellowship - Boulder
May 2010 ~ Eastertide to Pentecost



Cup and Chalice:

A Word with the Pastor

Some have asked, "What is our vision for the Boulder congregation of Epiphany Anglican Fellowship? How does it differ from other churches?" I think one way to answer those questions is to contrast our philosophy with the ministry philosophies of most other churches. This does not mean we are "better" than other churches. But it does draw a contrast with that to which most of us have been exposed.

Most of us have belonged to a church practicing the attractional model. In an attractional model, what is the primary door to the community of believers and faith? It's the Sunday morning service or some other program. Attracting outsiders at all costs becomes the driving force (and expense) of attractional churches. Some are doing an admirable job for the kingdom that way.

But in a missional context, the primary door is engagement between the faith community (individually and collectively) and the nonbelieving world away from the Sunday gathering. This engagement with not-yet-Christians as new friends, leads to involvement with the community which leads to belonging which leads to faith (believing). You might diagram it something like this:

Engagement ->> Involvement ->> Belonging ->> Belief ->> Leadership

This engagement happens slowly as natural relationships are formed with non-believers. When they find that you care about them, then they are more open to join you (and us) in some level of involvement whether it be through music, art, or community concerns (eg. homelessness), etc. They

are offered a place to belong and, through belonging, as the gospel is authentically lived before their eyes, they are more likely to come to genuine belief. Think of it this way: our lives, especially our community life of faith is the music of the gospel. Over time, seekers fall in love with the tune and it begins to take hold in their imaginations. *And when you fall in love with a tune, you're dying to know the words.*

Briefly stated, that's how I would express EAF-Boulder's ministry philosophy. It's not "cut and dried" and can get very messy, especially when we're inviting folks to involvement before belief is expressed. And building relationships with the watching community takes time and effort. But living in God's grace, we want to live melodic (not perfect) lives before the watching world and ask God to create a hunger for the words of the Gospel.

How do we accomplish this bold approach to ministry? I believe the means are expressed in our EAF-Boulder ministry motto: **To know Jesus and to make him known in an authentic community of sincere worship, genuine hospitality, meaningful faith development, risky mission, and gracious generosity.** As our life together --especially our common worship-- is lived out in the mix of believer and non-believer, Christ will be evident to the true seeker.

Every blessing,

Dick+ Miller

Feast of St. Mark 2010

CHRIST "HOUNDED" FRANCIS THOMPSON

Almost every modern Christian has been inspired by the poem beginning with the line, "I fled Him down the nights and down the days..." That is, of course, Francis Thompson's "The Hound of Heaven."



The poem's first verse is probably the most familiar:

*I fled Him down the nights and down the days
I fled Him down the arches of the years,
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways
of my own mind, and in the midst of tears,
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.*

*Up vistaed hopes I sped;
And shot precipitated
adown titanic glooms of chasmed fears
From those strong feet that followed, followed after.*

But with unhurrying chase

*And unperturbed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat -- and a Voice beat,
More instant than the feet: "All things betray thee
Who betrayest Me."*

Thompson (1859-1907) composed poetry noted for its brilliant imagery and sonorous language. In 1877 he entered Owens College, Manchester, England, to study medicine. Relinquishing his medical studies in 1885, he went to London, where he lived a destitute life, suffering from ill health,

poverty, and opium addiction. In 1888 he sent a manuscript to Wilfrid Meynell who, with his wife Alice Meynell, edited the Christian periodical *Merry England*. They recognized Thompson's poetic ability and took him under their care. *Poems* (1893), which attracted much attention, contained "The Hound of Heaven," Thompson's chief and best-known work, describing the poet's futile flight from Jesus.

Thompson spent the years from 1893 to 1897 in a monastery in Wales recovering from his addictions. He died of tuberculosis in London in 1907. For the complete poem go to www.houndsofheaven.com/thepoem.htm

SPECIAL SERVICE with +SANDY GREENE

May 23 is the date set for the next visit from our Rocky Mountain bishop. Rather than meeting for worship at our location in Boulder, we'll join other Epiphany Anglican Fellowship congregations at 10.30 for worship at *The Gatehouse* in Lafayette (1055 S. 112th St. which is US 287).



In the Anglican Communion, a visit by one's bishop is extremely important and an opportunity of which to take advantage. This is a time that persons wishing to join their local parish by baptism, confirmation or profession of Christian faith, are received by the bishop in a meaningful service.

If you are interested in "joining" by one of the above avenues, please speak with Dick+ Miller, pastor, as soon as possible.



MY STORY and YOUR STORY

(ed. note: I just came from one of our college campuses where I spent the last hour talking with a student (over nachos) and sharing my story of faith. Perhaps that was providential for this article).

Instead of personal article by a member of the congregation, I thought I could encourage you in the development of your own personal story of how you came to faith in Christ. Permit me to pass along some pointers in the development of your faith-story (used to be called

"testimony"). Get a pad and pencil and start to write your answers to the following:

- 1) What my life was like before I met Christ.** Were you religious? Were you rebellious? How did pride dominate your life?
- 2) How I came to know Jesus Christ as my saviour.** Was the friendship of a Christian instrumental? How? Did some event or situation prompt you to think about eternal things? Be as specific as possible about how the relationship with Christ was formed.
- 3) How my life has changed since coming to personal faith.** What has Jesus given you through your relationship with him? How has Christian fellowship (church) helped you in your faith development?

As you begin to look at what you've written, you will be able to polish it into

a story you pack with you everywhere you go. Social observers are telling us that, while the church is thought of most negatively, the value of your faith-story has risen. Don't believe the lie that people won't listen.

In fact, I will encourage you to share with just two people during May. You can say your priest gave you an assignment and you need their help in giving you feedback. Let us know what response you receive to your story.

The old way is to attract the "seeker" to church by offering entertainment and sharp programs. The new way of reaching our community is having believers dispersed in schools, offices, clubs, teams, and neighbourhoods gossiping the Good News. Your personal faith story is one of the best relational ways to do that. - dm

GUEST ARTISTS SERIES

One of the most often over-looked ministry opportunities afforded the American church is the arts community. Not only do we have much to offer, but artists in our civic community have much to offer us. In fact, the Anglican Church has a long and rich history of employing people's artistic gifts for the glory of God. (It was those odd Puritans who viewed art in almost all its forms as idolatrous and removed color and beauty from their churches.)

Your congregational leaders have decided to explore the connections we might make with musicians, painters, poets, sculptors, actors, and writers in our larger Boulder community. One of the avenues we will explore is to invite artists to be our guests on occasional Sundays (and later other evenings) to share their craft with us.

Know anyone we might contact to be our guest? Please contact your congregational leaders. (The accompanying painting is entitled "The Risen Lord" by Chinese artist, He Qi.)



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 St Philip & St James

May 2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 325

May 5 Career & College BBQ, 6p

May 9 Mother's Day

May 16 Ascension of Our Lord

May 23 Pentecost (worship with +Sandy Greene at The Gatehouse)

May 25 Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605

P.S. We'd like to have three Friendship Parties this summer. Will you host one?





Thanks to Ken Rey and Mark Roberts for the art and song lyrics displays during worship.



Don't forget to support *Threads of Hope* by visiting the display table on May 2

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9

Memorial Day is Monday, May 31

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