

Heritage Event 9/22/19 – Full Transcript

Our Story Flip Charts

- Service and tradition
 - caring for the veterans “bad sort”
 - building the congregation
 - changing times/changing needs
changing realities
 - plenty is enough for everyone
 - younger families supporting in many aspects and creative approach
include those who want included
- Evolution
- We (all recent arrivals to parish) have no idea
 - city, welcoming, service
- Tossed salad – unique ind.
inclusive – all welcome
shared faith combine old with new
- Haven – destination church with community connection
How do we maintain?
- Origins – neighborhood past
WWII – merger – changing with the neighborhood
(’46-’47) building/rebuilding
“good one”
- Focus on outreach
 - child care
 - foreign and local mission
 - music/choir
 - VCU students
 - history
 - vitality

The Last Will and Testament of GHTC Flip Charts

- Unseen ministries
- Love of music
- Commitment to VCU students
- Lack of pretentiousness – heritage of humility
- The foundation/endowment
- question of new imagined identity – not just about physical space
- Phenomenal real estate
- Irreplaceable
- Established and educated community
- Inclusive/welcoming

- Support hands on involvement
- Hardworking – example GRCC partnership
- Diverse membership
- Friendship
- Breakfast
- Love and support
- Evolution changing community
- Missing a meal missing worship missing music
- Physical infrastructure
- Intangible to reinvention reimagining ourselves
- Members wouldn't stop caring
Ukrops like – community would not be the same
- Providing for needs: Sacraments – Baptism, Wedding, Eucharist etc.
- Priorities – what is most important?
- The structure is an asset to the community
- Service to those in need right out our front door
- Service in RVA
- TEC at VCU students
- Connections around the world
- Open/acceptance
- Consistency – Common Prayer
- Very very sad community good memories
- service, love, all inclusive all who come in contact with us
- Caring for all in need
- take who we are into the world

Table Sheets – Storyline

You all probably have some sense of the history of this parish, as Grace, as Holy Trinity, & as Grace and Holy Trinity. From the website & published book that history might seem to involve largely buildings, dates, windows, organs, etc.. But what is the storyline of this continuing parish? A storyline involves a focused theme, continuity, development, and some sense of purpose. (Ex: St Paul's Richmond as Cathedral of the Confederacy & since then undoing that legacy by leadership in racial reconciliation.) Discuss as a table group 1 possible storyline and record it here.

Table 1

Outreach to local community

- Red Door
- Poverty
- VCU
- Circles RVA

Transition from neighborhood church to urban

Heritage of “Low Church”

Size of endowment – allows for a # of support activities

- Are we missing an opportunity to leave a legacy

Acceptance of different views

Table 2

Themes:

- Care for (?) the disadvantaged
Historically, at different levels, we have had outreach
Originally, only monetarily, but today more “human” centered
Plum puddings, Child Care Center
- Generational, but we are starting to see a shift because just because grandmother is here, we don’t have to attend the same church. This is a recent shift
- Decades of strong music program
- Strength of the clergy
- Perception of not a strong Christian formation

Table 3

The History of our church is coming together

- Two churches came together, now people from all over Richmond come together
- Our History of being a downtown church has continued and evolved
 - Having served the residents, we now serve the broader community in the area where we are located
 - The evolution of Red Door is an excellent example
 - Soup kitchen, caritas to Red Door

Table 4

Nell Crawford from Grace at 4 years old, was in the parade from Grace to the Holy Trinity. Then it became Grace and Holy Trinity! The merged churches flourished. The church was dedicated to Bishop Moore. It was known as one of the four largest (c. 1995) parishes in the Diocese. Rev. Hill Brown was our rector and was famous for knowing everyone’s name!! Rev. Bo Millner became our next rector and oversaw renovations. The church had a history of making plum puddings to benefit G&HT Child Care Center.

Table 5

1. Merger of Grace Church and Holy Trinity Church

2. Early on the location was west of city proper
3. Original building has evolved over the years
4. Membership of a few core families
5. Outreach – Plum puddings
6. Rectors: Dr. Riddle, Louis Haskell, Hill Brown, Bo Millner
7. Development of pledging and tithing
8. Additions to physical church
 - New organ
 - New parish hall
9. Outreach programs extended
 - Day nursery
 - Missionary Society
 - VCU communities
10. Now an urban church in VCU footprint

Table 6

Remembrance from 7:45: Nell was a member of the altar guild since the aged of 12. She remembered the merging of the church at the age of 5.

Grace and Holy Trinity moving from neighborhood congregation to a more of a variety of a congregation

A continuing story from a member whom chose the church because it reminds them her childhood cathedral that she once attended with her family

The present congregation when attending chooses to stay because of the past of the church

We cannot neglect the past. We can't get stuck either.

Our table noticed the symbol of the tree on the Heritage prayer and bible study sheet. The realization was the roots represented the past, the church the present and the branches and leaves the future.

Table 7

G&HT in danger of losing membership in 1950's and 1960's when Richmond developed in West End. Evolved – necessary evolution from neighborhood church to community. Attracts members from all areas – people drive by several Episcopal churches on their way here.

Table 8

1924 Combination

After WWII vestry decided not to move – serve the neighborhood

Established foundation to preserve the building – membership moving west

Louis Haskell and Hill Brown attracted people looking for non-West End church

Table 9

Past + Present + Future storylines

(Present storyline) We are a declining congregation which needs to create a vision of the future

Future storyline –

Become a vibrant city service oriented church.

Different thinking + flexibility for inclusive activities

Offer service and fun for young adults that fit with their complicated schedules

Table 10

GHTC has always focused on outreach, to the local community and beyond

History of Child Care

Foreign Mission

Music (support for Children’s Choir in Richmond)

Support for VCU students

Red Door/Soup Kitchen

History of the Parish is very important as we look forward to choosing what will be important to keep our church vital in the future.

Table 11

Parish Hall investment – opened up opportunities for building community

Haven – to escape craziness of outside world

Move from community church – now destination church – (people come from everywhere) – and now the outreach focus in an urban environment has taken hold. (i.e. VCU, Red Door Circles RVA)

How to keep the church vital without the traditional family pipeline – focus on the “community” of where we are – urban location. What does this community need and how do we serve it.

Table 12

Tossed Salad

Unique individuals to make the whole
Allowed to be who we are – don't all agree – like family
Inclusive – but few “rules”
No back pews – welcome
Shared faith – communion
We've combined the old and new

No Table 13 for this discussion

Table Sheets – Will

Imagine that you are preparing Grace and Holy Trinity's Last Will and Testament. What tangible or intangible inheritances or legacies would the church have to bequeath to its members or to the community at large? Discuss as a table group 2-3 items of greatest importance to be included in that will and record them here.

Table 1

Service to those in need w/in city of Richmond

- Episcopal presence w/in VCU
- Consistency in worship
- Connections to other Anglican around the world
- Acceptance of other people

Table 2

- Real estate
- Outreach: local, greater Richmond, international
What we have accomplished is NOT REPLACEABLE.
- Well established. Well educated community
- Charlie says the building is red doors and handsome

Table 3

Leave as the lasting legacy the mission to serve the needy

- The building and our funds would be used to continue missions such as Red Door, Food Pantry and meeting places for Red Door, Children's Choir, etc. (Shoes 4 Souls, AA, student groups)

- Leave this as a place of community

Leave our traditions and history

- Historical, but forward thinking

Table 4

- Love and support
- Welcoming a changing community
- Beautiful physical structure
- Service (feeding/mission work/etc.)
- Void for current members and those around the parish in light of the above
- Musical programs and opportunities would be missed

Table 5

Legacy

Music program

Red Door ministry

VCU ministry – VCU interns

Missionary work in Belize

Celebrations: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Funeral

Shawl ministry

Breakfast

Plastic mat groundcovers

“Shood” ministry (shoes)

Circles RVA

Concert Series

Table 6

Care and concern for various communities.

Degree of commitment students and various communities

Commitment to the needy – Circles RVA

Continuing commitment no matter where we all go

Ministry to VCU, homeless, etc.

Wide range of ministries supported by the church – Often not seen by all

Want to support family/families

Development of love for music

Table 7

- That our service mattered to the community and our members
- Leave a historic and awe-inspiring building to serve community needs and endowment to take care of it
- Many members who miss this community
- Heritage of caring for other
 - leaves a gap (like Ukrops)
- Good stewards in all aspects
- People who would stay engaged

Table 8

- Beautiful space, building – facilities including the proximity to Monroe Park
- Resources for whatever missions evolve – (financial means)
- History of service
- Wonderful, faithful stewards of God. – Strong congregation of people with many talents and treasures, that are resilient, and committed.

Table 9

Welcoming church w/ diverse membership from all over the city and beyond.

The spirit of the congregation is

a feeling of service, friendship and welcoming

a genuine concern for each other – not just asking how someone is to be cordial and get a “fine” response

Working together facilitates caring together

Market the choir and music more – it is a HUGE asset unique to GHTC

Table 10

We leave a legacy of inclusiveness and welcome to all of the community

We want to preserve the Spirit of Support and “Hands-On” involvement that has made G&HT the church that it is today.

A group of people who hears a need and roll up their sleeves to meet it.

Children's Choir considering here as their home

Table 11

The legacy of GHTC is shelter – both the buildings and the outreach to communities in need. The absence of the church would leave significant gaps in support for those we serve (and have served over time).

GHTC turns no one away – we meet them where they are.

If the space was left empty – our hope is that it would be turned into a place where people could come who need a roof over their heads.

GHTC is unpretentious and is the “worker bee” of RVA's Episcopal Churches. Not status focused.

Our diversity is our strength – GHTC is a bridge, connecting communities around us together (VCU/Monroe Park)

Table 12

Very, very sad, because we are a community and it would be sad to leave each other. Great memories here, including Belize.

Legacy of Service

Legacy of Love

Legacy of all-inclusiveness

Leave it to all who come into contact with us

- Sense of service
- Sense of giving back to others
- Sense of taking care of one another
 - o Veterans, homeless, poverty

What we are called to do

Take who we are and what we do out into the world.

Table 13

Physical infrastructure

Commitment to Service

“Intangible’ Infrastructure

- Planning for the future (staff & organizing)
- Commitment to plan