

Rector's Ramblings:

This past summer, on Sunday, July 12, 2009 the Mediator hosted a joyful and lively worship event. Haven's Chapel United Methodist Church joined us for worship and for dinner on the grounds. It was a day of inspiration as The Rev. Cynthia Cross delivered a fine sermon (with a number of "amen's"). Our Methodist brothers and sisters were partners in the breaking of the bread, fellowship and music. The combined choirs led us in praising God and we ended the service with the hymn "I need you, you need me."

We do need each other. Methodists and Episcopalians share a rich history and tradition. We have much to offer and teach one another. The Rev. Cross and I felt that God was leading our congregations to work together, but how that would happen was yet to be revealed. Prayer by both bodies was needed to take our next step.

The wait wasn't long...for now we have two next steps! Congregation members Joanne Weems and Margaret Nicholson met with me to discuss the idea of a fundraiser that would replicate the "Women's Tea" of some years ago. However, this time they wanted to invite Haven's Chapel to be a part of the planning and execution of the tea. With Vestry, the invitation was extended and accepted. The first meeting has taken place and plans are underway for the spring. Thank you, Joanne and Margaret for listening to the Spirit for guidance in new ways.

Cynthia Cross and I were invited by The Very Rev. Duncan M. Gray III and Methodist Bishop, Hope Morgan Ward, to be a part of Diocesan discussions on ways the two denominations can work together. As a result of the work that has begun at Haven's Chapel and Church of the Mediator, we have been chosen as the site for a joint worship or "covenant" service celebrating the work being undertaken by our congregations. The service will be held at the Mediator on Wednesday, March 3 and both Bishops will be present. A reception will be hosted by Haven's Chapel UMC. Details about this occasion will be forthcoming as they are finalized.

God is at work in mighty ways at the Church of the Mediator as we
"seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves
and
"strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity
of all human beings." (BCP 305)

Thanks be to God for both faithful congregations!

Helen+