



January 25, 2017

THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

We have a magnet on our refrigerator that shows a painting of Jesus speaking to the disciples to say: “Okay, everyone, now listen carefully. I don’t want to end up with four different versions of this.”

Someday I’ll write about the great value of having four gospels in the Bible, with all their inconsistencies. Today, I remember the joke because I’m imagining the things that I’m sure Jesus *never* said to the disciples:

- “Okay, everyone, let’s review our ministry budget.”
- “Okay, everyone, there’s a motion on the floor.”
- “Okay, everyone, here’s the annual report.”

None of these seem like the start of a great story of faith. And yet, there are important stories of faith that are closely bound to our congregation’s budget and meetings and annual reports.

This Sunday, January 29, the annual congregational meeting will be held in the sanctuary after worship. In this church, as in our denomination, the governing body of the congregation is its members. That was a bold idea not so long ago, and it still is today.

The church’s moderator, Linda Thomas, will chair the meeting, and we will talk about who we are as a congregation—where we’ve been and where we’re going. We will elect members to serve in important roles, and vote on a new annual budget. The annual report is available on the church website (hillschurch.org) or in the church office. Copies are also available at each of the church’s main entrances. I invite you to review it before Sunday. There is much to be thankful for, and there are important opportunities for us to address in the year ahead. I’ll see you in church.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister