

Destination 2067 Mark Crosthwaite

I am and will be a cradle to grave Episcopalian. I am an optimist and while my crystal ball gets a little fuzzy when I look in the future, it's got one major component going for it. That simple equation, the grace of God's, His love. It really breaks my heart when I look at the world around me. The physical world generated by mankind's anger continues to bathe us its harsh reality. Yet we are sheltered by our living God, we find a haven in Christian understanding. If you really think about it, Jesus planted his teaching in us some 2000 years ago and we are the fruit of His labor. Today we are that message, alive and spreading His word, in voice with our action. You see this in our community of outreach, the sheltering of the homeless, working with other churches, our Christian community, praying for each other, working together, accepting diversity ... the list continues to grow.

So, when I think of the future of St. David's, I see us laying new seeds of Christ's love that are given to our children, for they will be the ones that inherit St. David's. And as stewards, setting that tenor, I must believe that our future is bright and our message strong. What I must confess is that sometimes I fail to hear God grace, His love, yet as we all know He is always there.

So, in 2067 we will be an amazing place of worship, just as we are today. What I pray and hope for is that we at St. David's will continue to be one of those churches that shares in God's graces and sets an example that her sister churches, synagogues, and mosques to follow. Paul tells us, "be eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). He also said, "In one spirit, we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one spirit." (1Cor 12:13)

Let me share with you what one of my Islamic friends shared with me not to long ago. He said that we all have the same foundation of learning, we are all people of the Book: Christians, Jews, and Muslims. I was a little confused, but he went on to say, Tora, Bible, and Koran. Then I mentioned how amazing this world would be if we all embraced Christ's message of love. His replied that those who believe in the Book know of God's grace.

So, I leave you with these thoughts. The future is clear for St. David's. Our path is with Christ, the head of our church, He leads the way as we will continue to grow in His teaching, in unity, with His grace, His understanding, and forgiveness. For I think that we at St. David's know that the grace of God bonds us all in Christ and the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and through our stewardship, in part, is that outreach, we touch the world around us. 50 years from now? Wouldn't it be just incredible if what we have learned is also what the world around really begins to hear.