

Vestry Visioning Day  
April 30, 2016

Present: Terry Channing, Karen Derr, Nick Forenz, Esther Kowlich-Covell, Gregg Learned, Donna Noteware, Anne Oates, Joan Rogerson, Connie Van Houten, Mary White, Rev. Lynne Sharp

Absent: Donella Barney

Rev. Sharp opened the day with prayer followed by breakfast and fellowship, a review of the agenda and Morning Prayer with a reflection on Acts 2:34-47.

Visioning Day 2015 was reviewed:

What we do best

Additionally: teaching, Bible Study, Book study, Lenten series and sermons.

Dreams

We added grow in our faith, a full time priest, walk as the Apostles did, witness our faith, Foyers/dinner groups, offer an alternative to contemporary society (antidote to hate and fear), better marketing, and more of current congregation involved in serving.

Vision

The vision statement "God asks us to make His love visible in our lives and community...let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18)" was reviewed and discussed as to how to make it more internalized in parishioners. Suggestions were to have it stenciled on the wall in the undercroft, small cards for every parishioner to put on mirror/dashboard, add to the dismissal on Sundays, repay the blessing you have received to someone else, be what we profess, and have the statement displayed on tables at coffee hour and dinners.

Goals- Fundraising

Additionally use the donated tricycle in some way; offer Sunday afternoon/early evening concerts or hymn sings with free will offering with proceeds donated to the music program; Terry will make one or two donation boxes to have available; continue with the dinners. Discussion of the Bazaar was tabled.

Goals-Outreach

Continue backpack program with St. James providing materials and discuss with Catholic Charities the distribution points. Continue game nights, perhaps offer free dinners for sports teams for a couple of games; offer a senior pot luck lunch followed by games or a movie once a month or every other month for a trial 3-4 month period.

Goals-Evangelism

Have a greeter in addition to the ushers and look for opportunities for youth to serve.

Goals-Education

Discussion of the nursery area was tabled. Rev. Sharp and Lin Bretherton will be looking for a Sunday school curriculum in the neighborhood of \$300 for the fall; a full-time priest by January.

**Gregg Learned moved, seconded by Mary White that we as a vestry vote that we have duly examined our consciences and finances and have concluded it is the right and proper time to call Lynne Sharp as full time Rector. Carried.**

Donna requested that a letter to that effect should go to the congregation.

It was noted that of 25 goals set in 2015, 18 have been reached.

LUNCH BREAK – Gregg Learned offered the prayer.

Sharon Arthur, a layperson from St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Geneva, NY facilitated the afternoon session on stewardship to inspire “joyful generosity.”

As stewardship is a year-round effort, she offered several suggestions to involve parishioners in using their time and talent. One was to offer a personal invitation for a specific period of time. (“Can you help with this one thing this one time?”)

1. Have a stewardship committee where people rotate and involve the Rector and vestry.
2. Develop a stewardship statement
  - We believe...
  - We commit....
  - We invite....
3. Develop a year-round stewardship program; when do you focus on time or honor talents
4. Develop a variety of programs
5. Provide visuals: pie charts as to where the money goes, bar graphs–how many are giving at what level
6. Consider using credit cards for donations and pledges
7. Write thank you notes for pledges

Sharon provided Diocesan resources to Rev. Sharp, one of which was The Episcopal Network of Stewardship (login: living pw” generously).

Attendees participated in an exercise to see what happened when they tried to give their dollars away to someone who has fewer than they .....

Sharon offered the closing prayer at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Bidwell, Clerk of the Vestry