

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

July 2023

RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR



Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NRSV)

I am sharing with you this month some information about the Reconciling In Christ community / process in the Evangelical Lutheran Church (In American and In Canada). The Episcopal Church has a parallel organization called Integrity USA. While they do have a similar process of registration (as a Proud Parish Partnership), they no longer offer much in the way of information or training.

One of the things that strikes me about “welcome” is that it is entirely in the perception of the welcomed. It really doesn’t matter if I think my behavior is welcoming if someone does not receive it that way. My welcome has failed.

Nothing we do will make all people perceive us as welcoming. However, we can build tools within our congregations to push us in that direction. We can learn how to better promote ourselves as a different expression of Christianity where “All Are Welcome” actually has some truth to it; where the promise of a safe space for all is lived out; where we truly believe and live the truth that all people are God’s beloved.

As we (All Saints and Saint Mary’s) start to live into our shared journey, both congregations are exploring how we can make ourselves and our beliefs better known in our communities. This is work that we could potentially do together. Not everything has to be as difficult as compromising over church times. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if some things were easier because we are not alone?

Rev Warren Huestis

PARISH READING

EXTRACTED FROM THE CLUTTER OF THE RECTOR'S DESK RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Frequently Asked Questions

>All people are welcome in our faith community. Why should we single out lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) people and a commitment to anti-racism?

Many LGBTQIA+ people have learned by experience they are not welcome in faith communities, even in those that state, “All are welcome here!” A general statement of welcome is often heard as meaning “everybody but me,” so it can take a special effort to communicate an authentic welcome to LGBTQIA+ people. RIC communities find their journey of discernment extending a welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and commitment to anti-racism opens them up to other people or groups who also need a clear invitation to know the community has truly prepared for them. The ministry of welcome must be intersectional to truly see, name, and care for those God names as beloved.

>How does a Lutheran community become an RIC partner?

The community must follow all four of the RIC partner public commitments. They are: 1) Your community explicitly states a welcome to people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” or “LGBTQIA+” and names its commitment to racial equity or antiracism in its welcome statement, 2) Open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) rostered leader, 3) Will allow community space/sanctuary to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings, and 4) Will make a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program. A faith communities Welcome Statement to become RIC partner needs to be affirmed at a congregational meeting or a vote by church council or other governing bodies.

>When was the RIC program started and why?

Since 1983, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church. The RIC Program is made up of congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, outdoor ministries, and other Lutheran organizations. Every ministry setting begins this journey from their own unique context and ReconcilingWorks is here to help you create
(continued next page)

VESTRY

John Joy, Sr Warden
 Charles Everhart, Jr Warden
 Richard Davis
 Andrea Harner
 Judy Sauer
 Barb Zumwalde
 2 openings
 Newsletter editor—John Glaze

Samaritan Outreach Services (SOS)

is in need of paper goods! When you shop, please remember YOUR NEIGHBORS and pick up some extra items. There is a box in Lacy Hall to place them.

Monetary donations accepted also!

If you have questions, see Rich Davis!

THANK YOU!

Ramblings *(continued)*

an authentic welcome journey that is customized to your community.

The purpose of the RIC Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program.

What is a “welcome statement?”

A community’s welcome statement is a public document created to specifically welcome “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic” (LGBTQIA+) people or “people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions” and a “commitment to racial equity” or “anti-racism.” ReconcilingWorks encourages creativity in this statement so it reflects the diversity and intersectionality of your faith community’s ministry.

What happens when a community becomes RIC?

1. Communities are listed on the national public website found at www.ReconcilingWorks.org/FindRIC.
2. Through a public partnership with Reconcilingworks, your community will continue to set milestones to deepen and expand your welcome.
3. RIC partners have access to additional resources tailored to support their ministry.

What is the relationship between ReconcilingWorks, the ELCA, and the ELCIC?

ReconcilingWorks is an independently organized 501(c)(3) organization. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) formally recognize ReconcilingWorks as an “Independent Lutheran Organization,” affirming our collaborative work in reaching out to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic people. We advocate for change within institutional churches to ensure that all rites, sacraments, and ministries of the Church are open to all.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/becomeric/faqs/>

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Last month I started out by remarking that summer appears to be here, noting that one is “never sure about our Ohio weather.” The past few days have seemed to me to be more like fall than summer, so moving forward I think I will refrain from any more comments on weather!

We have received the preliminary drawings from McCarty on the electrical service and HVAC revisions and are in the process of reviewing them. We hope to be able to proceed with getting contractors, at least the electrical, started within the next few weeks. Let’s all acknowledge the work Rev. Warren, assisted by Robbie and Tyler Harner, have gotten done regarding installation of the wiring for our new sound and video systems beneath the floor. This needed done, so join me in thanking them for their work on this. We are all looking forward to an up-to-date sound and streaming system! On the building, all should know we are having ongoing issues with the new roof on the addition. We have had a series of missing shingles and leaks, and the insurance company has sent personnel to look at the damage more than once. It’s our understanding that there is some concern about the overall roof installation and that there may have been some problems with the original, new roof installation on the addition, which the insurance company is looking at. We are working with the contractor to get the current missing shingles and leaks fixed.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for your patience and efforts as we work through the trial options for Sunday service times. I would also like to thank you for keeping attendance at both the 9 am and 11:30 consistent. I would kindly remind you to let Rev. Warren or a Vestry member know of your preferences as to a Sunday service time. It is also worth noting that no firm decision has been made for the months ahead, but based on the attendance figures alone at All Saints and St. Mary’s, St. Mary’s could work with either time, but All Saints attendance is markedly better at the 11:30 time compared to the 9 am start. I am sure you will be hearing more about the service time in the weeks ahead.

John Joy

Senior Warden

Service Time for the rest of the year: 9 am

DISMANTLING RACISM

RACISM - An ugly word, for sure, and most of us, if asked, would say we definitely are not racist. But what does racism really mean, especially in relation to our Baptismal Covenant?

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
-Micah 6:6a, 8

The Diocese of Southern Ohio is offering **DISMANTLING RACISM TRAINING** which is being led by Miriam McKenney and Emma Helms-Steinmetz. I (John Glaze) just finished this training and found it thoroughly enlightening and totally not what I expected it to be. It is not "preachy" nor filled with all of the DO THIS and DON'T DO THAT narrative which one would expect. Rather it is presented with pairing the simplicity of children's literature with scripture and tied to Beloved Community.

The entire training is offered on Zoom, so there is no traveling. You don't have to open your mouth at all if that's what you prefer. You are invited to share or not share, as you are led. My group had about a dozen participants, including the leaders. They represented a large range of people from many walks of life. Training is offered during the day or in the evening, so you have many opportunities to fit this into your schedule.

I encourage each of you to consider taking this training. I promise you will benefit from it and get to know folks from around the Diocese. There is no cost except six hours of your time, and they stay strictly to the schedule. It starts on time and ends on time.

Within the schedule below are the specific web location where you can sign up. If you would like me or Maggie to send you the live link, just let us know. If you have questions, please talk to me. I'll end this with a paragraph from the written material:

"Dismantling racism is hard work. As Christians, we're blessed to have a roadmap to support us. Our ancestors' stories in scripture teach us much about what the beloved community looks like and what happens when God's people fall out of the covenant God made with us and that we made with each other."

month	dates	time	day	capacity	signup	co-host
March	16, 23, 30	6:30-8:30	Thursdays	20	https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/pmoyikm1hr467p/	Jason
May	3, 10, 17	1:30-3:30	Wednesdays	20	https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/pmoyikm1hr467p/	Emma
June	6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15	12-1pm	T W Th	20	https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/p1wsozi00hdo790/	Emma
August	16, 23, 30	1-3pm	Wednesdays	20	https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/xz11r6i0xfvswe/	Emma
August	16, 23, 30	6:30-8:30pm	Wednesdays	20	https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/p16pmu0m1pe1fcy/	
September	12, 19, 26	6-8pm	Tuesdays	20	https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/x1vjgyy80whnb9k/	
October	10, 17, 24	6-8pm	Tuesdays	20	https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/xp3yqk40n6u8hf/	
November	1, 8, 15	1-3pm	Wednesdays	20	https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/xcpqwp511sxxpp/	Emma

PRAYER

God, you see us all as your beloved children.

Help us see each other that way.

Give me the strength and courage to dismantle racism,
because I know it isn't easy.

Help me recognize discrimination and dismantle racism,
however hard it might be.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Lay Weeders Wanted:

We'd like you to be a
Lay Weeder.

When you walk by one of
St. Mary's Gardens and you see
a weed, please give it a pull!

Just one, (unless you are
feeling magnanimous!)



July

Happy Birthday!

28-Jul John Glaze



KEEP
CALM
AND
PULL
WEEDS

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St.
Hillsboro, OH 45133

SERVICE TIME
Sunday - 9 am



Lector & Intercessor Schedule

- 1st week Betty & Jim Heathcote**
- 2nd week Connie Reynolds & Dea Flinn**
- 3rd week Carol & John Joy**
- 4th week Rich Davis & Connie Reynolds**
- 5th week Connie Reynolds & Dea Flinn**

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH INFORMATION

The Diocese of Southern Ohio
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-2043

The Rev. Warren Huestis
Rector

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9 am
In person & Streaming on Facebook

2nd & 4th WEDNESDAYS
Not held in July & August

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND
Sunday after service.

We strive to be safe and make our parishioners and guests feel safe and welcome!

WEB SITE:
www.smehillsboro.weebly.com