

# The Role of Spiritual Gifts in Connecting

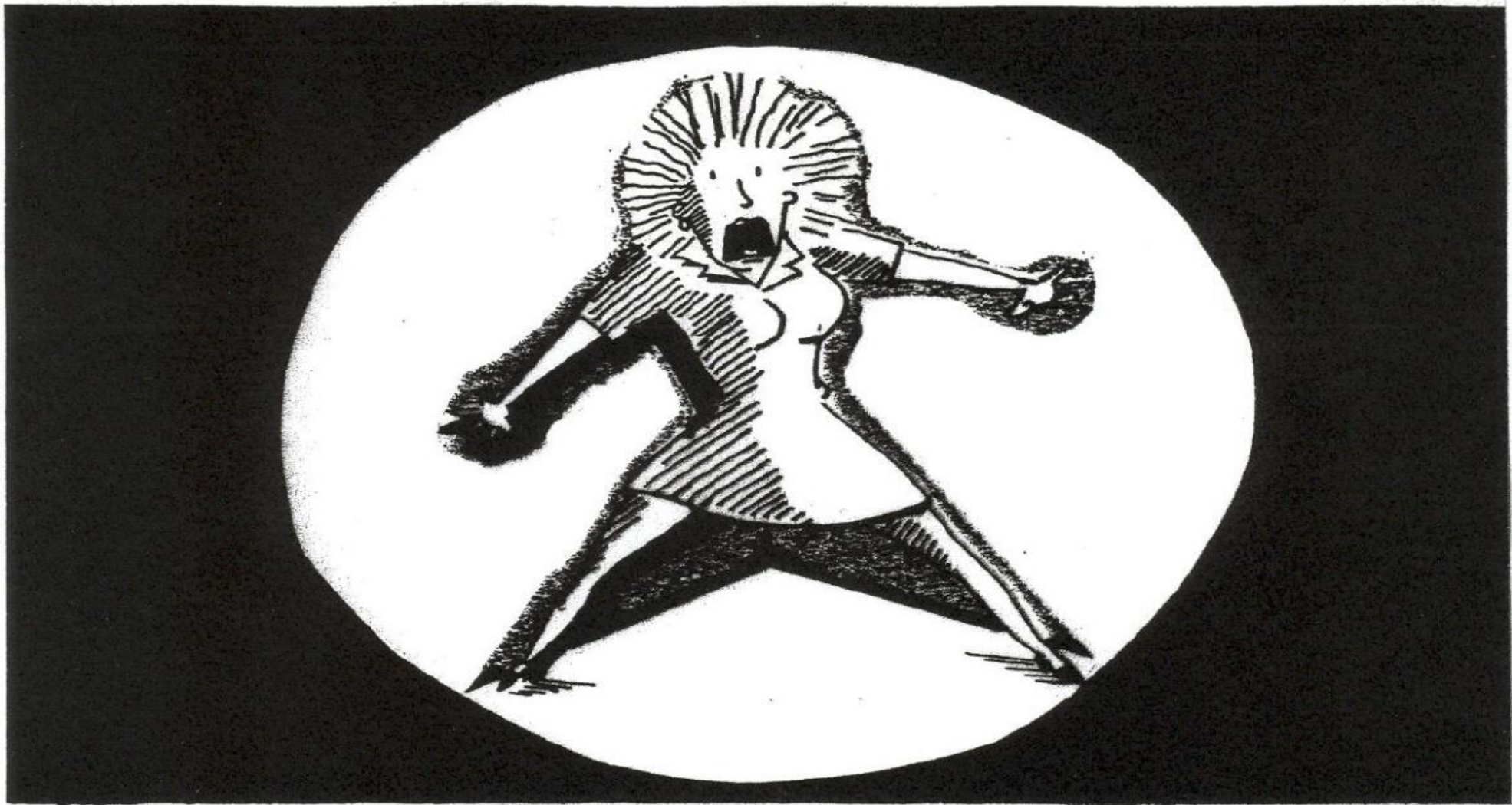
Canon Mary M. MacGregor  
Invite\*Welcome\*Connect\* Summit  
Beecken Center, Sewanee, TN  
Wednesday, June 13, 2018



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# Icebreaker Story Sharing

- Recall the all time worst job you have done at a church. What was it?
- Was the problem with a relationship or the actual work?
- Why did you really not like doing it? How long did you do it?



**We Are In Need Of A Volunteer**



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When you hear the term 'spiritual gifts'  
what immediately comes to mind?

Why do you think the Episcopal  
Church has been reluctant to embrace  
spiritual gifts?





Martha irons her  
4,375<sup>th</sup> fair linen



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# The Common Cold of the Soul

To sinful patterns of behavior that never get confronted and changed,  
Abilities and gifts that never get cultivated and deployed -  
Until weeks become months  
And months turn into years,  
And one day you're looking back on a life of  
Deep intimate gut-wrenchingly honest conversations you never had;  
Great bold prayers you never prayed,  
Exhilarating risks you never took,  
Sacrificial gifts you never offered  
Lives you never touched,  
And you're sitting in a recliner with a shriveled soul,  
And forgotten dreams,  
And you realize there was a world of desperate need,  
And a great God calling you to be part of something bigger than yourself -  
You see the person you could have become but did not;  
You never followed your calling.  
You never got out of the boat

Gregg Levoy, quoted in *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg



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# The Mission of the Episcopal Church

- “...To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.”

The Catechism, BCP, p. 855

# It's About Relationship

It's about....

- One's personal relationship with God through Christ Jesus
  - One's relationship with other people in Christian community
  - Christian community's relationship with the world around them, near and far, through sharing the love of Christ Jesus
- 
- **relate** (ri-layt)-to narrate (to tell a story), to tell in detail

Oxford American Dictionary



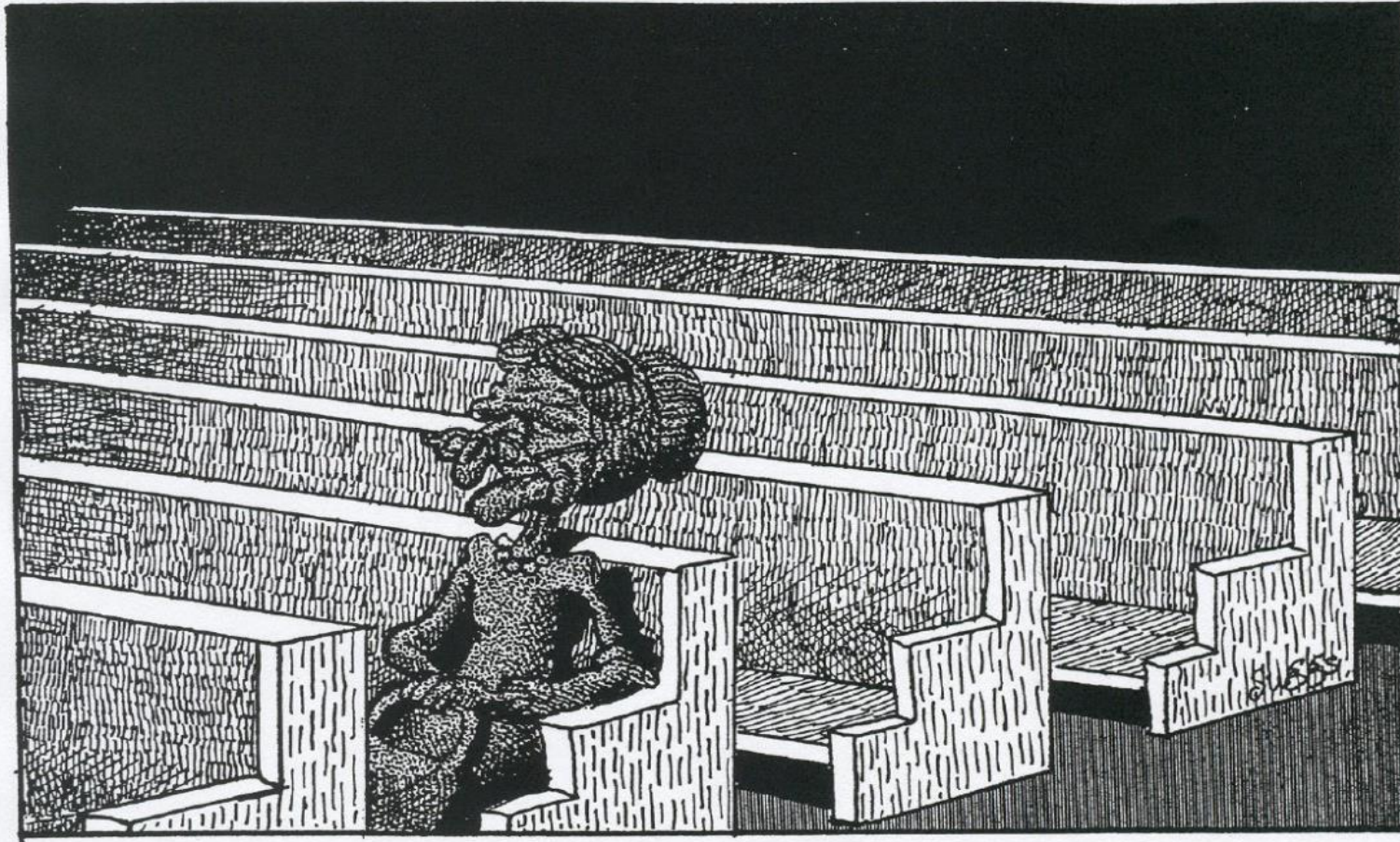
# The Apostle Paul Instructs About the Church...

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **We have different gifts, according to the grace given us....**

**Romans 12: 4-6**



# Who's In the Pews?



FOR 57 YEARS IT HAD BEEN MRS. GRUMLING'S SEAT IN CHURCH, AND THERE THEY FOUND HER...ANOTHER VICTIM OF PEWTRIFICATION.



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# The Apostle Paul Goes On To Say...

There is a variety of gifts but always the same spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. **The particular way in which the spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose...**

Now you together are Christ's body: but each of you is a different part in the Church...

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27**





# 27 Spiritual Gifts from Scripture

- Apostles
- Administration
- Artistic ability
- Celibacy
- Craftsmanship
- Discernment of Spirits
- Exhortation
- Faith
- Giving
- Healing
- Hospitality
- Instrumental Music
- Intercession
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Knowledge
- Martyrdom
- Mercy
- Miracles
- Missionary
- Pastor
- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Tongues
- Vocal Music
- Wisdom



# The Body of Christ

Who has what God given gift and why does the church need to help individuals discern their gifts?

What is your church doing to help people discern and use their spiritual gifts?



# Good Resources for Spiritual Gifts Assessment

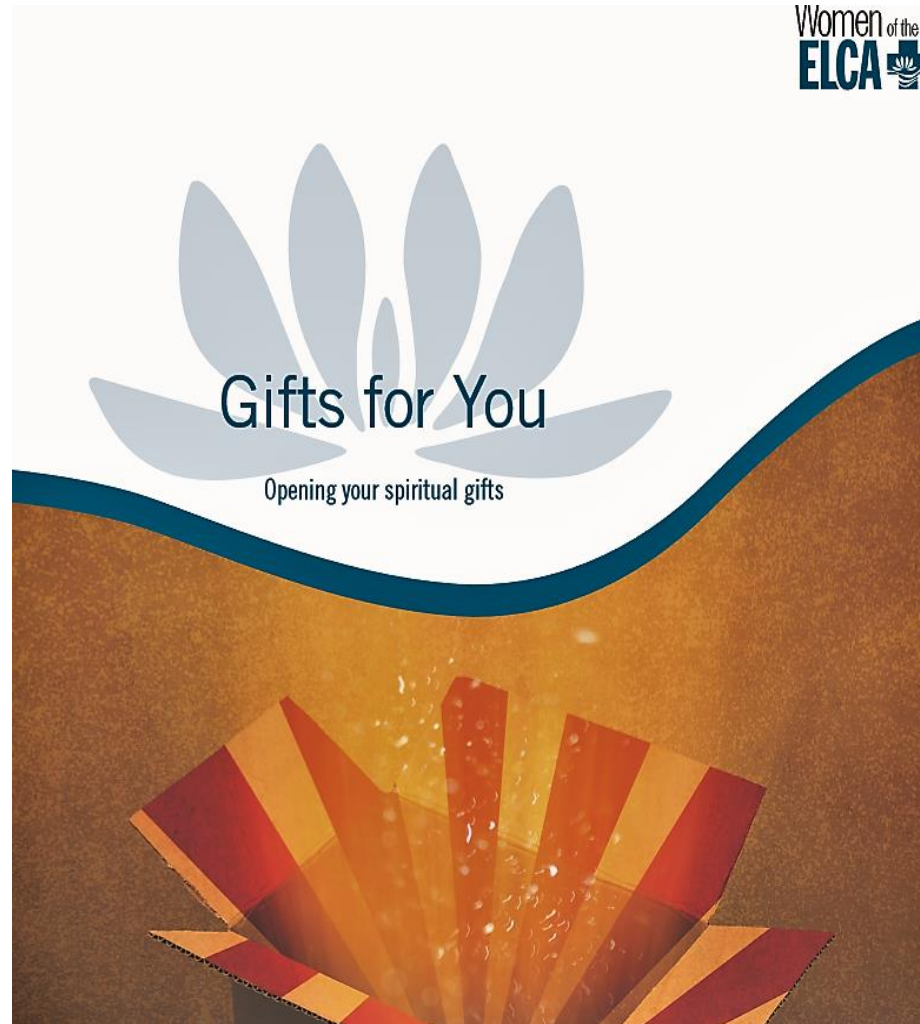
- Invite\*Welcome\*Connect\* website! [www.invitewelcomeconnect.com](http://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com)
- Check out “Tool Kit” and Resources for Connect

Three Resources I like:

1. [www.freeshapetest.com](http://www.freeshapetest.com) or other Rick Warren S.H.A.P.E resources
2. NEW: “Life in the Spirit” ,the Rev. Frank Allen, St. David’s Episcopal Church. Ft. Wayne, PA [www.stdavidschurch.org/education/online-learning-resources](http://www.stdavidschurch.org/education/online-learning-resources)
3. ELCA Gifts Assessment Tool – Google ‘spiritual gifts assessment elca’ and [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) comes up, hit, goes directly to the survey



# One of the Best Resources...



[www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/SpiritualGifts.pdf](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/SpiritualGifts.pdf)



# Why I Recommend It

## Comprehensive Resource

Fully explains multiple uses of the packet including self, group, retreat, workshop usage

- 20 spiritual gifts defined, aligns well with Episcopal ethos/theology
- Contains two applied Bible studies
- Includes assessment, cluster of gifts grid
- Spiritual Gift Descriptions Include:
  - Definition
  - People with this gift are usually...
  - Cautions for people with this gift...
  - Biblical references



# Sample Description

- **Evangelism:** The spiritual gift that moves the individual to reach nonbelievers in such a way that they are baptized and become active disciples in the Christian community.
- **People with this gift are usually:** sincere, candid, respected, influential, spiritual, confident, commitment oriented.
- **Cautions for people with this gift:** remembering that the Holy Spirit, not guilt, is the motivator in a person's decision for Christ; needing to listen carefully, because the same approach is not appropriate for everyone.
- **Biblical references:** Matthew 28: 16-20, Ephesians 4:11-16, 2Timothy 4:1-5



# Why Spiritual Gifts Workshops?

- **Objectives:**

To have newcomers and as many members as possible gain insight into their spiritual gifts to better align the ministries they undertake with their giftedness.

To gain this information about these persons and record it in the church's data base to be known when specific ministry opportunities arise.

# A Sample Spiritual Gifts Workshop...

- Backstory....

St. Christopher Episc. Church, League City, TX

New Rector

New Invite\*Welcome\*Connect\* emphasis

Open and individual invitations

Co-designed and led by rector, myself

3 hours

Personal follow up with each participant



# Spiritual Gifts Workshop Outline

Contact me for more information:

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Your Ideas, Questions,  
Comments