



March 25, 2018

The Leaders Box

Are you a church leader looking for resources? Have you looked at the PSEC (Pennsylvania Southeast Conference) website? I invite you to go to **psec.org** and click on the tab on the home page labeled "Resources". Click on that and a drop down will show numerous options, one being "Church Resources". The one I'd like to introduce to you is **The Leaders Box**.

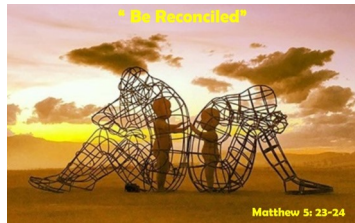
For more than 25 years, **The Leaders Box** has proven to be a valuable resource for local church leaders to consult regarding questions of committee structure, staff positions, constitutional revisions, volunteer recruitment, group life, covenant, church membership, and much more.

The original Leaders Box was an actual box with hundreds of letter-size "cards" that could circulate from a church's library. While some of the cards are notably outdated (for example, one card describes the use of a mimeograph in newsletter production, and there are no cards that provide guidance on the construction of a church website), still much of the information remains insightful for churches today.

Remember....psec.org and click on Resources! Go take a look!



**Early registration for the 2018 Annual Meeting ends
Saturday, March 31st!**



**2018 Annual Meeting
June 1-3, 2018
@ West Chester University**

Register at: psec2018annual.eventbrite.com

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

I often thought as a child that the reason my parents had me was to be their slave. I came to that conclusion because I was always the gopher— Sharon, go for this or Sharon, go for that. Especially when I was told I had to pick rock out of the garden.

I wonder if the two disciples that Jesus sent into Jerusalem to fetch the donkey were thinking the same thing. Can't you just imagine Jesus and the twelve preparing to enter the great city? They had just had a big discussion about who would be the greatest disciple and be granted the seat next to Jesus.

Why did Mark think it was so important to add this information about getting a donkey for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem into the story? What is so important about getting this donkey?

This is where Mark is at his best. It is at this point that Mark says, "Prepare the way for the Lord." And Mark does this not by giving some grandiose and elite group to join, but Mark gives a rather mundane, ordinary task to do in order to prepare the way for the Lord. He gives them the task of fetching a donkey. In Mark's Gospel the disciples are often going about doing ordinary tasks. Tasks like getting a boat ready for Jesus, gathering all the food that people have in order to feed 5,000 hungry people, getting a room and preparing the meal for the Last Supper, and yes chasing down a donkey so that the Lord can enter the city of Jerusalem. Whatever Jesus may have said to them in the beginning, "Come follow me," has turned into the nitty, gritty details of life.

Isn't that ministry? Isn't that what we are called to do? Doesn't Jesus call us to Come, follow me? Doesn't Jesus ask us to prepare the way for Jesus' ministry and yes, it is Jesus' ministry not ours. In the aspect of Jesus' ministry, we are nothing more than donkey fetchers. However, as the donkey fetchers, often doing mundane, ordinary, everyday stuff, we become part of the larger picture, the ministry of Jesus Christ.

In Mark's gospel the disciples are sent out to heal the sick, cast out demons, and exercise authority. But what Mark wants us to remember is that sometimes this might be in very small, insignificant actions. Maybe it is giving someone a hug when they need it, maybe it is sending a card to let someone know you are thinking of them, maybe it is emptying a bedpan at the hospital, maybe it is serving someone at McDonald's with a smile.

Just like the disciples who were called to prepare the way of the Lord, we too are called to prepare the way of the Lord. And sometimes preparing the way for the Lord means standing knee deep in manure in a stable looking for a donkey for Jesus. Let us be donkey fetchers, preparing the way of the Lord as we live and move in our everyday worlds.

- Rev. Sharon Morris, Associate Conference Minister