

Visioning Meeting-----October 14, 2009, at home of Sandy and Rinda Allison

Present: Jen Grant, Edith Jacobson, Joe and Alice Vanest, Perry Knutson, Jan Novak, Richard Gier, Larry Nelson, Kim Tolliver, Julie Walor, Kathleen Leid, Rinda Allison

Many wonderful ideas were expressed, including:

Worship:

- *Possibly having a third service, Saturday or Sunday evening, possibly with alternative music, aimed at younger persons, even teens.
- *Reducing the amount of standing. Sing sitting down. Sit or kneel for prayers.
- *Have incense more often.
- *At least during this flu season, have everyone take communion by intinction.
- *Nametags.
- *Encourage attendees to “switch services” 1-2 times a year to see what it’s like

Music:

- *Are there enough brass players to start a St. Marks Brass ensemble?
- *Have more soloists to play at services and at programs open to the community. Also choir programs open to the community. This will help grow the church, and recognize and build on Charles’ great talent
- *Sometimes have different music, contemporary, guitar, etc.

Church buildings and grounds:

- *Improve exterior lighting on church façade. So beautiful, but can’t see it at night.
- *Library should be located in a separate room with bookcases on all four walls and maybe a fireplace. A quiet place to study and reflect.
- *Stained glass windows in current “library” are all wrong. They look “Baptist.” We need more elegant windows in our library.
- *Need sewing room for quilting, prayer shawl ministries.
- *Consider using Rectory on Phillips for a community building. Could have a sewing room there, computer room, could offer internet, etc classes for seniors, have other meetings, possibly nursery school. If have a curate, could live upstairs.
- *Continue and expand St. Marks Garden. Great service project.
- *Serious need for volunteers for B & G. Consider clean-up on Sunday after second service. Wear work clothes to church, move directly to work.

Church staff:

- *Serious need for full time office staff. Everyone in attendance agreed.
- *Cleaning, maintenance help for Miguel
- *Need Volunteer Coordinator. Could also maintain a talent registry.
- *Need paid youth leader.

Mission and Outreach: (see also Parish Activities)

- *Continue and expand PADS support.
- *Consider being a PADS site.
- *Continue, expand relationship with Peoples Resource Center
- *Use Rectory as community building fits here too.
- *Nursery School.
- *Have an active Stephen Ministry.
- *Expand youth program. Have senior high program that is the place to be for teens.

Parish activities: (most of these fit into M & O, too)

- *Serious need for more DKs.
- *Need to get word out for volunteer needs.
- *Have more events, activities for 55+ persons
- *Have an after-school program at St.Mark's
- *Publicize availability of church for weddings. Have a Bride's Room for dressing at church.
- *Have an Altar Society at St.Mark's, to recognize contributions of groups like acolytes, etc.
- *Have St.Mark's be the site for an EFM (Education for Ministry) series.
- *Continue small ways we can help others, like the mosquito nets, PADS blankets, pumpkins, St.Gregory school supplies

A final thought:

A parishioner expressed concern for fragmentation in the Protestant church---so many denominations. He applauded the Episcopal-Lutheran cooperation and would like to see more of the same.