

HERITAGE & FAITH & VISION

Worship & Music

We will strive for excellence in our liturgical life in what we continue to provide and what we develop.

St. John's is a Eucharistic community. The Eucharist is our nourishment, the family meal that builds a closeness, sharing and strength within our community. It feeds us to go out and reach others in the wider work of sharing our Baptismal ministry within the community.

Through our ministries of worship and music people of all ages feel the loving presence of God. Recognizing that traditional music and worship do not speak to younger people we hope to invite into our community, we will offer a variety of styles that will help us connect with a wide range of people. As well as continuing to meet the needs of the current congregation, we will develop expressions of worship and music attractive and relevant to younger adults and their children and teens. We are flexible, willing to broaden our expressions and try new things.

The plan

1. Continue the 8:30 a.m. as a quiet and reflective Book of Common Prayer service.
2. Focus the 10:30 worship, building consistency and confidence. Provide clear, meaningful, and easy to follow liturgies for those who regularly attend and for visitors.
3. Offer regular, intergenerational worship that connects meaningfully with families.
4. Develop a new worship experience aimed at being attractive to teens and younger adults. This will be a new and parallel development, not an adaptation of Sunday morning worship.
5. Expand the liturgical life of the parish especially in the summer through services such as evensongs and jazz vespers.

In Easter season 2007, establish a worship ministry group who will begin by reviewing and developing the Sunday 10:30 worship service.

- § Review what we are offering
- § Develop a more consistent, Eucharistic liturgical approach
- § Develop clarity of message through thematic unity among all parts of the worship service – i.e. the lectionary, prayers, sermon, music (hymns, anthem, incidental music), decoration, children's talk, etc.

§ **Worship & Music continued**

- § Review and develop resources and materials (bulletins/worship booklets) to support the worshipping congregation including visitors.
- § Provide training and preparation for liturgical leaders
- § Provide on-going education about Anglican liturgy through learning sessions and events, sermons, and instructed eucharists

The worship ministry group will be people with

- § skills in fine art, music and story telling
- § curiosity and a thirst for learning
- § theological background and interest
- § an interest in ministry with children, youth and young adults

They will develop liturgies and educational programs.

Parish Council

Our governance will appreciate people's interests and skills.

The plan

In Winter 2007 the Council will be restructured into two parts. One will have responsibility for the program life of the congregation such as worship, Christian education, outreach, spiritual development, and fellowship. This group will include youth. The other has responsibility for parish administration, management and the facilities. Both groups will meet together 3 times a year and separately in the months in-between. The Rector, Wardens, Treasurer and Council Chairs will meet bi-monthly to ensure effective communication. Energy will be liberated because ministry leadership is linked to people's gifts, skills and interests.

Pastoral Care

We will provide compassionate, pastoral care with a personal touch.

St. John's has a special concern for the senior members of our congregation and community. We will develop a visiting team who will provide ministry to people in hospital, seniors' homes and in their own homes.

The plan

In Winter 2007 the Council will search for co-leaders to develop this ministry who have

- § experience, skills and training
- § a sense of call to provide compassionate care and fellowship with seniors
- § organizational skills
- § clarity in direction and purpose for this type of ministry
- § friendly and out-going personalities, a way with people

Leadership Development

We recognize and respond to the ways God is calling each of us to ministry. We share ministry, knowing that leadership for growth is something we all share.

St. John's is concerned with on-going ministry discernment and development of all people within the congregation, lay and ordained. We know that the priest and core volunteers cannot do it all. We develop ways that invite people to hear their call to ministry. We build on the complementary gifts of the rector and people of the parish and develop and share ministry leadership based on our mutual gifts. Our values around leadership in the church include the following.

- § Leadership is expressed as ministry and discipleship
- § We will work to define the characteristics and qualities needed for the various leadership positions within the church
- § We will pray for leadership, those who are serving and those we are seeking
- § We will offer ways of helping people discern their gifts such as Spiritual Gifts Inventories, learning and education sessions.
- § We will be curious and open to hearing about where God is calling us
- § Programs will not begin until there is leadership in place
- § We will not save programs that no longer have the leadership required

Leadership Development Continued

The plan

Lent 2007 will focus on affirming and developing ministry gifts and discipleship. In association with the Spiritual Development Ministry, Lenten worship and programs will be focus on helping people of all ages recognize how they are already, by expressing their God – given gifts, living a ministry.

Parish Visitation Program

We will build our parish family.

We will reconnect with the St. John's family, getting to know people better, sharing with them our new vision and learning about their lives and connections with the congregation. Outcomes of this work will be the following.

- § The creation of a comprehensive in-reach system for the parish
- § A process that can be used as part of a newcomer welcoming program
- § The beginnings of a renewed ministry with young families
- § A broader sense of both potential leadership and participation in the ministries and programs of our vision, and how these might be best shaped to connect with the wider St. John's family.

We recognize that this process may also offer us opportunities for reconciliation between people and the parish.

The plan

Fall 2007 we will begin an every member visit program. The focus will be on shepherding the flock: relationships and faith, not money. We will have clear goals for this program.

The parish visit ministry leadership will be people with

- § Strong organizational skills
- § Great people skills
- § An willingness to spend time with people
- § Gifts for listening without judgment and helping people feel heard, even when it's difficult to hear

Newcomer Ministries

We will make people welcome.

People are welcomed and included in our parish family. We celebrate our congregation and each new participant.

The plan

Christmas 2006 we have a system of week-by-week welcoming. Our bulletins and handouts make it easy for people to follow our services and learn what is going on in our community life (i.e. learning sessions social events, concerts). We have a system that links new people with Michael and to others in the parish. We develop ways of touching base with people we have seen new at church.

Easter 2007 we will begin holding an event, such as a luncheon after church, once or twice a year to celebrate and welcome newcomers. We will acknowledge the anniversaries of when people joined us.

Connecting with our Summer Congregation

We will build and support our parish family.

We will reconnect with parishioners who winter elsewhere. We will celebrate their return and keep them informed about what is new and developing in the parish. We will learn from their experiences of church elsewhere.

The plan

Spring 2007 we will begin the process of hosting annual 'welcome back' lunches.

Holy Hospitality for Tourists

Building on this summer's success, having approximately 16,000 visitors to the church, we will continue to communicate and develop our church as a place of spirituality and prayer that is open for people to visit, tour and experience the presence of God.

The plan

Continuing and developing the good work already being done in this ministry we will:

- § Continue to work with the guides to educate them
- § Open the church each day during the lunch hour
- § Hold a small prayer service each day
- § Connect the daily prayers with what's going on in the world. They are timely and relevant.
- § Have resources for prayer and reflection available in the church
- § Promote this program widely