

Vestry Retreat 2008: May 30 – 31

Christ the King Seminary

Opening Conversation

- Two congregations, 8:00 am & 10:30 am
- History of diversity, inclusion, Ephphatha community
- **Future Viability of Congregation**
 - *Losing critical mass regarding number of people, vacant vestry positions,*
 - *Finances are becoming an issue*
- Music program not existent at 8:00 am; comments made regarding how much music is included in 10:30 service
- Age of congregation was discussed: **lack of youth**/older children, consistency of children and families attending
- Connecting and retaining young people
- **Tours, café program renovations for organ are three major projects**
- **Personal: succession** (on going)
- Positioning for the future: **finance**, personal, composition of congregation
- How much should be going on given dollars, number of people attending services
- Spending the endowment money is an issue
- Economic situation, questioning the value of religion in today's society
- Rise of evangelical churches: modern worship with banners, upbeat message, praising and singing
- **Stewardship** not grown easily
- Need to deal creatively **evangelism** program,
- Facts are helpful to grow congregation
- Dysfunctional diocese, environment of other struggling congregations, **Good Shepherd pivotal** in Parkside neighborhood
- Keeping people who come once to our church, **retention**
- **Knowledge** who are using the church property: Girl Scouts, no cost, ballet-cheap, food pantry, keel: no cost,
- **Build recognition:** talk the talk
- Support for projects: music, café, focus on energy, support
- Energetic times- lots of projects, **stand in abundance, not scarcity**
- Let's not play small, bring people, engage people
- Welcome and connect with people: **step outside your comfort zone – INVITE, INVITE, INVITE**
- Need to diffuse responsibility
- Environment: upswing in neighborhood crime, climate change, winter wearing on facility
- **Prevent burn-out**
- **Sustainability of initiatives, diffusion of ownership**

Community at Large

1. Welcome
2. Safe facility, cordial relationship
3. Help – food, set up,
4. Enrichment – place of learning and arts
5. Attractive facility
6. Outside venue for music programs
7. Possible more evening programs
8. Peaceful relations – neighbors immediate need
9. Maintain civic/gay relations – possible actions

Those not currently connected
GLBT/ disenfranchised/ Music
'Women of color'

What will they be seeking?

How do we increase our
curb appeal /link people into
our building?

Music Series

Quality Music
Chamber music
Intimate Setting

Community that accepts individuals for who they are
Embracing and dwelling in the other.
Cottage dinners- getting to know one another

Gay community: available
for baptisms, enhance
family union, accepting of

Church at Large

1. Parkside Lutheran
2. Mutual help
3. Own survival
4. Collaboration
5. Ephphatha
6. Place that brings them together
7. reaching out to the larger community
8. St. Phillips: bridging Main Street
9. Diocese: healthier church means healthier diocese

Congregation

Teens

- Fun Programs
- Friendships – Peers
- Social Projects – Community involvement
- Recognize Value

DINKS

- Peers
- “Clubs” (garden clubs)
- Discussion groups: Intellectual, and/or spiritual

Families with Kids

- Church School
- Support Groups
- Nursery
- PERSONAL Social Activities (Family Oriented)

Professional Staff

- Job Security
- Appropriate Compensation
- Support
- Opportunities to work outside community

Seasoned

- Peers
- Visited lay and Clergy
- Need to be heard

Empty Nesters

- Peers
- Social Groups
- Travel Groups

IDEAS – Three to Five Years Out!
What would we like to see?
From →To→and because

- **Endowment grown**
- **People adding to endowment**
- **Café money where will it go? What will it do?**
- **Creative ways to gain money**
- **Add functionality**
- **More people to join**
- **Café making large profit, very successful for us and community**
- **Diverse people**
- **Success brings success**
- **Music, tours equals success**
- **Many groups, one community**
- **Hall that is a showplace**
- **Gift shop**
- **Stewardship growing**
- **Bigger congregation, 150 pledges in three to five years**
- **Zoo shuttle**

Don't Change Rector
Retain intimacy
Increased number
More involvement

Ephphatha
Ephphatha remains in children's chapel
Lots of volunteers
More integration with Ephphatha and us

Child care for at least two days a week
More getting to know each other in personal way
Church that is more people connected

IDEAS (continued)

1. A larger and Ethnically Diverse Congregation
2. Better Financial Picture
3. More Music Programs
4. Exposing our Greatness
5. More Social Activities
6. More Diverse Leadership (a larger 'corps')
7. Up to Date physical Plant
8. Improved Landscaping
9. A Dedicated Grant Writer
10. Maintain Status Quo or Grow Personnel (Rector, Administrative Assistant, Sexton)

- Thriving Café
- Renovated/handicap access to Jewett hall
- Good solid rental income
- Innovative, creative community reputation
- Fully utilized accessible building
- Green building
- Inviting 'tour business'
- Innovative music program
 1. community concerts
 2. chamber music
 3. youth music events
 4. Parkside music series
 5. organ scholar

Inviting community
Informal welcome
Hospitality
Outreach

Stewardship of
Earth
hospitality

Inviting, welcoming,
sharing the story,
hospitality

- Laboratory for community ministry
 1. non Episcopal and Episcopal seminarians
 2. other interns and ministries
- More solid financial base
 1. variety of endowment funds for community ministry, music
 2. only 6% of endowment used each year

Teaching, outreach,
community
ministry

Stewardship
enables programs

- 1. Restoration of building to pristine historic status**
 - Handicap accessible
 - 'Green'
- 2. Revitalized Ephphatha Community**
 - Compensate pastoral care
 - More time priest/interpreter
 - TTY system
- 3. Closer Relations with Mount St. Joseph's**
 - Community service ministry
- 4. Summer concerts on the lawn, sound system**
- 5. More regular study groups**
 - Women's, men's
 - Benedict
 - Kavinoky
 - Yoga
 - Young adult
 - Kerygma – Bible Study
 - Books Groups
 - History
 - Garden
 - LGBT
 - Art