

# Tidings

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The Rev. Dr. Nicholas N. Sichangi



## Welcoming Strangers [Part 1]

### Hebrew 13:1

September 1, 2019, Our Scripture Lesson was from Luke 14:1,7-14; and since then I have been thinking about acts of kindness that have continued in our parish since the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Diocese of Easton. Many have shared wonderful things- Acts of mercy especially strangers. In thinking about the lesson for last week, at first glance, Jesus' parable about how to select a seat at such banquets might seem like a glorified manners lesson. He suggests that his fellow guests should choose the lowest place when they attend a feast so that they might be invited up to a higher place.

Jesus' parable isn't a manners lesson, however; it's an invitation from God to receive a genuine blessing. But the blessing doesn't come in the way his fellow guests expected. The blessing does not come by seeking the place of honor, because that is not participating in God's mercy and love. It does not come by inviting only those who will return the favor, because that is not a faithful witness. The blessing, Jesus says, will come by hosting the people who aren't normally invited to the table.

In Jesus' time, those people were the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind, the ones on the margins of society, the ones who never expected to be invited to a feast.

In today's culture, whom would Jesus tell us to invite to the feast?

Jesus reminds us that there's no immediate reward, but if you invite these people now, it is investment in your future: your ultimate future. He tells his dinner companions they will receive a blessing from God if they simply reinvent what it means to invite all of us to the table. Jesus' parable invites them and us to take a hard look at how we treat people from whom there is no expected dividend.

When we extend radical hospitality and kindness, God blesses us both *here* and in the *future*. In effect, Jesus was telling those at the table with him that radical hospitality was an expression of righteous living.

Jesus' message wasn't just for the Pharisees, of course; it's also for us too. When we live as a blessing to our community, it draws us into relationship with people who Jesus said have an important place in the kingdom of God. In so doing, we begin to live into God's desire for this world, which is for us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Who knows what we will experience when we reach past the walls that divide, when we make the effort to be a blessing to others.

On July 2, 2019 at 9:37 am, a stranger in a car with Pennsylvania tags parked in front of the Rectorate. He asked me if the church was open so that he could go in and pray. Having worked on my flower bed since 6:30 am I was hesitant to say yes for I did not know how long he would take for I needed to leave for other business! But within me there was that voice saying, just open it for him.

I entered the Rectorate, took my keys and took him over to church and let him in. Two hours later he had not finished praying. After another hour I lost patience and decided that I was going to tell him that I needed to close the church. It was getting late for my meeting. When I opened the door of the house, the car that was parked outside was gone. I went to the church, closed the doors and went out to continue with my business of the day.

Days later, the Altar Guild found a twenty-dollar bill on the altar. I remembered the stranger. The dividend was within the same week!

This is a good time to consider how and to whom God is calling us to extend banquet invitations. Let us not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

More to come in my next issue.

Fr. Nicholas

## Message from the Senior Warden

Welcome to fall and the beginning of a busy school year. We have some activities that I wanted to highlight. The first is a reminder about our Shared Eucharist with St. Stephen's which will be held on September 8 at the beach at Hazelmooor in Earleville. We will begin the service at 10:00 with a picnic immediately following. Bring your chairs, a side dish and be ready for good food and fellowship.

On September 21 Elkton will host Fall Fest with lots of activities and food for everyone to enjoy. We have decided to have a table in the children's area with rock painting for the kids. This is free and will give us a chance to put Trinity out there to the community. St. Stephen's will also be participating with us. We are in need of volunteers to help at our table. The Fall Fest goes from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm though we plan to be there during the morning hours until later in the afternoon. Please let me know if you're able to help for an hour or two so that everyone gets a chance to interact with members of the community.

Have a wonderful beginning of Fall!

Blessings,

Gayle



### Stewardship 2020

This year the Stewardship Campaign will start in September and be completed in October. This is earlier than in recent years so there will be ample time to do the 2020 budget and for the Vestry to review it.

The Stewardship letter will mail in September. October 6<sup>th</sup> will be Stewardship Sunday. Please plan on attending. It's the one time each year that you are formally thanked for your time, talent, and treasure that you so generously give to Trinity.

This year as last, please fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it in the enclosed stamped envelope.

Thanks again for your support. May you enjoy the abundant blessing of God's grace.

Richard Lemen

## Acts of Kindness

Keep trying to do just one act of kindness each month. Also report Acts of Kindness that have been done to you. They are clearly great testimonials to God's love working through us and others and lighting up the world with kindness and joy!!

### **Prayers are asked for**

Elizabeth  
Hamid Basil  
Bob Boulden  
Pam Boulden  
Susan Burkholder  
Marion Conner  
Tim Coudon  
Ronnie Davis  
Donna Dellinger  
Alan Fenson  
Shawnda Fenson  
George Gibson  
Ruth Gilbert  
Margaret Graham  
Thomas Hitchcock Jr.

Bill Jackson  
Kathy Koslak  
Regina Lane  
Margaret Long  
Victoria Marsh  
Gayle Mayo  
Daniel McCoy  
John McLean  
Mary Morrison  
Larry Parker  
Rose Perrone  
Rev. Christopher Porteus  
Janice Potts  
Valerie Reichenbach  
Jane Sichangi  
Rev. Robert Smith  
Betsy Spina

If you have a prayer request, please contact Jane Ayers or Mary Helen Atwood of the "Daughter's of the King,"



**St. Stephen's**

**&**

**Trinity Church** will join together for a Shared service this Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 am on the beach at Hazelmoor Drive, Earleville, MD. Picnic to follow

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

9/3 Cheryl Lee                      9/16 Mike Rossi  
9/18 Lawrence L. Parker        9/18 Bill Smith  
9/24 Gordon Tozer                9/25 Robert Powell

### **HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

9/24 Paul & Sharon Arbour  
9/30 Gordon & Beverly Tozer



*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please accept our sincerest apologies and let the church office know so we can correct our information.*

### **Women of Trinity**

#### **Fun Thursday**

**September 19, 2019**

**11:30 am - 2:30 pm**

Join us for lunch for \$5.00, stay for a fun day of cards, games and fellowship!

Every second Sunday of the month the loose offering will be given to Father Nicholas's discretionary fund. **Sunday**, October 13.



Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart... and love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

[www.dioceseofeaston.org/ignite](http://www.dioceseofeaston.org/ignite)

# ignite

*the journey continues...*  
*Loving through discipleship, evangelism & mission.*

## **Transforming Evangelism: The Practices of Turning, Blessing, and Going**

**Saturday, September 14, 2019: 9:30 am – 2:00 pm**  
**Miller Hall/Bray House, 314 North Street, Easton, MD**

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner will be our facilitator for this workshop. David is an Episcopal priest and psychologist who has studied and taught in the areas of clergy leadership, congregational vitality, and young adult religious engagement. David will be joining our earlier work with personal discipleship to a call to transforming evangelism by offering us “a new understanding of evangelism – not as a duty to be performed but as the practice of expressing our delight and wonder at the work of God.”\* He will help us to make connections between our Baptismal Covenant, discipleship, the work of transforming evangelism, and The Way of Love’s components of Turning, Blessing, and Going. David’s vision of transforming evangelism is “not as something one simply does to another....but as a spiritual discipline that nurtures and transforms the one who bears good news and recognizes God at work in others.”\* This is a gathering you will not want to miss!

Please register at: [www.DioceseOfEaston.org/Ignite](http://www.DioceseOfEaston.org/Ignite)

**NOTE: Printed registration forms See next page**

For further information: [BarbaraAnne@DioceseOfEaston.org](mailto:BarbaraAnne@DioceseOfEaston.org)

**Lunch will be provided: Be sure to let us know, on your registration form, of any special dietary requests. If registering by printed copy, be sure to note any dietary needs on the printed form.**

\*Gortner, David. Transforming Evangelism, 2008 – This book is the foundation for this workshop. It can be purchased at Amazon.com.



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**!!PLEASE PRINT THE INFORMATION CLEARLY AND REGISTER ONLY ONE PERSON PER FORM!!**

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your registration fee also includes a buffet luncheon of assorted sandwiches/wraps, garden salad, fruit salad, cookies, and assorted soda/bottled water. If you have any special dietary requests, please check the appropriate line below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian    \_\_\_\_\_ Vegan    \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten-free    \_\_\_\_\_ Other\*

**\*Please let us know what your other dietary needs are in the space below:**

Please submit a check for \$20.00, made out to the Diocese of Easton with your registration form. *Note on the memo line that the check is for the Ignite Evangelism.* Mail to:

Ignite Conference, Diocese of Easton, 314 North Street, Easton, MD 21601

**Questions: Barbara Anne Fisher- Missioner: Church Beyond the Walls –  
[BarbaraAnne@DioceseOfEaston.org](mailto:BarbaraAnne@DioceseOfEaston.org)**



The sign up sheet for our coffee hour is in the Parish House. Please consider signing up to bring in a treat for any particular Sunday. We very much appreciate you contributing your time and talents to Trinity's wonderful hospitality endeavor.

If you have news or info for the October newsletter, please provide the information to Carol before September 30.



Are a lovely addition to our worship experience and a beautiful way to celebrate an occasion or remember loved ones. Please consider donating flowers during the year. A sign-up board may be found in the Parish House.



**Thank you Father Nicholas for all the hard work in making our gardens beautiful!**

***Vigil Candle Sponsorship*** You can sponsor the Vigil candle for a week for a donation of \$10.00. This sponsorship is to the Glory of God, and can be in memory of, or in thanksgiving for people or events in your life. Simply fill out this form and drop it off or mail it to the church office, along with your donation of \$10.00."

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sponsor the Vigil Candle for the week of \_\_\_\_\_

to the Glory of God, and in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

or in thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_