

“Connections”

These were a series of small group gatherings where members spoke openly about their thoughts on the future of our parish.

Wednesday July 7 7:00 PM at the Wied's home
Thursday July 8 7:00 PM at Marilyn Hass' home
Sunday July 11 12:15 PM in the Gooden Center
Monday July 12 7:00 PM at Canon Doug and Lynn Edward's home
Tuesday July 13 7:00 PM at Rod and Katie Weldon's home

Responses

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KEEP?

As the Body of Christ:

1. We welcome everyone.
2. We respect everyone's differences.
3. We love our liturgy and appreciate our Episcopalian tradition.

Because of that:

4. We have a strong permanent local outreach.
5. We value the education of our children and young adults.
6. We pray for each other.

We don't want to lose these ministries:

7. Wednesday Healing Service.
8. Messy Church.
9. Bible Studies/Small Groups.
10. Music
11. Pre-service singing with children
12. Relevant sermons.

WHAT ARE OUR ASSETS AND STRENGTHS?

Friendly people of all ages

Welcoming atmosphere

Encouragement of ministries

Central location

Debt-free facilities

Deacon Ed!

Availability of clergy within our parish

Sunday School and youth programs and leadership

Messy Church

Website

Lay parish-wide ministries (i.e., Brotherhood of St. Andrew, DOK, ECW)

Liturgy teams (i.e., acolytes, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, lay readers, LEMs, prayer team)

Music ministries (i.e., bell choir, choir, guitarists, organist, Temple Forte)

On-site outreach ministries (i.e., A.A., food pantry, funerals, labyrinth, memorial garden, Scout troops)

Community outreach ministries (i.e., Abundant Table, Family to Family, hospitals, Kingdom Center, Project Understanding, Safe Sleep)

WHAT ARE OUR CHALLENGES?

Declining membership

Possible cliquishness (only talk with our friends)

“Ministry becomes that person” (mentor others and replace ourselves when appropriate)

Financial deficit (pledges do not cover operating expenses)

Better use of our facilities

Aging facilities

Provide effective communication

Replace Fr. Jerry’s current jobs (i.e., bulletin, newsletter, visitation)

Replace/train volunteer treasurer

Fear of the transition

Ability to let Fr. Jerry go and ultimately accept the new rector

WHAT’S MISSING?

Need to effectively integrate new members into parish life

Need to attract and strengthen young families (i.e., parenting programs, support groups)

Need to supplement worship or music styles (i.e., drama, evensong, guitars)

Need to build on and expand current Sunday School and youth ministries (i.e., “twens”)

Need a ministry to include the homebound

Need to effectively train and support parishioners for their ministries

Need to create community for those who are single, widowed and divorced

Need to reach out to other groups (i.e., military, V.C. students)

Need more ethnic diversity

HOW CAN WE ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES NOW?

Develop a strategic plan or vision (“Without a vision the people perish”)

Expand our strategies to welcome and integrate new members into the parish (i.e, tours, dinners, mentoring)

FUNd-raisers to ease current debt issues (i.e., Rummage Sale, Thanksgiving offering)

“Bring a friend to church” – simple, individual outreach

More effective communication (i.e., bulletin boards, email blasts, phone trees, e-newsletter, ads, polls)

Define the jobs that need to be done and match up with individuals’ gifts/talents (i.e., office, accounting, buildings/grounds)

Recruit a Volunteer Coordinator

Encourage each other to get involved

Explore uses for our facilities (i.e., availability to funeral homes, charter school, after-school programs, rehearsal space for musicians/choirs)

Offer educational programs (i.e. adult forums, Marriage Encounter)

Encourage social opportunities (i.e., potlucks, family movie night)

Provide on-site activities that reach non-parishioners (i.e. dances, “blessing of the surfboard,” concerts, quilt/art display, conferences)

Develop a year-round stewardship education program that includes our time and talent as well as treasure

Respectfully listen to each other

Prayer