

THE DISCIPLESHIP PROJECT

(of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Monroe)

Our part in the Jesus movement is our Call to Discipleship.

In 2015, St. Peter's Church began a journey together. A journey we are calling The Discipleship Project (based on The Restoration Project of the Rev. Christopher Martin). There is a hunger in the lives of all of us to be in deeper relationship with God. This is precisely what is promised by Jesus. Jesus is the way to come to know God personally, intimately and reliably, like a loving parent...like a father or mother.

To that end, we began a project to focus on "Pray & Worship & Serve," which represents three practices that are part of the foundation for disciples of Jesus. 3 ancient practices, commended to all by Holy Scripture and perfected by countless years of human experience: Pray 20 minutes a day. Worship 1 hour a week. Serve 5 times a month.

In 2017, we begin to explore our part in the Jesus movement... God came among us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth to show us the Way. He came to show us the Way to life, the Way to love. He came to show us the Way beyond what often can be the nightmares of our own devisings and into the dream of God's intending. That's why, when Jesus called his first followers he did it with the simple words "Follow me."

"Follow me," he said, "and I will make you fish for people."

Follow me and love will show you how to become more than you ever dreamed you could be. Follow me and I will help you change the world from the nightmare it often is into the dream that God intends. Jesus came and started a movement and we are the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.

Near the end of Matthew's Gospel story of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, Mary Magdalene and some of the women go to the tomb to anoint his body. When they get there they find that the tomb is empty, the stone has been rolled away and there is no body there. Then they see and hear an angel who says to them, "This Jesus of Nazareth whom you seek, he is not here, he has been raised as he said he would be and he has now gone ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him. It is in Galilee that the Risen Lord will be found and seen for he has gone ahead of us."

Galilee. Which is a way of talking about the world.
Galilee. In our rural communities.
Galilee in our office places.

Galilee. In the streets of the city.
Galilee in our hospitals.
Galilee where God's children live and dwell there.

In Galilee you will meet the living Christ for He has already gone ahead of you.

A few years ago I was in a coffee shop in Raleigh, North Carolina, just a few blocks away from our Diocesan House there. While in line I started a conversation with a gentleman who turned out to be a Mennonite pastor. He had been sent to Raleigh to organize a church in the community on the streets without walls. As we were talking over our coffee, he said something to me that I have not forgotten. He said the Mennonite community asked him to do this because they believed that in this environment in which we live, the church can no longer wait for its congregation to come to it, the church must go where the congregation is.

Now is our time to go. To go into the world to share the good news of God and Jesus Christ. To go into the world and help to be agents and instruments of God's reconciliation. To go into the world, let the world know that there is a God who loves us, a God who will not let us go, and that that love can set us all free. This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus' movement in this world. God bless you, and keep the faith. ~ Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Our Call to Discipleship: *The Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement*

Putting Jesus at the Center – Loving, Liberating, Life Giving

Relationships with God, Each Other, & all God's Creation

through prayer ✕ study ✕ worship ✕ service with others

"So much in our lives has obscured our God-given beauty. The integrity of the likeness of God has broken apart; the foundation has not been firm." This project helps restore the beauty and clarity of our relationship with God.

~ Rev. Christopher H. Martin ~