

St. James' Episcopal Church  
2010 Vestry Retreat  
January 30, 2010

Present: Rev. Nancy Gossling, Rev. Paul Habersang, Rich Mills, Nancy Goodwin, Gail Lebert, Jim Bennett, Rick Edwards, Scott Thompson, David Buddington, Lisa Brainerd, Ann Cahill, Gayle Kataja, Carl Benker, Fred Larson.

### **Morning Worship**

The vestry met at Diocesan House in Hartford for coffee and danish at 8:30 am. At 9:00 Rev. Paul conducted Morning Worship in the chapel.

### **Asset Mapping Exercise**

Rev. Nancy told us this exercise is to discover as a group what God is providing to us as gifts, both individually and as a congregation. It will help us to recognize assets, connect them, and decide which ones we want to "run with."

It was acknowledged that we are now solidly a Program Church. Rich encouraged all members of the vestry to think about our successors, since we will have about half our members go off the vestry next year. Scott suggested more attention to getting new members into the life of the church. There was a discussion on how to make this a focus of the vestry. Jim recommended a software program to record parishioners and list their interests and talents.

The vestry then jotted down what came to mind when Rev. Nancy asked a series of questions about our church. The cards were then placed on the dining table and sorted into categories. We identified three major categories:

#### 1. Outreach

- Location on Main St. (10)
- Haiti (9)
- Fellowship dinners (8)
- Newcomers (7)
- Outreach (7)
- Bread Ministry (7)
- Worship on the Lawn (5)
- Stewardship (3)
- Heads Up Hartford (3)
- Bell Tower (3)
- AA (3)
- Fellowship (3)
- Christmas Families (2)

#### 2. Christian Formation

- Music (15)
- Youth Ministry, K-12 (15)
- Teaching/Adult Formation/Preaching (10)
- Liturgy (4)

### 3. Diversity

- Job as attorneys (10)
- Job in healthcare (10)
- Gardening (6)
- Engineers (5)
- Financial Guides
- Craftspeople
- Artists/Musicians
- Marketing Professionals/Business
- Homemakers
- Cooks
- Writers
- Historians
- Architects/Builders
- Interior Design
- Retirees

We discussed these findings briefly.

### **Mission, Vision, and Goals Statement**

Rich distributed our current mission, vision and goals statement. There was a discussion about updating the statement to reflect what we discovered during asset mapping.

The vestry agreed to keep the mission statement unchanged. We will consider specific language for a vision statement on outreach at the next meeting.

The vision statement was changed to the following:

1. All of our ministries will be Christ centered, with Christ's love our first priority.
2. Commissions will reach out and encourage the entire congregation to participate in the programs of the church.
3. The congregation will support the programs of the church using their time, talent, and treasure.
4. We will be a radically welcoming and hospitable faith community with purposeful, open, and honest communication within and outside our faith community.

The goals for 2010 are:

1. Every commission will implement at least two programs per year to serve or support local, regional, national or international programs.
2. TBD [An ad hoc committee from the executive committee will investigate measurable goals for parish growth for goal #2]
3. The stewardship commission will establish a database of the congregation's time and talent for use by all commissions by October 1, 2010.

There was a discussion on identifying the true needs in Glastonbury so we can have a starting place with the first goal for all commissions.

**Stewardship**

Fred gave a summary of his report due to time constraints. He will give a longer report at the March vestry meeting. He said that for fund raising in 2010 we have good plans in place for the Time & Talent Auction, the Spring Fling, and the Apple Fest, but we need to identify a vestry member to lead the DJ On the Lawn summer event. There was discussion about replacing this event with two dates for cleaning up Renschler Field. Further discussion will be held at the next vestry meeting.

Fred asked the vestry if we would like the stewardship commission to offer a program on planned giving and to feature this in 2010. The vestry recommended that it be offered in conjunction with related topics, such as funeral planning in 2010. Fred will put this on his commission's calendar.

Fred updated the vestry on the status of the Capital Campaign. Rick did extensive work to create a handout on this for the vestry. Fred asked that it be reviewed and discussed at the March vestry meeting.

**Closing Worship**

Rev. Nancy and Rev. Paul lead us in worship in the chapel. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Goodwin