

# Connections Event 11/3/19 – Full Transcript

## Definition of our geographic reach:

- Metro Richmond
- Ministry to VCU and Monroe Park
- those who choose to come here
- Richmond's East End
- GRTC Bus lines
- VCU/MCV Campuses
- I 95 corridor
- not limited
- Rockett's Landing

## Our Challenges:

- Parking
- the transience of students and park people
- our physically foreboding structure
- the “traditional image” of Episcopalians as rich white folks
- fewer cradle Episcopalians
- divisions within the congregation
- the prayer book
- our ability to work well together
- “can't have it your way”
- What is God calling us to do?

## Our Opportunities:

- Parking
- connection with VCU Episcopalians
- our beautiful architecture
- the reality of community
- the prayer book
- if we work better together we can learn and grow
- responding to the question “what is God calling us to do?”
  - simplified
  - rebuilding
  - realistic
- a combined service at 10 on Dec 22

<b>Youth, Children and their Families</b>	
people, organizations or groups in the area	(list of family names)
Activities we share with them now	Children's Chapel, Playground Meetup, Christian Ed Sunday, Choir, Acolytes
New Activities we could share with them	Building connections and relationships with the other children in a religious context, Providing basic Bible literacy for the younger children, Hope to have enough children to have full grade appropriate classes

<b>Non-Profits</b>	
people, organizations or groups in the area	HOME, CARITAS, Rebuilding Together Richmond, CCC, Cross Over Ministries, Daily Planet, MICAHA, PPDC, Salvation Army, ACTS, Health Brigade, Anna Julia Cooper, YMCA, YWCA
Activities we share with them now	ACTS—grants, Better Housing Coalition, Crossover, Daily Planet
New Activities we could share with them	Check with Caritas about new rules
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	We all have less money, we're busy people—shrinking resources. We don't know how they deal with this because we don't connect with them.
How or what might we learn from them?	How they conduct outreach. Partner with similar organizations (including other churches), collaborate vs compete for resources, laser focused mission—go deep not wide.

<b>Red Door</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	Red Door Steering Committee (1x month), VCU Students, GHTC parishioners, 4 churches 1 x week food ministry, Baptist Church for showers, Aspire with VCU, Non-profits, Home for Mentally Challenged, St Catherine's school, Electrician Union, VCU musicians, Shood, Performance Food Group, Shalom Farm, Food Bank
Activities we share with them now	Nutritious Meal, Fellowship, Rx, Worship Service, Blessing Bags, Blood Pressure, Voter Registration, Music and love, Take out box (tuna, crackers, etc) . All activities respect the guest.

New Activities we could share with them	Rx Counseling, Vaccinations (flu, pneumonia, shingles), Mammograms, Pap Smears, General Care, Prenatal care, Dental, vision screening, sharing of resources for other meals, info for housing, bus passes, bicycles
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	Able to come here originally because of our location. Responding to a need—non-profits. Food desert/food access, access to shelters—hunker down and don't go out for meal. Once in a shelter afraid to leave and give up spot, must choose food or shelter.
How or what might we learn from them?	Learn what it is like to do without. Better understanding of scarcity, learn why they choose their personal way of life, learn from their stories and distinguish reality vs perception.

<b>Arts and Culture</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	VCU Arts, Dominion Energy Center, Altria Theater, Cathedral Music Series, Library of Virginia, GHT Concert Series, Institute of Contemporary Art, VMFA, Virginia Historical Society, GRCC
Activities we share with them now	Share parking lot with VCU and Altria Theater, share church space with GRCC, VCU concerts at GHTC, U of R musicians perform at GHTC (especially piano associate professor), GHTC Adult Choir and GRCC did joint concert at Westminster Canterbury, GHTC children sang at WC in Gables for dementia patients
New Activities we could share with them	Share GHT bus, music, church space. Sponsor community programs.
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	Parking at GHT, fundraiser with parking, revitalization of Monroe Park, Emerging Artists series with VA opera, sponsor a scout troupe. The organizations in the area help make coming here in the evening safe
How or what might we learn from them?	Make ourselves visible to the public—outdoor flags, more inviting presence on Monroe Park, Façade, modern colorful outdoor sculpture, better outdoor lighting. Open House for audiences attending Altria shows, Church tours (Historic Richmond, Architectural)

<b>Senior Adults</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	Prestwood, Neighbors, Westminster Canterbury, Hermitage, Choir

Activities we share with them now	8:45 and Traditional Services, Choir, Committee Members, Breakfast, Oyster Roast, Concert Series, Altar Guild
New Activities we could share with them	Shuttle from WCR and Hermitage, clerical work, mentor young folks, Sunday, building social network across generations
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	They are tired. Mobility
How or what might we learn from them?	Appreciation of the how's and whys of traditional worship practice, power of family, family time together, intergenerational relationships

<b>VCU (Students, staff and faculty)</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	Academic departments, Student organizations (non-religious), Interfaith Assn, ECM, Pace Center-Methodist, Ram Pantry, Rams in Recovery, V Kirk—Pres, University Counseling, Wellness Resource Center, Aspire/Lead LLC, Catholic—CCM. Note: the lack of anyone other than VCU people/paid employees sitting at this table is a telling issue.
Activities we share with them now	Large VCU events (student organization fair), Bible Studies 1-2x/yr, Remembrance Event, Weekly (Servant), Pastoral Care (coloring), Volunteer and service opportunities, Newsletter
New Activities we could share with them	Knitting group, more service opportunities, let the church be the church—live into our identities as Christians and stop striving to be newest and best. Let the movement draw people in.
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	Building is intimidating—challenge to get in, hurt by church—spiritual trauma, scheduling, differences in liturgy/worship (unfamiliar)
How or what might we learn from them?	Know your neighbors well, community building, stop trying to be cool, take focus off of numbers/material success, transience is ok

<b>Business and Government</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	VCU, Altria Theater, City Hall, VMFA, Children's Museum. Business within the congregation
Activities we share with them now	Biz—organizations trying to reach new customers

New Activities we could share with them	Grow knowledge of congregation biz/organizations, knowledge of local biz/organizations
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	Not sure. Local advertisements, outreach program.
How or what might we learn from them?	Resources/activities currently available (in place), new initiatives, opportunities to partner/share ideas

<b>Circles</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	Circles leaders, allies, children's program volunteers, VCU volunteers, St Paul's meal volunteers
Activities we share with them now	e-newsletter, Tuesday night supper and program, website
New Activities we could share with them	Widen with parishioners all activities, development/funding
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	Volunteers for meals and children's programs

<b>Schools (non-college)</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	Anna Julia Cooper, RPS, School at St Andrews
Activities we share with them now	Tutoring program with RPS
New Activities we could share with them	Bring students in to help with our ministries (Red Door, drive for men's clothing, etc). Use them to staff/help in summers when VCU students aren't here. Partner with Youth Group.
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	Poverty, Peer Pressure, Transportation issues, food insecurity, child care
How or what might we learn from them?	Find out from them what they need and try to address one or two issues

<b>Ecumenical Churches and Groups (non-Episcopal)</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	Goodwill, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Pace Memorial (Methodist), Fifth Baptist, Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Pine Street Baptist, Tabernacle Baptist, Center Church (Blvd?), Quaker
Activities we share with them now	Circles, Caritas, Red Door
New Activities we could share with them	BGAV showers—Baptist, restaurants, music—festivals, concerts, child care/babysitting, community meal (dinner) for parents
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	Bus transportation and transportation in general, central location to attract diversity, building proximity to parking/VCU
How or what might we learn from them?	Contemporary service? What needs—ours or theirs? Listening to see what is needed, how much are we focusing on our neighborhood, don't know who all is in this area...what's our relationship? People go home to their own areas. Process—define mission and find struggling organizations. How can we as a congregation find ways to relate to each other? What opportunities do we give people?

<b>Episcopal Churches and Groups</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	Anna Julia Cooper, St Andrews School, Peter Paul
Activities we share with them now	We don't know
New Activities we could share with them	Christian Education, Scout Troop, Regional Episcopal Choir, Invite others for Red Door, Regional flower arranging/altar guild, invite other churches
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	Actively recruit new members
How or what might we learn from them?	Advertising events

<b>Neighborhood and Monroe Park (non-VCU)</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	<p>St Andrews—opportunity to partner with them, education (Sunday School Program) , do some services together, what is their status?</p> <p>Homeless—intake center?</p> <p>Oregon Hill—remnants of blue collar, students, some gentrification</p>
Activities we share with them now	<p>St Andrews-Christian Education Services, Soles to Soles, Clothing Closet—expand, Showers/Towels—what happened? Do we need to use our bus to help homeless—take people to Social Security 1x per week</p>
New Activities we could share with them	<p>Transportation, Communication—some people do not have access to internet. Visible opportunities to help—boxes for food, old cellphones. 2nd site closer to where parishioners live. Adopt a Family (Christmas)</p>
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	<p>Need to talk with St Andrews—what does this area need? Asking the question first before stepping in and doing. Is day care a need in this area. Use of building this week. Do we need a food pantry here? Laudromat?</p>

<b>Belize</b>	
People, organizations or groups in the area	<p>St Andrews—San Ignacio, Schools in rural Belize, government offered free ministry of health—ex: CEO of Health Ministry and Head of Dentist—Dr Samos</p>
Activities we share with them now	<p>Dental team, vision, construction, summer camp for 10+ years. GHTC has facilitated a multi-generational 1 week arts, sport and music summer program in rural Belize (San Ignacio) serving more than 100 young people ages 6-14 with older youth serving as counselors. It benefits GHTC because of the large number of diverse people involved from the US, and helps the children share experience and be involved in a caring community and the opportunity to develop life-long skills and interests.</p>

New Activities we could share with them	Offer vision screening for teachers and staff at schools, teach adults to conduct vision screening at schools, continue to teach good dental hygiene habits and nutrition, could GHTC help special needs children in Belize? In Country education program—kind of a dental assistance program for people who work with children (the head DENTIST IN Belize has already requested this)
How these groups deal with opportunities and challenges of our geographic area?	The people in Belize do not come to RVA, but may be a good opportunity to bring in adults for training. Create opportunities for teenagers who may not be able to afford secondary education. Create summer opportunities for teenagers.
How or what might we learn from them?	We could learn tons from those we've come to know in Belize—graciousness, kindness, perseverance.

<b>The Overlooked</b>	
People, organizations or groups we overlook	Christian Educations, VCU Episcopalians, Our young adult children who grew up here, new to town, come to church once.
Activities these groups might be interested in	Increasing strength, community we have, Belize, Red Door, ushering, Altar Guild (co-ed)
What ways might we make it easier for these folks to be involved in our activities?	Humpers-like, Individual contact, decrease negativism, continue increasing our marketing in new realms (Instagram for example) and increase variety
What kinds of new activities might we offer these people?	Workday-- GHTC Community workday, intergenerational “Carolinas Ham Biscuit” making Day or Cookie Baking day workshops