

Technical Notes

- ECF may need to mute all participants to limit background noise and audio interference
- To start your web cameras, press the "Start my 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
- PDFs of the slides and resource list are available for download
- This webinar is being recorded and will be made public



The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)



Independent, lay led organization, founded in 1949

Empowers congregations through visioning and planning, leadership development, and raising financial resources for ministry

Through our programs, ECF is building a Church with...

- Lay and clergy leaders working together to transform the Church
- Healthy, vital, vibrant Episcopal communities of faith
- Meaningful opportunities for Christian stewardship and effective fundraising
- Innovative, mission-based ways to be the Church of the future

Storytelling as Evangelism

The Reverend Edmund Harris,
St. Peter's Episcopal Parish, Seattle

Opening Prayer

O GOD,
it has been said that we make sense of our lives by finding a story to tell of them.
We thank you for the gift of story:
for your story and also for our stories.
We thank you for the invitation to imagine with you how we might know our stories, and how we might share them with creativity and love.
Give us ears and hearts that are open to receive the wisdom that each one of us brings to this table.
And give us lips that are eager to speak your truth
as we have experienced it,
and always in love.
When all is said and done,
may our time together this evening make us
leaven for your kingdom.
We make our prayer through our brother Jesus,
and in the friendship of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

We make sense of our lives by finding a story to tell of them. The story we tell shows who we are. Our identity is grasped as we rewrite our [story] as we grow older... We are making decisions about who we are and not just what we do.

—Timothy Radcliffe OP, *What is the Point of Being a Christian?* p. 41.



Roadmap

- ❖ Storytelling and growth
- ❖ Authentic evangelism
- ❖ We Are St. Peter's: A storytelling project

The survival of St Peter's as a community of faith throughout trying times is a powerful testimony to the membership's courage, resilience, and steadfast belief in God's grace.

—St. Peter's Profile



- ❖ Connection between story and capacity for growth.
- ❖ Stepping off the hamster wheel...

Time for Questions

Authentic evangelism?



*I'm talking about a way of evangelism that is **genuine and authentic** to us as Episcopalians, not a way that imitates or judges anyone else. A way of evangelism that is really about sharing good news. A way of evangelism that is deeply grounded in the love of God that we've learned from Jesus. A way of evangelism that is as much about **listening and learning from the story of who God is in another person's life as it is about sharing our own story.** A way of evangelism that is really about helping others find their way to a relationship with God without our trying to control the outcome. A way of evangelism that's authentic to us. We can do that.*

—The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry



- ❖ Authenticity
- ❖ Stories can free us.
- ❖ Stories can imprison us.

Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

—John 4: 13-15



Time for Questions

We Are St. Peter's Project

- ❖ Goal: to invite and equip the congregation to share its story.
- ❖ Interview each member of the congregation.



Congregational Interview Project

- *In a couple of minutes, can you share a little of the faith journey that has led you to where you are today?*
- *How long have you been part of St. Peter's? Can you describe the way you became part of the community?*
- *Who is Jesus to you, and why does he matter?*
- *How does St. Peter's help you to practice your faith?*
- *What do you think St. Peter's has to offer our city? What do you believe St. Peter's has that people in our neighborhood and city might need?*
- *Can you tell a story (or stories) about an experience you've had at St. Peter's that you think shows what kind of community St. Peter's is?*

*Behold what you are.
May we become what we
receive.*



We make sense of our lives by finding a story to tell of them. The story we tell shows who we are. Our identity is grasped as we rewrite our [story] as we grow older... We are making decisions about who we are and not just what we do.

—Timothy Radcliffe OP, *What is the Point of Being a Christian?* p. 41.



Next Steps?

- Have you or your church community ever engaged in a storytelling practice? If so, what shape did it take?
- What is the story (or stories) that your church community tells about itself?
- Are there stories about itself that your church community needs to tell in order to become more authentic? Are their stories that your community tells that keep it from becoming more authentic?
- Who are the people outside of your community who might need to hear your story? What are ways you might share it with them?

Contact Info & Additional Resources

The Reverend Edmund Harris
St. Peter's Episcopal Parish, Seattle, WA
(206) 323-5250

Edmund@stpeterseattle.org

Books I keep on my desk...

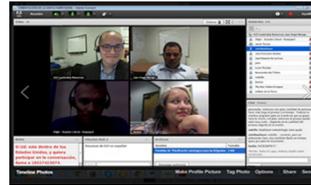
- Cottrell, Stephen. *Hit the Ground Kneeling: Seeing Leadership Differently*. Church House Publishing, London, 2008.
- Radcliffe, Timothy. *What is the Point of Being a Christian?* Burns & Oats. New York, 2005.

Upcoming ECF webinars

**[Chinese Webinar] 迎接人口结构变化的祝福和挑战:圣公会圣派
媛中文事工中心**

June 30 from 10-11 PM ET / 7-8PM PT

ECF's first Chinese language webinar! Presenters including clergy and lay leaders will cover the ups and downs of creating a new model for sustaining Episcopal Church ethnic ministry.



Summer webinars will be posted in June! Sign-up for ECF's emails to be notified.

Missed a webinar? Want to share one with others in your congregation?

Go to ECF Vital Practices and download slides and resources from past webinars:
www.ecfvp.org/webinars/archive/

Contact us

ECF website: www.episcopalchurchfoundation.org

ECF Vital Practices: www.ecfvp.org

Email: ecf@episcopalchurchfoundation.org

Phone: (800) 697-2858

