



PIER REVIEW

THE MINISTRY JOURNAL OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. LUKE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

"Unless the Lord Builds the House"

By The Rev. Canon J. Gary L'Hommedieu

UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THOSE who build it labor in vain. That's a direct quote from Psalm 127. I didn't put it in quotes this time because I wasn't quoting it as a psalm but as a principle for ministry. I don't want anybody to mistake it for great devotional literature, though surely there is none greater.

Here's another way to state the principle. Whatever we're doing, if God isn't in it, it will fail. If God isn't in it, it *must* fail! The reason is obvious: God isn't in it. What better formula for failure could there be?

Christians know that we do not succeed at anything on our own. This is part of what it means to be Christian: knowing that there is a God, that this God has a plan, and that this plan involves each one of us. There is nothing that moves under heaven that does so on its own. Jesus made this point in reference to the sparrow. Not a single one falls to the ground apart from our Father's will. On Christ's authority alone we know we are worth more

than many sparrows. (See Matthew 10:29-31.)

Perhaps the greatest challenge in ministry is discerning how to cooperate with God in what He is doing rather than, on the one hand, trying to do things on our own to please Him or, on the other hand, doing what we please as if it were none of His business. Somewhere in between these two is the challenge of discernment—what in management circles is called *vision*.

The Cathedral is all abuzz about a new phase of life we call "visioning." A new Vision Community of thirty-one members, making up a remarkable cross section of the parish, has taken up this task. This new group was founded in response to the realization that the Cathedral has been losing members for the last ten years or so. In other words, there's a problem. The new Vision Community is part of the attempt to solve that problem.

At the outset the Vision Community has been aware of one fact: if God is not the beginning and the end of our "solution," then it really is no solution, but at best a stopgap or a diversion. "Vision" is not just a slogan or another name for business as usual. It starts with the recognition that, like it or not, business as usual has gone out of business.

It is clear that this "visioning" project is about discerning not only God's will *for* but God's role *in* the next phase of our life. *What is God building?* That God remains intimately involved in our parish life enables us to come before our Father trusting Him for the results.

God is building this house. What better formula for success could there be?

PR

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Dean Tony Clark opens up the April meeting of the Vision Community at its regularly scheduled meeting place in the Diocesan Offices.

Preferring the Lord's Future

By The Very Rev. Anthony P. Clark

The Lord reveals the destination before laying out the road map to that preferred future.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S PREFERRED future for the Cathedral? That is a question I have wrestled with for the past several months, and our recent Cathedral survey and formation of the Vision Community are part of understanding the Lord's preferred future—or vision—for the Cathedral.

I must confess I often become confused between the *what* of vision—as in “*What* do you see as the Lord's preferred future?”—and the *how* of planning—as in “*How* do we get there?” With that in mind, I need to remind myself of some of the Lord's great visions—or preferred futures—for his people. The Lord called Abraham, for example, to be “the ancestor of a multitude of nations” and “to be exceedingly fruitful” (Genesis 17:5,6). The Lord called Moses to “bring the Israelites out of Egypt” (Exodus 3:10) and the Lord called Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem after the exile.

The Lord offered a *picture* of these preferred futures as well. For Abraham, the Lord compares the number of his ancestors to the vast number of stars in the sky (Genesis 15:5). As the Israelites are preparing to move into the Promised Land, the Lord paints a picture of the future he desires and has prepared for them:

The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land of flowing streams and pools of water, with springs that gush forth in the valleys and hills. It is a land of wheat and barley, of grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, olives, and honey. It is a land where food is

plentiful and nothing is lacking. It is a land where iron is as common as stone, and copper is abundant in the hills. When you have eaten your fill, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. (Deuteronomy 8:7-10 NRSV)

In Nehemiah's case, the Lord laid a burden for the broken city and its disgraced people on Nehemiah's heart and Nehemiah saw with his own eyes “how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gate burned.” (Nehemiah 2:17)

What I take away from this quick review of the Lord's visioning is that the Lord unfolds the *what* of a preferred future before unfolding the *how* of the planning details. Said another way, the Lord reveals the destination—multitude of ancestors for Abraham, a Promised Land for Moses or a rebuilt wall for Nehemiah—before laying out the road map to that preferred future. The *what* or *where* of the Lord's preferred future or vision needs to precede the strategy, goals, objectives and tasks to reach that preferred vision.

The Cathedral Vision Community, numbering over thirty Cathedralites and including a wide range of ages and interests, has begun the work of understanding the *what* and *where* of the Lord's preferred future and the *how* of a ministry plan for the Cathedral. While many of us might want to do this or that in relation to our Cathedral ministry, we need to always remember the biblical model: “first the vision, then the plan.” Know the destination. Then plan the route. PR

Envisioning the Process

By Bill Peeper

IT IS A CONFIDENT ORGANIZATION AND confident leadership that commits to looking at itself as deeply as 320 members of the St Luke's family have done by participating in the recent parish-wide survey. But it is an even more confident organization and leadership that promises to communicate the results of the survey and the process by which the survey findings will be addressed and the vision for the future that will be created.

That is the promise made by our Dean, your Chapter and members of the Vision Community.

While the review process will be lengthy and arduous, our Cathedral family will be kept abreast of the progress every step of the way. You will hear about it at the Dean's Hour, you will read about it in the e-Courier, The Dean's notes and future issues of the Pier Review. You may speak with the clergy, members of the Chapter, or any of the thirty-one members of the Vision Community, whose names are listed in the right hand margin of this page. Everyone involved wants you to be involved if only by being informed of the progress of this most important endeavor.

The process we have undertaken is powerful... and will probably bring some yet unknown change. The purpose of the process is even more powerful, for we, all of us, are about creating a vision for our Cathedral that will ensure its rightful place in our community in the years to come. But more importantly, it is about creating a vision for our Cathedral that is pleasing to our

Lord. It is for that reason that the promise to communicate fully is made by all concerned.

For communications to work, as you know, it requires clear messaging from the communicator to an audience that is participating in active listening. I hope that each of you will be an active and, most importantly, a faithful listener: which includes believing that what you are hearing is from committed and faithful people working to follow the Lord's direction.

Your Chapter undertook this effort to energize our Cathedral and our collective faith, to ensure there is a place of traditional Christian faith that can sustain itself in the secular world and be pleasing to our Lord.

This is a journey not taken by many churches. Those involved will get some things right and will also make a few mistakes along the way. If the job is done correctly you will know about both, because we will have communicated fully. In return, we ask that you listen actively and will faithfully communicate your questions and suggestions. PR



Anne and Bill Peeper in a light hearted moment in the Great Hall during the Dean's Hour presentation by the Vision Community Design Team. The Peepers have been Cathedral members since 1982, and Bill currently serves on the Chapter. He retired in 2008 after 26 years as President of the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Bill and Anne, married 38 years, currently live in Belle Isle. Their two sons, Jay, 35, and Blake, 34, live in Orlando.

- Theresa Anstett
- Robert Baker
- Joanne Barton
- Tom Bates
- Ronnie Bliss
- Chuck Dunlap
- Bev Dunlap
- Julie Gadbois
- Theo Gordon
- Dick Grant
- Amy Grant
- KC Hendrickson
- Cliff Hendrickson
- William Jones
- Cornelia Kyser
- Susie Landis
- Greg Leonard
- Gary L'Hommedieu
- Judi L'Hommedieu
- John Lyle
- DiAnn McCarty
- Elaine Morris
- Ric Morris
- Bill Peeper
- Carolyn Petersen
- Nancy Peterson
- Deanie Powers
- Fernando Santos
- Matthew Schubert
- Herb Smetheram
- Lee Wilson

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Herb and Beverly (Mimi) Smetheram joined the Cathedral in 2007. Herb is a retired career Navy officer and a planning consultant for communities undergoing military base closure. Herb and Beverly live in Orlando and celebrated 46 years of marriage in 2009.

Vision:

By Herb Smetheram

VISION HAS SEVERAL MEANINGS AND THERE is a process subsumed under its common definitions. This article discusses four approaches to the visioning process. Over the past forty years I have been involved with each of the four in my military and civilian assignments.

VISION IN THE DICTIONARY

Examples of common dictionary definitions of vision are the “act of seeing” and the power of “perceiving that which is not actually present to the eye.” There will be interface with the latter that occurs in the fourth visioning process dealing with church visioning. All four processes start with a vision, then a plan, and then implementation.

The military visioning tasks assigned to me during two of my Pentagon tours were that of projection of capabilities. They were ten to fifteen year forecasts. The approach in my private industry job with a large defense contractor was business analysis popularly known as strategic planning. It covered a ten-year period. My public sector jobs encountered a much purer form of visioning as it needed to be innovative, long-term (20-25 years), much less restrictive though still with a strong focus, and with significant input from outside elements.

VISION IN THE CHURCH

The visioning process a church goes through uses the same elements as the other three. However, there is a very unique aspect that differentiates it. It is the recognition that there is a spiritual thread inherent in this process. Examples of the visioning actions in scripture always find the individual utilizing the tasks of praying, listening and crediting God for the success. The stories of Noah, Joseph and Nehemiah illustrate this.

In the early seventies, as a Navy Commander, my assignment was directing a team of professionals with strong technical backgrounds to determine what Soviet ships would be like in the future. The team was very knowledgeable of the characteristics and capabilities of the present units. Their next generation was generally an easy determination as intelligence data described what we could expect. It was the second generation that required innovative thinking about any technological surprise there might be on the horizon.

VISION IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

In the late seventies I was assigned as The Navy Director of Intelligence Estimates. The primary task was to work with the intelligence community to update the National Intelligence Estimates on the direction and capabilities of the Soviet military. The Central Intelligence Agency was responsible for the Estimates. We coordinated input with the Defense Intelligence Agency. This covered much broader aspects of the Soviet Navy than the earlier task forecasting technical capabilities. A major challenge was the political aspect. Within Defense there always is the budget battle between services, and threat analysis is a significant factor in dollar allocation. At the national level various competing civilian agencies could weigh in with their inputs. These agencies defined the same intelligence in different ways. One of the major issues at this time was how strong the Soviet Navy would be in the future. One group opined only modest upgrades while another projected the Soviet Navy as powerful due to technology breakthroughs in weapon systems. Two study groups were formed, A and B, each presenting findings. One would be the official national opinion; the other a minority report. In hindsight the future Soviet Navy was not determined by technology,



Herb, a visionary by profession and by temperament, leads off the agenda for the Vision Community at its April meeting. The smaller photographs on the margins were taken at the same meeting.

Relying Not On Our Own Insight

but by Communism's collapse resulting in a weak Navy.

VISION IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

My private industry job was that of a strategic planner for a large defense industry. Our annual task was to prepare a ten-year forecast of the business and to estimate what dollar value the company could expect from sales of products. The forecast used a business plan model found in textbooks. There was visionary thought as we brainstormed new technology that would become future products. We tried to be very realistic in the first five years of the forecast. The next five years allowed some artistic leeway, so it was called the "blue sky" forecasting period.

VISION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

On leaving private industry, the Mayor of Orlando hired me to plan the redevelopment of the closing Naval Training Center. (I had been the Naval Station Commander in the early eighties). The task was to transform a navy base into civilian development. The initial phase was visioning. We developed eight plans and then made them public to receive citizens' inputs. There were over 200 public meetings. The challenges were significant as there were many diverse groups with very different ideas. There was anger, resistance to change and a great deal of concern over the unknown. The book of Nehemiah demonstrates that these feelings were not new. Eventually a plan was derived from the inputs. The development's implementation now is known as Baldwin Park. I have continued

aiding communities undergoing base closures for the past twelve years.

A FUTURE FOR THE CHURCH

My planning work for a church was a future look for St Matthews on Dean Road during its formative years. A planning process for a church wanting to retain the relevance of the church while preparing for the future is unique. It is close to the model used for planning Baldwin Park. The strategic communication to and from all members of the congregation is vital to its success just as there was the necessity to receive buy-in from citizens on the navy base reuse. All the elements of my above experiences would come into play as a church undertakes transformation. The process starts with a vision, develops a plan and then implements the plan. The aspect that differentiates a church from the above models is inspirational reliance on God. The story of Joseph (Genesis Chapter 41) is an example of this process.

All my work experience over the past twenty-five years has been looking into the future. Planning to move a church forward is new and challenging. Reward and success can be achieved by keeping foremost in mind the words of Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight."

PR





DiAnn has been a member of the Cathedral for ten years. She has recently accepted a position as Marketing Manager with T&G Constructors with offices in Orlando and Miami. She lives in Winter Park with her two cats, Atticus Finch and Boo Radley .

A Visionary Diary

By DiAnn McCarty

DiAnn at the Design Team table during a resenatation at the Dean's Hour.

“**T**HAT DAY, WHEN EVENING CAME, HE SAID to His disciples “Let us go over to the other side.” (Mark 4:35)

For the last sixteen months I have been one of the “human faces” of Florida’s horrific, higher than the national percentage, unemployment statistics. On December 1, 2008 Jesus said to me “DiAnn, let’s row over to the other side.” We all remember the story of the furious storm: Jesus asleep; frantic, terrified seasoned fishermen; rebuked wind and waves. It’s a great read—until I’m one of the crew.

During the ensuing months I did all the right things, did everything within my ability to stay afloat, to keep from being capsized, crying out to God on many, many occasions, “Carest Thou not that I perish?” bailing water out of my life’s vessel until my arms ached and my tears mingled with the crashing waves, all the time wondering what God was trying to show me that I just couldn’t see?

A couple of months into my voyage Fr. Grant preached a sermon on this text. One of his points gripped me so tightly that I physically felt its impact, and this has been a continual source of encouragement. *Jesus fully intended to cross over.* He knew about the storms, but his desire was to take his disciples to the other side, where there would be continued opportunity for blessing and ministry.

I have a One Year Bible arranged with daily readings, and my custom is to “journal” on the page of passages that speak to me as I read. I wish I could share them all, but here are just a few for consideration. Space won’t permit more than the reference so I hope you’ll look them up.

- January 18 – Psalm 16:1-11 –
- 2008 – “...the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places” – I have a great job, good friends, etc – thank you Lord.
- 2009 – I’ve been laid off – vs 7,8 esp. meaningful
- 2010 – vs 8 – still unemployed, but ...
- Jan 30 – Matthew 21;22 – 2009 – Praying for a job
- 2010 – Still believing in God’s plan/provision
- Mar 26 – Psalm 68:19
- 2009 – He does bear my burdens
- 2010 - WOW/Meditate on THAT – He cares that I haven’t worked in over a year.
- Oct 17 – Jer. 31:7, 25
- 2009 – Weary in this turbulent voyage, clinging to this promise like a life raft sustaining my faith
- Finally we reach the “other side”. March 22
- 2010 – *my first day of work* – Psalm 66:10, 16
- “For you O God tested us, you refined us as silver.” “Come, listen, all you who fear God – let me tell you what He has done for me.”

I grew up singing a hymn that sums up my voyage with Jesus to the other side:

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll.
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move;
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love. PR

“Will Your Anchor Hold in the Storms of Life” by Priscilla J. Owens (1829-1907) is in the public domain.

Discerning the Mission

By Greg Leonard

IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE MISSION OR VISION of any organization, there must be a foundation or starting point, whether for a Fortune 500 multinational company or a 500 member congregation.

On the surface, when we think of organizational vision, we think of a sentence or short paragraph providing a broad, aspirational image of the future or a sentence written by a company which reflects its core purpose, identity, values and principle business aims. However, prior to proclaiming any true vision or mission that actually means something of substance both to the organization within and to the world at large, it must have at its core a basis in reality.

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke took the first of many steps in January 2010 to determine its mission and vision by embarking on a process that would take a hard look at who we are as worshippers, our beliefs, the way we worship, and most importantly our thoughts related to where we, as congregants of The Cathedral, stand on a variety of issues and how we can best move forward in mission and ministry.

The Cathedral Survey was the vehicle we used to pull together these insights in a manner never before attempted at St. Luke's and the process provided a very strong data point in and of itself with a vast majority of congregants participating in the survey process. The results data of the survey is still being analyzed, and it will continue to be throughout the coming months.

DIGGING BELOW THE SURFACE

Upon initial review many themes are beginning to come through particularly as it relates to who we are as worshippers at The Cathedral and what our perceptions are of the world we live in. It isn't any secret to us that these are indeed trying times for the Church universal



Eyes always smiling, Greg Leonard looks over at his shoulder during the April meeting of the Vision Community. Greg is a member of the Chapter and works as Senior Director of Censeo Corporation, Maitland. Greg and Kay joined the Cathedral Family in 1999 followed by son John in 2000. They live in Maitland with their dog Kayla, gerbils Scrat and Twitch, and fish Shadow.

and for our denomination specifically. However, there are many positive aspects the survey revealed along with areas from which we must consider if we are to grow in mission and ministry.

From my perspective, the survey process provided a wonderful personal opportunity to express my thoughts and opinions on a variety of issues that we as individuals have talked about amongst family and friends over the past few years. The completed survey is an opportunity at long last to pull together the thoughts and opinions of the congregation as a whole, allowing us to have one voice in a sea of many voices.

GETTING TO BASICS

The chance to answer the basic questions of who we are and what we believe in is very appealing. The ability to address topic areas that allowed for deep spiritual introspection as well as opportunities to express personal feelings about where we are as a congregation both locally and as a Church nationally also provided inspiration to all of us involved in gathering the data.

Having the unique perspective as a survey participant and a reviewer of the results has been an interesting one to say the least. Going from data, to insight, to action is where the really hard work begins. This is what allows us all to have a voice in the direction we intend to move in.

Let us not lose sight of why we all find ourselves gathering information in the first place. We are on our way to defining who we are at this point in time. We are taking the necessary steps to discern God's mission for the Cathedral based on solid information.

In the end, the path has already been laid by God. Once we have discerned the path, then it's up to us all whether we decide to follow.

PR



"Prior to proclaiming any true vision or mission that actually means something of substance, it must have at its core a basis in reality."

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1. *Architecture* Any of various vertical supporting structures, especially:
 - a. A pillar supporting an arch or roof.
 - b. The portion of a wall between windows, doors, or other openings.
 - c. A reinforcing structure that projects from a wall; a buttress.

2. *Literature* The monthly ministry journal of The Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Orlando, Florida.
 - a. Editor/Designer
The Rev. Canon J. Gary L'Hommedieu
 - b. Proof Reader
Theo Gordon
 - c. Original Photographs
The Rev. Canon J. Gary L'Hommedieu

INTRODUCING THE
VISION COMMUNITY
IN THIS ISSUE

"Perhaps the greatest challenge in ministry is discerning how to cooperate with God in what He is doing rather than, on the one hand, trying to do things on our own to please Him or, on the other hand, doing what we please as if it were none of His business. Somewhere in between these two is the challenge of discernment—what in management circles is called *vision*."