

Peace Be With You 2023 September 23

Outreach Programs Sampler

Host- Dave Baumgartner. Guest Speaker- Fr. Ryan Fischer

This is an edited transcript of the recorded podcast.

Dave

And welcome everyone to another edition of the peace be with you podcast I'm your host Dave Baumgartner and of course, I have Father Ryan with us here and father ryan We are going to talk about some of the outreach programs some of the things that are going on in the church here as uh You know, everyone stays busy doing a number of different things, so I'll let you lead the way and, uh, I'll kind of follow.

Fr. Ryan

Well, thank you, Dave. This, this time of year, of course, we kind of get back into the groove for school and all the related activities. And, you know, I don't think that we as a church are much different. We have things that we engage in that may have taken a little bit of a break over the summer, and then there are also things that we may have pursued over the summer, that we maybe wouldn't have otherwise done during the school year.

And so it goes, it goes both ways. And one thing that I've been very impressed by as being the rector of St. Anne's is the robust sense of outreach. And we've done it in a number of ways, monetarily, certainly through the support of various nonprofit organizations in the community. We've done it in, in more concrete ways, for example, by serving at the food pantry.

And we've also introduced a food insecurity committee that is specifically focused on matters of food insecurity in our immediate neighborhood. And so these are all ways in which St. Anne's as a congregation is taking the commission of Jesus to go out into the world and really to feed the flock, not just in a spiritual way.

Dave

And, I think one thing people need to be aware of, of course, is that you need a little grease to kind of grease the wheels. And that's where our different fundraising activities, for instance, the Tent [Annual] Sale, which was very successful. And all of that money goes towards our outreach programs, correct?

So, I mean, that's what's great about it. It's giving back to the community there. And, by the way, I do want to mention here, that if you have things, we're already starting to collect some things.

for next year's, Tent [Annual] Sale, we've got the garage, uh, some things in it already. So if you do happen to have something that you're thinking, ah, I really don't need this around anymore. Give me a call and, we'll come out and pick it up or you can drop it off and we'll store it away throughout the winter months and get it ready for the next garage sale. So we can do that.

Fr. Ryan

Yes. And, I think there's also, you know, as a community of faith, I really want to emphasize the role, that God's people have in responding to the needs that become evident throughout God's creation and, uh, and we do a lot of stuff. I think, just right in the community of Warsaw and in the surrounding region that, I think have meaningful impacts on people and just make it clear, I believe, to those who are members of our congregation that this is what God's people are called to do.

Dave

Absolutely. And I think that, it becomes more and more apparent there, as we move throughout the year and the different things that we go through. And one of the things that we're going to be going through, I don't know if you're ready to talk about this, but I am for sure we got the community dog show coming up! And I'm excited about this

Fr. Ryan

Of course. I I've been very impressed by the interest and dedication to getting this thing underway the amount of support that we're getting not only, not only from you, Dave, and, and, and from the, the committee that's, that's putting this all together, but, uh, but also, from people here in the community who are maybe not associated with St. Anne's and, and they're getting involved too. So really great to see.

Dave

And that's the thing. It's a community wide dog show. And the thing is, the driving forces behind this. Miechi Petro and Brenda Rigdon, they're on the committee and these guys are super organized. We cover all the different things.

We have meetings once every couple of weeks to make sure that everything is staying on track and heading in the right direction. And we're looking for a really good turnout. We've got four different categories, a couple of them include the best costume. wagging tail, the best trick. Stuff like that.

There's gonna be four different categories where your dog can enter those and we can, of course, have ribbons and we'll have champions in each one of those groups. And then the best overall. So it's going to be just a fun day. It's going to happen October the seventh. The day before October the eight, which is a Sunday, which is our animal blessing day, which I think is something that's pretty neat that, the Episcopal church does here in Warsaw, Indiana, where we do the animal blessings. Although I've had a couple of dogs, I think it should have been an exorcism rather than a blessing, but nevertheless, it's a neat thing to do and just a great activity.

We're looking forward to making that happen in the community, getting involved in the first ever and the first annual St. Anne's dog show is what we're looking at here.

Fr. Ryan

Good. The other bit that I think we broached briefly is the ministry to our immediate neighborhood. And I wanted to bring out again the food insecurity committee and, their work on getting an outdoor food pantry put up on the east side of the church building.

It's available for people who just need food and can go there anytime it's open, unlocked, and, and available to have any sort of non perishable items put there by people who wish to do so. But more importantly, to have something for people who wish, have no food or insufficient food, to get them by.

And so, I wanna highlight the fact as a church, we've identified what a specific need is in our neighborhood, Especially since the closure of the Owen Supermarket in downtown Warsaw, the availability for people to obtain food without four wheels, without transportation, to get them to and from a supermarket. has made that process much more difficult.

And so all kinds of things, maybe poverty, maybe not having a car, maybe not being fleet of foot. There's all kinds of considerations that just made it seem like this is something that we can do that probably isn't going to take a lot of effort, but can have a positive impact for people that need it.

Dave

It goes the other way too. You can drop stuff off. (Correct). And put it in the vault or cabinetry there. That's easy enough to do. And again, it needs to be non perishable items. It can also be stuff like even laundry soap and things like that. Just, things that people need on a day to day basis, but certainly food is at the top of the list there for many people and the other good thing too. I want you to pick up some food and you can swing around the front of the church and pick up a good book to read because we have got our little open library box there that, uh, you can pick a book out and take it and read it. So, we've got you covered.

Thanks for bringing that up, Dave, as another important highlight of some things that we're doing in our immediate neighborhood.

And, as far as the pantry is concerned, it's easily identifiable by the Big Lighthouse. [sticker]. We call it The Beacon. It's the symbol of the [Episcopal] diocese of Northern Indiana, and it's, a Lake Michigan Lighthouse. We have clearly identified this on the east and on the south of that cabinet. The lighthouse to bring you to where you need to be if you wish to drop something off or pick something up.

Dave

Certainly an appropriate symbol, because a lighthouse provides a way, a safe way, for people to get their hands on some food and other sundry items that you might need on a day to day basis in your household.

Fr. Ryan

By all means.

Dave

We talked about it before we went on to record the podcast here. The idea of the Lord's command to us is to, to feed the sheep. Okay. Now that literally can be that way. And of course it certainly is that way spiritually also. That's why we always want to invite people to come in and we get more and more people coming in to St. Anne's and enjoying the sermons and enjoying the fellowship and the food afterwards and all the different good things that happen.

By the way, I wanted to point something out that was brought up in a meeting was that at St. Anne's, if you are a baptized Christian, you can take communion. You are welcome to the Lord's table. There's no restrictions.

Fr. Ryan

By all means. And we welcome people, regardless of their denomination we simply ask that you, that you come forward with your hands out and receive the body of Christ, and know that Christ died for your sins and you are forgiven and strengthened and freed to go forth from the table and to live your life as a child of God.

So we really want to extend not only the welcome an abstract sense, but also in a very real and tangible sense.

Dave

Most certainly. Well, I tell you what, father, I think we've covered pretty much everything we want to talk about here right now. Like I said, we encourage everyone to come.

We have an 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday. We have a 10:15 service on Sunday. And then Wednesday evening, there's a service also. Father, is that accurate?

Fr. Ryan

5: 30 p.m. in the chapel upstairs. Yes.

Dave

There you go. So, doors are open and the arms are wide open for people to get a sense of belonging. My whole career and education and all that kind of thing. I found more and more with, of course, I dealt a lot with kids, young people. You know, they want to belong to things. They want to be part of the football team or part of the drama club or part of the band. To feel like you're getting something accomplished. And I think we, we certainly do push that agenda at

St. Anne's, too. We want people involved. You know the greatest gift you can have and the feeling you have is when you give to others. And that's what I really love about St. Anne's and, what we do and try to reach out to people and help where we possibly can. And it makes it fun for everybody when everyone rolls up their sleeves and goes to work to get things done.

Fr. Ryan

By all means. And I think those folks that I can think of, young and old alike, who have stepped forward to be a part of various ministries at the church and I can tell you one of the most rewarding things as a priest to see is to see somebody really find their niche in the congregation's ministry and do something that they love and can do well and really flourish. That's a heck of a lot better than just being told to do something. I mean, to be able to identify, bring forth your gifts and find a place to flourish. I just think it's beautiful.

Dave

Yeah, absolutely. All right. Father Ryan, thanks for being with us for this Peace Be With You podcast. We hope everyone has enjoyed what we talk about. We're always open for suggestions and what people want to talk about on the podcast. We would welcome anybody to come to our podcast if they want to talk about different spiritual things or things that you have strong feelings about that we need in our community as well as our church. You know, we're open to those kinds of ideas also. So Father Ryan, once again, thanks for being with us. Thank you. Thanks everyone for tuning in and, uh, this will bring to an end this episode of the Peace Be With You podcast.

So as we often say and always say at the Episcopal Church, Peace Be With You.