

Message for Easter Week 2

**ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN.... THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED !!**



To spread the gospel ...To tell Jesus' story ...*To tell our own Christian Story...*

People of Resurrection, WOW !, please read that again... PEOPLE OF RESURRECTION, ...our parish name says it all. We are **Easter** people. We are people of Christ's resurrection.

Evangelism for all of us, is telling **OUR** story. What called us to be a Christian? What called us to be an Episcopal-Christian? What brought us to the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection?

These are all great "evangelism" questions.



Evangelism often gets a bad name, especially when we relate it to the obnoxious "bible – thumping" Christian sects that often turn-off most thinking people ...especially today.

Evangelism for us is telling our story. A simple story that can be shared in a short answer to someone who may ask you ...why are you a Christian, ...and an Episcopalian, ...and a member of The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection versus some other church?

Our answers could make the difference for anyone seeking to know more why people want to be Christians, ...or worship in a specific way, ...or want to find a community that they can relate to.

There is no better community to relate to than the kind of church that respects every human being and welcomes them to the table of Holy Communion and fellowship. Is that not us?

It is truly us! We are a welcoming people characterized by being a vibrant faith community that demonstrates Christ's hospitality and love in the world through the service of caring for others.

A mission statement created by our parish from 1990's put it this way:

***“The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection is a Christian Community offering an open-minded approach to issues of faith and morality, rooted in a catholic expression of worship and Christian formation.”***

As our vision:

***“We invite people to share in our traditional worship, spiritual development, strong sense of community, quality Christian education, and social outreach ministries”***

Have these written values changed? ...I don't think they have.

This coming Sunday between the services we will hear more about how we can be “evangelism” people, being prepared to tell our story, and being like the disciples, ready and prepared to spread the message of Christ. Please join me and others to this workshop of Evangelism beginning after the 8:00 am service.

Blessings to all! Fr. David