

3 Pentecost A—June 1, 2008
Matthew 7:21-29
The Rev. David R. Wilt

Today we honor Lydia Nehemias, Danny Lambert, and Ben Bryant for the accomplishment of their respective graduations. No insignificant task completed. One more step in building a house, building a life, building a faith on a foundation of rock. We thank you for the example you have set. For what you have done to bring us back to a deeper understanding that all of us must always work on our houses, our faith, our purpose.

I have always found it interesting that graduations are called Commencements. And it is so true. They are beginnings. Our parents, our friends, our teachers, our priests, and most of all God, have not been preparing you for an ending, but a new beginning. Congratulations Lydia, Danny, and Ben

And we look forward to making the next journey with you as well. That is how God's kingdom works as well. For Holy Trinity 100 years has drawn to a close with a commencement for the next 100 years of serving God in ministries that we are familiar with. But also in ministries in things not yet even revealed to us. It is an ongoing process in making sure the foundation is firm, that the house is still on rock.

It takes diligence. It takes effort. Because you know what happens to rock if it is left unattended, uncared for. If it is left open to the elements: the storms, the rains, the winds solid rock can become weak eroded, until one day we realize it has become sand. Ministries unattended can become sand. Faith unattended can become sand.

On our faith journey, and notice I said journey and not destination, we are constantly looking, searching, praying for what God's will is for us. Is it serving at the soup kitchen at St. George's? Helping those who have little. Is it facilitating Time and Talent? Providing a time of fellowship and community. Is it working with our youth or volunteering time to serve as a chaperone on a mission trip? Constantly looking, not for how others may serve, but what God's will for us is.

And with each time an answer comes to us it is no less a commencement than what Lydia, Danny and Ben experienced this week. And with each time an answer comes the Foundation of God's church becomes firmer. The rock is restored. And with each time an answer comes our relationship with Jesus Christ becomes more personal, more real, more alive.

And don't be surprised by anything God may call you to do. And don't feel equipped to do anything that God may call

you to do. Remember always God never calls the equipped, God equips those who are called.

In the forum last week the word stewardship came up and someone commented that we should not use that word. And I knew exactly what he meant. For so long when the priest used the word stewardship it meant "How deep can we get into your pocket".

But that is a wrong understanding of stewardship. Stewardship is the caring for something that does not belong to us, but something that God has given to us, for a time, to care for.

You are each a steward of Holy Trinity Church. God's Church. God's Building. God's outreach. God's programs. God's presence in this community of faith, and in this broader community of West Palm Beach. Your answer to that call makes the past a glorious memory to a bright and glorious future, where God's presence is even more felt by those seeking a relationship with Christ. Your answer to that call assures that the foundation is firm, that the house remains on rock.

In 1968 when I graduated from Duncan U. Fletcher High School the teacher's in Duval County had spent part of the year out on strike. Accreditation had been lost. At graduation, when the superintendent of schools was introduced I knew immediately the person booing in the

background was my dad. As happy as I was to graduate, the thought did not run even remotely through my mind that this was as good as it was going to get.

We at Holy Trinity do not stand at the pinnacle of 100 years looking down at the past. We stand at a plateau looking up and asking what it is that God would have us to do, as stewards of this place, to make God's presence even more apparent in the future. Do not look at it with fear, but with joy and anticipation.

In a little while I will be hurtling down a water slide. I am not sure that was God's call to me. I think more likely it was Elizabeth Brown's challenge or dare or maybe just a suggestion, but its part of the journey. The takeoff may be smooth or not. The landing may be soft or not. That is in God's hands.

Your answer to God's call to ministry to you is in your hands. The glory of God what will come from your answer is in God's hands, once you have made your commencement to serve.