

July 6, 2016

Dear friends,

As a church family, we have chosen to be a downtown church for all people. We have chosen to seek out relationships with all people who live, work, visit, the downtown. That choice frees us, and also limits us. It frees us to seek out people through various means and establish relationships with them. We choose to enter into relationship with people through the chapel, through the courtyard, through a Thursday night concert, or a children's chalkfest. By doing these things, we hope to create new relationships with people of the downtown, or nurture present relationships.

By the same token, that choice means we are not free to act in ways that would destroy or harm relationships. Locking doors, treating others inhospitably, failing to reach out, would all be ways to turn our backs on our choice and therefore our relationships.

We choose to enter into relationships. One reason I choose to enter into relationships is that by doing so I hope to grow, become, be strengthened. The relationship gives me freedom to do these things. One test of any relationship and its health is whether it provides freedom for a person to grow and become who they believed they are called to be.

Freedom is not discovered in a vacuum, but as part of a relationship, or a series of relationships, that we choose to enter into, give ourselves to. That is why we choose our relationships carefully.

Time to celebrate our relationships, nurture them, and discover the freedom through our relationships to become better Christians, better family members, better people in the world.

Fr David