

Serving WORDshop
Originally taught on November 8, 2006

Welcome and Prayer

So What's a WORDshop?

- An opportunity to add to specific tools to your Toolbox for a Life of Faith

Equipping Your Toolbox for a Life of Faith

◆ **Created to Serve**

- ▶ “The call to serve is the command of the Savior to allow God’s love to flow through us into our love-starved world. . . . We are called to be a priestly people, priests who serve others on behalf of God.”
- *Real Faith for Real Life*, Mike Foss, p. 78
- ▶ “Jesus came to serve, not to be served. The essence of God is love in serving action. We cannot know God apart from God’s serving love for us. In our serving, we connect to that heaven-sent impulse that is a part of God’s image within us. So our soul’s deepest longings are expressed when we serve.”
- *Real Faith for Real Life*, Mike Foss, pgs. 78-79
- ▶ *Describe a time when you served others and walked away having the sense that you had received much more than you had given?*

◆ **Serving God’s People**

- ▶ “Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- Mark 10:43-45
- ▶ “The power of the local congregation is not to be measured simply by the visible gathering of its people. It is measured also by the way its people expand and extend the kingdom of God into a world of skepticism, loneliness, and need. The service we give in the congregation, whether highly visible or relatively hidden, spreads the truth of God through the best witness possible: the lives of those who we touch by the power of God’s Holy Spirit.”
- *Real Faith for Real Life*, Mike Foss, p. 84
- ▶ *Describe the joy you have felt by serving in a congregation. What ministries of service are yet to be discovered in our congregation?*

◆ **Meeting Real Needs within the Church**

- ▶ “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- John 13:34-35

- ▶ “When we serve and meet real human need through and within the congregation, we change the world, one situation at a time. That’s where the effectiveness of the congregation comes in. Few organizations know their neighborhoods and ministry areas as well as most congregations. If that knowledge can connect the service of Christian disciples within that church to those needs, there can be a rebirth of hope and vitality, care and compassion that is incredible.”
- *Real Faith for Real Life*, Mike Foss, p. 86

- ▶ *How can service in the congregation really have the power to change the world for others? What are some ideas of how you might serve at St. Michael to really make a different world by meeting real needs in your community?*

◆ **Bringing Justice into the Lives of Others**

- ▶ “[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8
- ▶ “The Mark of Service takes seriously that it is essential to the Christian church to live beyond itself. The church that lives to serve only its members has stopped being a church and become a club. The vision of God is for a people and an institution that changes the world for justice and good.”
- *Real Faith for Real Life*, Mike Foss, p. 90
- ▶ “As people of the Savior, we [are] called not only to tell about our faith; we are called to live our faith by working for the betterment of their lives and the community.”
- *Real Faith for Real Life*, Mike Foss, p. 91
- ▶ *How can we work for justice in our community without becoming bogged down in politics?*

◆ **Sent into the World**

- ▶ Bishop Jim Mauney often describes the people of God as ambassadors for Christ who are turned upside down and inside out for witness and service in the world. *How do you see yourself serving in the world and what one thing might you add to that service?*
- ▶ Let us pray together. “God invites us to mission. We are the people of mission and service. God plants within each human heart longings to help. We are thankful for the gifts of our longings. God gives competencies sufficient unto the mission. We are grateful for the competencies with which God blesses us. God freely gives to us the richness of grace and help. We freely give of our longings and competencies. They are gifts of God. God helps us share concrete, effective help. With our whole lives, we give thanks to God. Amen.”
- *Twelve Keys for Living*, Kennon Callahan, p. 28

This WORDshop is based on “Real Faith for Real Life” by Michael Foss, Augsburg Fortress, 2004 and Twelve Keys for Living by Dr. Kennon Callahan, Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998.