

What's Valuable?

Ponderings Oct 21, 2020

Pastor Geri

There was a light-hearted moment when the Church Council was presented with the Trinity Unique Mission: Sharing God's love with those who hunger. During the discussion, one of the Council members said words to the effect that the Mission of Trinity UMC had changed lots of times in his many decades here, so it's not like this latest one would make or break the church. I thought, but at least this new one is short enough to remember and maybe even put on a T-shirt!

Mission Statements are no more and no less useful than the people who remember them and use them for guidance and inspiration. The September 30 Trinity Times included an article about the deeper context of God's unique mission for us. This week, I'm writing about what we Trinity people value as we travel together in the direction God wants us to go.

Part of the Church Unique process was identifying the enduring values that Trinity has acted on both in the past and in recent times. What's valuable, important, rock-solid in the context of this wonderful group of people here on the corner of Carpenter and E Street?

The most consistent value that showed up time and again, down through memories and recent events, is Nurturing Community. Trinity people care about each other. Not just in an academic way, but also in hands-on, reaching out, and helping kinds of ways. That includes the funeral meals which nourish the grieving, the Bible education, and children's programs that help us grow in our faith. Nurturing Community is the way in which we greet each other and call each other and send cards and remember each other's birthdays and anniversaries.

We are sharing God's love with each other as we walk with each other through the many stages of life...school, marriage, work, children, loss of parents...the list goes on. We pray for each other and for the world. We laugh and cry and serve and sing together. That's valuable.

The value of Nurturing Community is made visible to the community around us in our many and various missions. Even in this pandemic era, we are known to be those who continue to serve those who hunger for food on Wednesday nights, and we welcome those who show up, looking for more.

Circumstances, technology, politics, mission statements change over time, but what's valuable to us and to God, doesn't. God nurtures us. We nurture each other and the community, and that's a gift to withstand the test of time. So let's share God's love just as God shares love with us...as we continue being the Nurturing Community we are made to be!