

## Opportunities in Crisis

Some people always seem to land on their feet, no matter what you throw at them. When confronted with adversity, these people seem to “make lemonade out of lemons.” They always seem to find “a silver lining in every cloud.” And somehow, everything always seems to “turn out for the best.” Their success can be found in their attitude.

How does this relate to the recent flooding at St. George’s? We should ask ourselves what sort of opportunities could come out of this crisis. And at last week’s Vestry meeting, we explored that question over dinner, prior to getting down to business.

The Clergy and Vestry split into three groups and discussed how this flood might propel us forward, to do positive things we might otherwise not have considered.

I was referred to Philippians 4: 11-13, which teaches us to learn “to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

So, we must keep in mind “the big picture.” Consider how fortunate we really are, despite the devastation of the flooding.

During the Vestry dinner time discussions, natural concerns were expressed. With space for Sunday School unavailable, several people wondered if parents with children might stay away temporarily or even ultimately leave the Church. So, we discussed how can we welcome families and children and retain their attendance. Perhaps this event might precipitate a change to our Sunday Service schedule, accommodating especially those with children but also all our constituent needs.

Will the rebuilding allow us to reconfigure space in a manner that will be more inviting and utilitarian? Could the need for funds to complete the restoration of our facility compel us to raise additional dollars, to renovate 104 Belle Meade Boulevard? What unidentified uses could we design into the “new” Church?

Then, conversation turned to the community outside St. George’s. In our efforts to deal with this crisis, how can we marshal our forces to help others, with perhaps greater needs?

St. George’s has so many good and positive things happening. There are opportunities in this crisis; we just need to identify them. And, that is what the Clergy and your Vestry will be trying to do. We welcome your suggestions, assistance and involvement. But do not think small. Let’s do something great!

Tim Douglas