



Into the Neighborhood: Lessons all Churches can Learn from Church Plants

The Rev. Susan Brown Snook
Rector and Church Planter
Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Scottsdale



Episcopal Church Foundation



The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) provides comprehensive and innovative programs, products and services in the areas of visioning and planning, leadership and financial resource development. ECF programs and services include Vital Teams, *ECF Vital Practices*, and the Fellowship Partners Program, capital campaigns, planned giving, endowments, and strategic solutions.



Technical notes

- All participants are currently muted to cut out background noise and audio interference
- To start your web cameras, press “Start by Web Cam” button and “Start Sharing”
- If you have questions, please type them into the chat box on the right-hand side of the screen
- PDF’s of the slides and resource list are downloadable
- This webinar is being recorded and will be made public



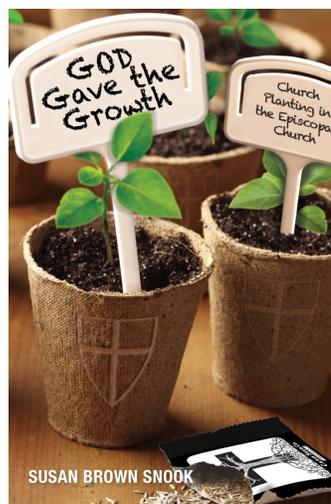
Introduction

The Rev. Susan Brown Snook
Rector and Church Planter
Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Scottsdale, Arizona

Snook.Susan@gmail.com
602.980.4970

*God Gave the Growth: Church
Planting in the Episcopal Church*

By Susan Brown Snook
Foreword by C. Andrew Doyle
Forthcoming from Church Publishing
June 2015

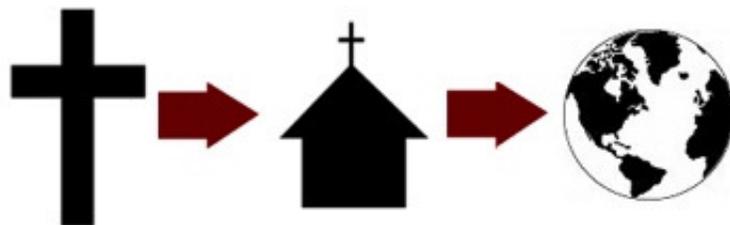


Opening Prayer

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Why learn from church plants?

God's mission has a church!



ecf

Why learn from church plants?



“We have come to see that mission is not merely an activity of the church. Rather, mission is the result of God’s initiative, rooted in God’s purposes to restore and heal creation. “Mission” means “sending” and it is the central biblical theme describing the purposes of God’s action in human history.”

**Darrell L. Guder, ed., Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998), 4.*



Why learn from church plants?



“The process of planting a new church is inherently missiological and open ended. Leaders of new congregations must ask the key missional questions of identity and purpose that existing congregations often take for granted. These congregations must engage with those outside their doors in order to grow and thrive....New congregations...recognize that their primary end – indeed, the very reason for their existence – is participation in the Triune God’s mission in the world.”

Craig Van Gelder and Dwight J. Zscheile, The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001), 16.





Church Plants as the R&D Department

- All human organizations are resistant to change
- New churches can try things that established churches find it difficult to try
- New ideas in worship, evangelism, and gathering a community can be shared
- We can all learn from each other
- It's important to share our stories!



Three basic lessons from church planting



1. Know your mission and vision
2. A Passion for invitation
3. It takes a team, not a hero!





1. Know Your Mission and Vision

The "Hedgehog Concept" For a Great Company



* Jim Collins, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...And Others Don't* (New York: HarperBusiness, 2001),



1. Know Your Mission and Vision

The "Hedgehog Concept" For a Church





1. Know Your Mission and Vision



Who does God call the Church to Be? Or, what is God's mission?

- Prayer and Bible Study
- The Great Commission
- The Great Commandment
- Acts 2:41-47
- The Baptismal Covenant



1. Know Your Mission and Vision

Acts 2:41-147: So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

 **1. Know Your Mission and Vision**



Who does God call the Church to Be?

Core Values of the Church always should include:

- Evangelism
- Worship
- Teaching
- Fellowship
- Service

 **1. Know Your Mission and Vision**



Question 2: Who are We?

- The Episcopal/Anglican tradition
- This congregation in this location, its history, strengths, resources
- These people in the room, their gifts and passions

 **1. Know Your Mission and Vision**



3. Who are Our Neighbors?

- Demographics
- Discussion and Prayer about people we know
- Prayer walks, discernment drives
- Community Interviews

 **1. Know Your Mission and Vision**

Hedgehog Concept for a Church

The Intersection of these three questions is the mission of any church – and all churches should be asking these key missional questions at regular intervals.



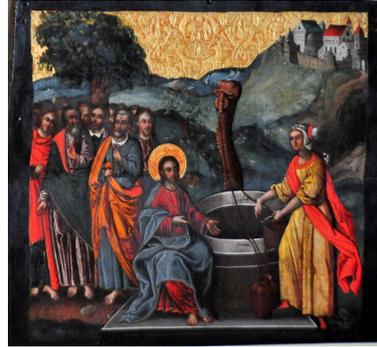
- Pause for clarifying questions

2. A Passion for Invitation

Paul at the Areopagus:
Acts 17:16-34

Jesus and the Woman at the Well:
John 4

The best evangelism involves careful listening and understanding the needs, beliefs, and concerns of the other.



2. Invite and Incorporate

Who are the People of your Community?

- What are their hopes and dreams?
- What keeps them awake at night?
- In what ways are they empty and searching, hoping for more?
- How might they best come to feel and understand the presence of God in their lives?
- What does God want to say to them?
- How is God already working with them and inviting your church to join in?





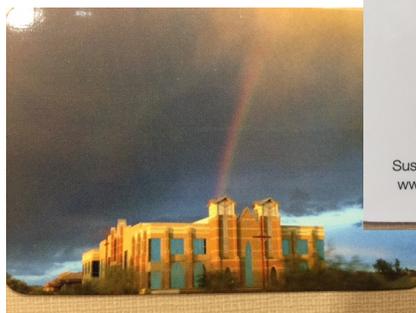
2. Invite and Incorporate

Training members for evangelism and invitation:

- Invite them into a process of discovery about their neighbors – intentional interviews, listening rather than proselytizing
- Give them tools for invitation – church business cards, invitational events, special Sundays
- Pray together for opportunities to invite



2. Invite and Incorporate





2. Invite and Incorporate

Some stories:

- Frank Logue and his version of door-to-door ministry: Make News!
- Lang Lowrey: an ambulance chaser for Christ: Get Out into the Community!



2. Invite and Incorporate

Learn about the people of the community, and make it a congregation-wide project to reach out and invite them!

- Pause for clarifying questions



3. It takes a team, not a hero!

Everyone joins in the mission!

Church Plant Launch Team Covenant:

- Pray
- Invite
- Attend
- Participate in Ministry
- Give



3. It takes a team, not a hero!

- Best invitation: a personal invitation
- Inviting is not just the job of the staff
- Inviting is not the same as marketing
- Inviting is the job of every Christian
- Provide whatever paper people need
- Help them think about their stories
- Emphasize invitational evangelism as a call to all Christians



3. It takes a team, not a hero!

Training members for evangelism and invitation:

- Invite them to share (with each other first) what the church means to them
- Why is this church important to them? How has it transformed their lives?
- Study books together – e.g., Martha Grace Reese, *Unbinding the Gospel*



3. It takes a team, not a hero!

All of us work together as the Body of Christ, to do the core missions of the church:

- Evangelism
- Worship
- Teaching
- Fellowship
- Service

- Pause for clarifying questions



Three basic lessons from church planting: Next Steps



1. Know your mission and vision: ask the key missional questions:
 - What is God's mission?
 - Who are we?
 - Who are our neighbors?



Three basic lessons from church planting: Next Steps



2. A Passion for Invitation
 - Come to understand the people of your community through active listening – a leadership project for the whole church
 - Make news
 - Get out into the community!



Three basic lessons from church planting: Next Steps



3. The Members are the Missionaries!

- What commitment would you like to ask for?
- Invite them into a process of discovery about their neighbors
- Teach them to tell their stories
- Get the whole church involved and give them the tools they need to do invitations



Questions and Discussion



Contact Information

The Rev. Susan Brown Snook
Rector and Church Planter
Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Scottsdale, Arizona

Snook.Susan@gmail.com
602.980.4970

*God Gave the Growth: Church
Planting in the Episcopal Church*

By Susan Brown Snook
Foreword by C. Andrew Doyle
Forthcoming from Church Publishing
June 2015



Contact ECF

ECF website: www.episcopal.foundation.org
ECF Vital Practices: www.ecfvp.org

Email: ecf@episcopal.foundation.org
Phone: (800) 697-2858

