TEACHING TUESDAYS:
SIGNS OF PARISH VITALITY
INSPIRING & CAPABLE LEADERSHIP

"Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (BCP pg 832)

Recording:

Here is the entire recording of our Teaching Tuesday session of May 4th, 2021, with our special panel of guests: Rev. Glenna Huber, Rector of Church of the Epiphany, Rev. Ledlie Laughlin, Rector of St. Columba's, Rev. Kristen Hawley, Rector of St. David's, and the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

Notes (quick points) from the session:

"What have you learned about self-care, caring for yourself and your needs as a leader, in the last last 14 months of pandemic life?"

- Rev. Kristen shared how COVID has shown a spotlight on what she's doing well and not so well, highlighting the need to plan and prioritize self-care and to find the right people to help.
- Rev. Glenna shared how creating balance between work and self-care became so challenging as the pandemic forced us into single shared spaces for work and home life. She has worked recreate the meditation and prayer times that were lost along with her commuting times.
- Rev. Ledlie shared how he has approached the pandemic changes as opportunities to shift time and energy into lost practices and relational opportunities which might have dropped off. He has found it to be challenging to take extended time away or in rest, more than 24 hours, and great value in maintaining and growing peer relationships.
- Bishop Mariann acknowledged that leaders tend to respond to the needs of those around them in crisis times before their own, using the reserves they've stored over time, so they must watch those reserve levels. She shared the importance of speaking and sharing *clarity* as much as they can, and to lean on relationships.

"What have you learned about raising up and equipping lay leaders in our parishes during the pandemic?

- Rev. Kristen illustrated the power of being open to new lay leaders, ready to welcome them and support their work, passions and ministry! As COVID drew out new needed leaders, existing leaders were ready to include them.
- Rev. Glenna shared how the pandemic brought an all-hands time of relearning how to be in community. They supported lay leaders through the grief of lost community expressions and the creation of new expressions.
- Rev. Ledlie introduced the concept of *scenario planning* they have adopted with leaders to plan and look forward together in different and various ways. This has opened people up to agility, nimbleness and experimentation. He reminded us to name, commission and value these new expressions/ministries just as we valued the old ones.
- Bishop Mariann brought home the need to support all our folks at the different emotional and adaptive places where we find them, not pushing too hard on the ones still grieving and not holding back the energized ones ready to move forward. We support and lean into hope when needed, but also must be prepared to lend a boost to those who are ready to start on new ministries. We must never, as leaders among leaders, let our focus drift from Christ, but let the Spirit speak to us, through us, and keep the goal of drawing nearer to Christ for us all.

Resources referenced and shared in the session:

- Bishop Mariann wanted to share two documents on leadership: a book summary of Andy Stanley's "Next Generation Leader" and an Unstuck Leader Assessment Ledger.
- Watch for the offerings from our School for Christian Faith and Leadership!
  You might also make a bookmark for the school's Eventbrite page!
- "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going" by Susan Beaumont, mentioned by Rev. Gamber.
- An article about the virtual verger position Lee Puriceli mentioned being active at Christ Church (Kensington).

Previous Weeks' Recap Documents with links and resources:

Week One on Compelling Mission and Vision.
Week Two on Clear Path of Discipleship.
Week Three on Faithful Financial Practices.