

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF **WRITING & SPEAKING**

The spiritual gift of writing and speaking holds a significant place in Christianity, reflecting the Church's commitment to communicating faith, hope, and love through various forms of expression. This gift is not merely about eloquence or creativity; it is a calling to convey divine truths and encourage spiritual growth within the community.

Those who possess the gift of writing or speaking are seen as stewards of God's word. This involves a deep sense of responsibility to articulate the faith clearly and authentically. Whether through speaking, essays, poetry, or social media, the objective is to inspire, challenge, and guide others on their spiritual journeys.

Writing and speaking are deeply rooted in scripture and tradition. The Bible is filled with examples of inspired authors who conveyed God's messages through the written word—think of the Psalms or the letters of Paul. The Scriptures emphasize that the Holy Spirit guides these communicative acts, enabling writers and speakers to convey profound truths that resonate with contemporary audiences.

The Anglican Church also has a rich literary heritage, rooted in the works of influential theologians and writers such as Thomas Cranmer, John Donne, and more recently, C.S. Lewis. These figures exemplify how writing can serve as a conduit for theological reflection and pastoral care. The Book of Common Prayer itself is a testament to the power of language in shaping worship and community life, offering prayers and liturgies that continue to resonate with many.

The act of writing and speaking is a vital expression of faith that fosters community and discipleship. Engaging with the faith through written and spoken word creates spaces for dialogue, reflection, and growth. It encourages individuals to share their experiences and interpretations of faith, enriching the communal life of the Church through the timeless truths of the Gospel.

People with this gift...

- Possess clarity of expression and the ability to convey complex ideas in an understandable, relevant, and relatable manner.
- Are insightful, seek the truth, and have a deep understanding of scripture and theology, drawing meaningful connections that resonate with others.
- Demonstrate genuine empathy and sensitivity and are aware of the needs and experiences of their audience.
- Have a flair for creativity and can engage others through storytelling, analogies, or unique perspectives.
- Possess spiritual maturity, with a deep personal faith and a robust spiritual life, seeking the Holy Spirit's direction in their writing and speaking endeavors.
- Are willing to learn and are receptive to constructive feedback.

In our parish, people with this gift can:

- Preach or teach, by delivering sermons, leading Bible studies, and sharing personal faith insights via testimonials.
- Lead workshops and retreats (Lenten/Bible studies, small groups) focused on writing, storytelling, or public speaking.
- Create liturgical materials by contributing to the development of prayers, liturgies, or worship resources such as music.
- Provide mentorship to aspiring writers or speakers to nurture new talents.
- Create blogs, podcasts, videos and other content to discuss faith-related topics, share personal stories, and engage with a wider audience in spiritual growth and community.

To learn more about spiritual gifts and stewardship in the life of the church, or to get involved, please talk to any member of the Stewardship Team: Kristen VanderHoek, Tracy Albert, Francis Christensen, or Mark Stalter; or email us at stewardship@stpaulshk.org.