

Report to the Vestry
of
St. Paul's Cathedral Church
On the activities, mission, structure, and content of the
Evangelism Cluster

January, 2004

Prepared and respectfully submitted by

Richard C. Sauerzopf
Chair, Evangelism Cluster

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND NOTES

On the Activities of the Evangelism Cluster, and the Mission of Evangelism, at St.
Paul's Cathedral

2003

Respectfully Submitted

January 2004

by

Richard C. Sauerzopf

Chair,
Evangelism Cluster

(Complete report submitted to the Cathedral Vestry.)

Though the activities included under the Evangelism cluster do not consume a large portion of the Cathedral's budget, they contribute much to the life of our parish and our church presence in the communities that surround us.

These activities are summarized below. Principle among them, however, in terms of size and budget, are Alpha, and what may be called the Sunday Breakfast Program, or at least the larger administrative and financial proportion thereof, excepting the educational program that occurs during this time, which is administered by Kit Ilardi, Director of Christian Education, as an activity of the Education Cluster. These programs are relatively new additions to the Cluster, having been transferred from the Education and Pastoral Ministry clusters respectively last year.

Another principle activity in the Cluster, which is also relatively new, is the Hispanic Ministry, which brings an Episcopal presence to Detroit's Mexican Town community.

In addition, the Cluster includes Outreach, another principle activity, which is administered by the Cluster's Staff Representative Sarah Newton, Friends of the Cathedral, and several other programs, activities, and committees.

New to the cluster this year is the Cathedral Bible Society, conceived and spearheaded by Leon Albury. The Cathedral Bible Society collects and distributes Bibles and Prayer Books to those who request them. These requests come predominantly from those who attend the Sunday breakfasts and also from some who visit the Cathedral during the hours that the Cathedral doors on Woodward Avenue are opened on weekdays. Indeed, it was requests from such persons that prompted Mr. Albury to develop the CBS in the first place. Bibles and Prayer Books provided include Cathedral contact information and a form by which persons may share their intentions for prayer.

In addition to this Society, Mr. Albury has proposed a program through which selected sermons delivered at the Cathedral might be made available in pamphlets that would also include schedule and contact information for the Cathedral. I have given Mr. Albury my enthusiastic support for both this project and the Cathedral Bible Society.

Outreach

The Cathedral continues to bring the presence of Christ to the poor in material ways through our support of the Crossroads ministry and Outreach. Cathedral Outreach assisted many poor and otherwise troubled people who God has brought to us to lift in material and spiritual ways, with assistance, counsel, fellowship, and prayer.

The Christmas Feast

Also consistent with the commitment to our neighbors to which we are called, the Cathedral once again served hundreds of people at the annual Christmas Feast, and in so doing, engaged volunteers from throughout the Diocese in this celebration of fellowship and hospitality in Christ.

Alpha

This last year, the Alpha program, under the direction of the Rev. Canon Meredith Hunt, engaged a course that put the Cathedral at the center of the ecumenical Alpha ministry in the City. The Cathedral hosted a unique Alpha curriculum designed not only for the usual evangelistic purposes for which Alpha was created, but also for the training of persons who are expected to bring Alpha into their respective parish communities. The purpose of this project was to connect Detroit's predominantly African American religious community in all of its diversity with Alpha through the Cathedral.

This year, Alpha returns to the Cathedral in a more traditional form, headed for the first time by Felix Nweke. Once again, Alpha is expected to play the dual role of contributing to Christian formation at the Cathedral while bringing the essential message of Christ to others through informative and respectful seminar talks and the small group discussions which follow.

The Hispanic Ministry

This year, the Hispanic Ministry, pastured by the Rev. Canon Orlando Addison, devoted its time, resources and energy to building community through fellowship "the Hispanic way," celebrating Communion, and studying the Bible in members' homes throughout Mexican Town. The ministry has recently moved into a temporary home at St. Peter's Church, Corktown, where the community worships together in Spanish.

Breakfast at the Cathedral

The Sunday Breakfast, the Breakfast Program, or Breakfast Ministry, as it is variously called, continued to grow and develop throughout this last year. The program serves a diverse group of persons numbering from 100 to 150 individuals each Sunday, most of whom attend the eight o'clock Eucharist. Several fundraisers have supported this program, including a poinsettia sale and a monthly brunch offered after the 10:30 service.

As this activity has presented administrative and logistical challenges, it has rewarded us with many opportunities for service, fellowship, and growth in Christ and has led us in many ways to consider and reconsider the actions, perspectives, and purposes to which we are called in this activity and beyond.

Those at the Cathedral who have been involved in this ministry have been careful to avoid thinking of it as a feeding program. And yet, we do indeed feed many people who might otherwise go hungry. We also understand the program as an opportunity for Christian fellowship, education, action, and evangelism, all of which happen in varying degrees and in ever changing ways. As many things as the program is, and as much as it might seem to change week to week, and month to month, it is certainly one thing before anything else. It is a special opportunity that has been given to us at this particular time to engage each other in something of the manner in which Christ calls us. I believe that this activity has succeeded insofar as we have accepted and lived into this blessing. Part of living into this blessing surely will include continued efforts on our part to discern in faith with humility what it is that we can and should be doing in and through this evolving ministry.

The Christian calling and faithful discernment should and indeed must inform and direct all of our evangelistic ministries at the Cathedral, those that we presently engage, and those which we might pursue in the future.

As much as the larger and smaller programs that fall under the Evangelism Cluster's care can and do contribute to the life of the parish and its presence in the community, I believe that we can and should do more to invite our neighbors in all of their diversity to join us in our lives with Christ. I believe that this is a primary challenge for the Cathedral, and it is one to which I am personally dedicated.

Sadly for us, we will no longer meet these challenges with the worldly assistance and good cheer of our beloved sister Mary Long, who for the last two years served in the cluster as Vestry Representative. Mary has left us to claim her place in Glory with Christ. As much as I am sure that we all will continue to miss Mary, in all of her wisdom, good sense, and indefatigable cheer, we must stand ready to relinquish the gift of knowing her and release her to the Joy to which she has been called. I hope and believe that Mary will continue to be with us as she lifts with us our intentions before Him who is indeed the Father of all blessings.

INTRODUCTION

Dear members of the Vestry of St. Paul's Cathedral Church, sisters and brothers in Christ,

This report is the second one that I have submitted to the Vestry and a modification of the first, which I submitted one year ago. I have changed it where I felt change was due, and left it alone otherwise. I have made changes in content in light of the events of the last year, and changes in style to relieve you of some repetitious or excessive material. Most significantly, I have added the above "Executive Summary" both for your convenience and for insertion in the combined parish report for review at the Annual Meeting.

At the conclusion of this report, please find a descriptive list of activities that fall under the Evangelism Cluster. It is my belief that this list is both accurate and comprehensive.

Though the list describes most of the activities that fall under the Evangelism Cluster in some detail, there are some facts about the list itself that are worthy of note here. Alpha and the Sunday Breakfast Program are relatively recent additions to the Evangelism Cluster. I believe that they are appropriate additions.

Alpha in particular is explicitly and most essentially an evangelistic program in purpose and practice and so should be located here as opposed to some other Cluster. On the other hand, the Sunday Breakfast Program, variously called, manifests numerous Christian activities and ministries all at once. However, evangelism is certainly no small component of the program insofar as it represents a unique opportunity for parishioners to introduce guests to Christ in service, fellowship, and educational programming and discourse. Given the evangelistic content of the program, along with certain other facts about it and its participants, the Evangelism Cluster seems to be its most appropriate institutional home.

A SYNOPTIC VIEW OF THE EVANGELISM CLUSTER AT ST. PAUL'S

As an organizational body, the Evangelism Cluster is really more a collection of individual and largely independent activities and programmes than it is a coordinated unit as a whole. Because of this, I have seen the cluster committee's role as more properly directed towards facilitation than coordination. I believe that this is not only appropriate, it is most correct insofar as we keep in mind the essential distinction between evangelism and the evangelism cluster. For the Cathedral, evangelism must be our principle mission, which we all share and which is not reducible to the cluster. The cluster at best is a body that facilitates the mission and ministry of evangelism in all of the great and changing forms in which we may be blessed.

The activities that are included within the Cluster seem to fall into two basic categories. On the one hand, there are the large parish activities that engage substantial numbers of us, our guests, members of the community, et al in group fellowship, outreach, and evangelistic activities. These include most prominently Alpha, the Sunday breakfasts, and the Christmas Feast. The Cathedral's Noel Night activities might also be placed in this category. The second group is comprised of smaller activities and programmes led by individuals or small groups of persons who are especially dedicated to particular ministries. These include activities that are components of the regular functioning of the Cathedral along with more specially oriented activities. The former group includes most certainly the Tour Guides and the Greeters. The latter group includes the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and Friends of the Cathedral.

THE CLUSTER, ITS ACTIVITIES, AND OUR EVANGELISTIC MISSION

Beyond programmatic structure, Cluster activities, taken severally and together, should be assessed in light of the mission and ministry of Evangelism. Evangelism is, most essentially, bringing the Gospel, Christ's message of love and redemption, to people who do not know, or have forgotten in some manner the loving-kindness of God. Evangelism is practiced, first and foremost by us, as a natural response to our love for God, which we know at once as His greatest commandment and also his precious gift. As such, evangelism is practiced in each and every way that we, as Christians, engage the social world. This is as it should be since in this, God's loving invitation is exercised and reflected in us in ways that acknowledge and honor the many and varied ways in which we have been made by Him. Regardless of mode or form, then, evangelism is God's invitation to others, given through us by his choice and blessing, to know or know again the love of God, in the love of God.

Anything else we might be looking for in or from our Evangelistic efforts, such as increased membership or contributions, are at their very best only among the many blessings that might come from our faithful and loving practice of this our essential mission. If, on the other hand, we make these secondary things our primary goals, then we miss the point and, I believe, we miss the greater blessings which God has reserved for us.

As such, each of the programmes and activities below should be guided by the Gospel and so should also seek to spread that message through the ends and actions of ministry. To ensure that this happens, I believe that cluster participants, as well as other interested persons, must maintain active relationships with God as they discern the ways that He would have us guide our activities in our evangelistic charge.

EVANGELISM AT THE CATHEDRAL, and BEYOND

As I noted above, the Evangelism Cluster, including all activities therein on the one hand, and evangelism itself on the other, are essentially different things. To

say that all of the activities and programmes included in the Evangelism Cluster could, taken together, actively and substantially manifest our call to spread Christ's message is not to say that they do. And I believe that for all of the good and blessed things that the people working in these activities accomplish towards evangelism, the programmes and activities included under the Cluster do not, taken together, adequately manifest all that we could or should do to invite our neighbors to join us in our lives in Christ. I mean this not as a judgement, which I have no place to make regardless, but as a statement of a fact for which I am as responsible as any.

To assess Evangelism at the Cathedral, as opposed to the Evangelism Cluster per se, we need to look beyond the Cluster and its activities and consider what, in essence, the Cathedral is and should be, and who, in fact, the potential recipients of the Message of Christ really are or might be. I do not profess to have the answers to all of these questions, but I do believe that those answers can and will come if we who are the Cathedral and we who accept the charge, challenges, and blessings of evangelism, consider the questions in communion and in prayer.

But I would outline some of what I believe are the more obvious opportunities for evangelism that we are not currently seizing fully. These include Wayne State University students, faculty, and staff, other area professionals and clients, particularly at the Medical Center and Detroit business community, and area residents in all walks of life, including the many new residents who are filling the new and rehabilitated housing units that are opening all around the Cathedral, a few of which we may take some credit for!

To pursue these evangelistic opportunities, I believe that the Cathedral will not only need to re-consider its many ministries that presently fall in the evangelism category, but also experiment with new activities, ministries, partnerships, and programmes.

Given the unique position of the Cathedral, in addition to the promise that Christ has given to us, I believe that new activities should begin with prayerful consideration and discernment. Therefore, I advocate retreats or other activities in which persons with an interest and perceived calling in evangelism may come together to thoughtfully and prayerfully discern new evangelistic directions for the Cathedral with the knowledge that they will, quite likely, require new activities and organizations to manifest them.

THE URGENCY OF THE GOSPEL

On a personal note, though I have not been as active in my role as cluster chair as I would have liked, I feel a great passion for the evangelistic mission of the Cathedral. I know very well what it is like to live without a clear understanding of God and the many great and loving actions that He has taken on behalf of all of us. A soul separated from the conscious presence of the Holy Spirit is an empty and lonely thing indeed.

By an awesome Grace, God brought me to the Cathedral and here, I came to understand and accept the Gospel, I reconciled myself to the Church, and I saw the Savior as He would have me know Him, in what He has done for me and for all of us in love. In this, I fell deeply in love with God. This has changed my life in ways that I would not trade for the world, which is indeed the choice that is always offered to every one of us.

I am sad to think of those who God might let us bless with His message, in addition to those whom He already does, if we were only more ready, willing, or able to advance our evangelistic mission further. When it comes to evangelism at the Cathedral, I pray that we will indeed ask God to bless us with the courage, guidance, and faith to do the work that He may give to us to do towards this most essential and urgent end. I believe that in it all, as we open our hearts and minds to God in this and every other thing that we are and do, He will bless us in many and profound ways that far transcend what our minds alone can imagine.

Respectfully, your brother and servant in Christ,

Richard

EVANGELISM CLUSTER

Activities, Groups, and Leaders

Alpha

The Reverend Canon Meredith Hunt, Alpha Administrator
313-833-7544

Begun at Holy Trinity Parish, Brompton (London, UK), the Alpha course offers a hands-on, practical introduction to the Christian faith. Through St. Paul's Cathedral, Alpha courses are offered at the church, in parishioners' homes, at Wayne State University, and wherever else inquiring people may come together to learn more about Christianity or to deepen their faith life.

The Alpha program operates under the direction of the Reverend Canon Meredith Hunt; the courses themselves are taught and otherwise facilitated by Canon Hunt, Kit Ilardi, who is the Cathedral Church's Director of Religious Education, and numerous parishioners who have undergone training as Alpha leaders.

Alpha's principle objective is to introduce inquirers to Christ in a way that is educational, conversational, and respectful of the diversity of opinions, beliefs, and walks of life of the people who come to participate. Furthermore, because the structure of Alpha is so participatory, the program offers trained parishioners who assist in the running and teaching of Alpha courses unique and invaluable opportunities to exercise Christian leadership as they introduce their guests to Christ.

Breakfast

Every Sunday morning, after the 8:00 AM Mass, parishioners prepare and enjoy a cooked breakfast with visitors to the Cathedral. An educational program and discussion follow the program. Together, these activities comprise a unique opportunity for worshipers at both the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services to join with numerous and diverse visitors for Christian education, fellowship, and discourse.

Cathedral Bible Society

Leon Albury

The Cathedral Bible Society collects and distributes Bibles and Prayer Books to those who request them. These requests come predominantly from those who attend the Sunday breakfasts and also from some who visit the Cathedral during the hours that the Cathedral doors on Woodward Avenue are opened on weekdays. Indeed, it was requests from such persons that prompted Mr. Albury to develop the CBS in the first place. Bibles and Prayer Books provided include Cathedral contact information and a form by which persons may share their intentions for prayer.

Christmas Feast

Every Christmas, immediately following Christmas morning service, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul hosts a Christmas banquet that provides guests with excellent entertainment and the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of a diverse crowd of people celebrating Christmas over a delicious multi-course meal, served in fine style. The banquet, which is open to all at no charge, is attended by significant numbers of the area's poorer residents and those who otherwise might not be able to enjoy a traditional dinner in celebration of the birth of our Lord. The Christmas feast is truly a parish-wide event in which many parishioners come together with the wider community to enjoy a celebration in ministry as they prepare and serve this most special meal.

CROP Walk

Each year in early October, parishioners and friends of the Cathedral participate in CROP (Church Rural Overseas Program) Walk. This interdenominational program calls for volunteers to walk, and be sponsored a certain amount of money per mile. Proceeds are earmarked for providing food for the undernourished overseas.

Cross Roads Support

Crossroads is an outreach ministry started by the Cathedral to assist the economically disadvantaged in the Detroit area. The ministry provides people in need with access to a wide variety of assistance and resources including direct material assistance in the form of food, medicine, and clothing, as well as individually suited counseling and referral services to address any of a wide range of needs.

The main offices and facilities of Crossroads are currently located at 88 East Forest Ave, near the Cathedral.

Individually, parishioners of St. Paul's Cathedral support the Crossroads mission in numerous and varied ways. They provide financial support as well as donations of food and clothing, and they volunteer at the Crossroads facility, meeting with clients and carrying out general office work.

This mission is supported particularly by an annual rummage sale coordinated by Mary Long and Margaret Squires.

As Crossroads offers assistance to the people of our community most in need

Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Luella and Joe Bassett
(h) 248/549-3888

Episcopal Peace Fellowship is an organization of Episcopalians committed to peace activism in their cities, regions, and the world. Its activities include maintaining contact with policy makers at the city, state, and national levels in order to affect public policy; demonstrating and rallying; and "living peace."

Fellowship
Creighton Smith
(h) 313/862-9366

Fellowship activities include those that we coordinate for ourselves but which might also be attractive to others in the Cathedral neighborhood and the metropolitan community at large.

Foreign Mission
Karen Franklin
(h) 313/533-9550
(o) 248/395-4700/02
codyk@earthlink.net

Foreign Mission participants work with and help to support the Episcopal Medical Foundation. They raise funds from congregations for the purpose of funding Episcopal missions outside of the United States that have a medical mission focus. They work up teams of medical professionals to go to these

places and provide clinical assistance. Karen Franklin and Helen Trombley have been involved in these activities.

Friends of the Cathedral
Joan Heneveld and Marjorie Dorman

The Friends of the Cathedral is a group of people who support the Cathedral's programs and help maintain its magnificent structure.

Greeters
Mary Stewart
(h) 313/393-2046
Jeffrey Martin
(h) 313/859-3644

Greeters are the public face of the Cathedral for its many visitors. They are responsible for maintaining a welcoming presence on Sunday mornings before and after services to all newcomers, encouraging them to sign the guest books, take part in the services, and join the Cathedral family for fellowship during the breakfast and coffee hours.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization committed to building reasonably priced new housing for lower-income buyers, and to training them in its care and maintenance. All buyers are expected to put in "sweat equity," helping to build their own homes.

The Hispanic Ministry

This year, the Hispanic Ministry, pastured by the Rev. Canon Orlando Addison, devoted its time, resources and energy to building community through fellowship "the Hispanic way," celebrating Communion, and studying the Bible in members' homes throughout Mexican Town. The ministry has recently moved into a temporary home at St. Peter's Church, Corktown, where the community worships together in Spanish.

Jazz on the Lawn

Jazz on the Lawn is a program sponsored by the Cathedral that brings live Jazz music to the community in concerts held every Friday afternoon during the summertime on the Cathedral lawn. As the program brings quality entertainment to the community, it contributes to the cultural life of Midtown Detroit generally and the Cultural/Educational area specifically and introduces people in the community to the Cathedral in a uniquely friendly and entertaining way.

Noel Night
Herb Head
(h) 313/881-3810
(o) 313/594-4248
headiii@attglobal.net

Noel Night is winter celebration held in Detroit's Midtown Cultural Center held on the first Friday evening in December. During every Noel Night, the educational and cultural institutions in Midtown, including the Cathedral, open their doors and offer artistic and entertaining programming, performances, and food to all. In addition, the streets of Midtown are filled with stages and performers. Noel Night has become an event that kicks off the holiday season for many Detroiters and attracts roughly 20,000 people every year to the area. The Cathedral offers tours, organ recitals, art events at the Bookshop, and soups, breads, wine, and sweets to all passers-by.

While many participate in Noel Night activities, Herb Head has been particularly active in preparing and staffing the refreshment table.

Outreach Program

Sarah Newton
Outreach Coordinator
Cathedral Church of St. Paul
(313) 831-5000

In addition to its support for Crossroads, the Cathedral brings the presence of Christ to the poor in material and other ways through its Outreach Program. Cathedral Outreach assists many poor and otherwise troubled people who God has brought to us to lift in material and spiritual ways, with assistance, counsel, referral, fellowship, and prayer.

Tour Guides
Creighton Smith
(h) 313/862-9366

Sometimes considered "the newest old Church in Detroit," St. Paul's Cathedral enjoys a magnificent church building constructed in the "vertical English gothic" style. Within, the Cathedral is decorated with many artistically and historically significant treasures that at once enhance the Cathedral's appearance and to inspire parishioners and visitors alike as they are dedicated to the glory of God.

The Cathedral is always eager to share its ecclesiastical treasures and so offers enlightening and entertaining tours to civic groups, school and college classes, and other church congregations. Tours are led by a group of docents and can be tailored to specific needs and interests.

Mr. Creighton Smith heads the Cathedral docents. The Very Reverend Dean Steven H. Bancroft regularly trains new docents as well, and training sessions are announced in the Cathedral's weekly service leaflet.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee oversees the Cathedral's outreach activities. Projects included in Outreach during 2002 were the following:

Jazz on the Lawn,

Christmas Feast

Hosting of the Michigan Women's Campaign Fund

Interfaith Partners / Abraham salons

NOTE:

All other programmes or activities previously listed under Evangelism, but not included here, are either dormant or non-existent. No activities have been moved from Evangelism to other clusters.