

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, STAMFORD RECTOR'S GOALS FOR 2009

(The following represent personal goals of the Rector, not the agreed upon goals of the Vestry or any other parish committee. The listings in each area are roughly placed in priority order.)

Administration, Finance and Communications

- Have the parish approve our new Vision/Mission Statement at the January, 2009 Annual Meeting. Then use the statement as a guide for strategic planning.
- See a new ground rent agreement formalized with RFR as soon as possible with maximum benefit to St. John's Church.
- Receive loan approval, break ground and begin work on *St. John's Rising* capital building project.
- Vestry begin strategic planning process to develop a 3-5 year action plan based on new Vision/Mission Statement
- Further develop St. John's web site to be more interactive, to make more use of multi-media (recordings of sermons, video clips and pictures) and be more timely. Develop a St. John's blog as part of the web site. (Communications Committee and Communications Specialist)

Worship (*Celebrate God in the beauty of holiness through the richness of Anglican worship and glorious music.*)

- Determine more clearly, with input and feedback from the Worship Committee, worship leaders and staff, the shape we want our liturgy to take in the present and for the future.
- Grow attendance at weekend worship services by 10% over 2008.
- Develop teachable moments within the liturgy and an instructed Eucharist to reflect on the beauty of holiness and the richness of our Anglican worship.
- See the adult choir and choral music program continue to flourish and grow in quality, numbers and sense of fellowship.
- Build the children's choral program. Develop a mini-summer music camp.
- Sing and worship as a congregation with more joy.

- Build Lay participation in our healing ministry (a healing ministry team).
- Give God our best through the *beauty of holiness* renewing our vestments and hangings, and beautifying our worship space.
- Create a focus group work to decide on the purpose and direction of the *Contemporary Worship Service*. The group may build on what we have, change the service completely or start fresh.

Service (*Serve as instruments of God's peace, justice and love in the world*)

- Have the January Trinity Conference on the *theology of sustainability* spur members of the congregation to helping the parish reduce its carbon footprint and develop better environmental practices.
- Real progress on the Deanery *STEEPLE* (Stamford Episcopal Education Project for Long-Term Employability) project by spring or drop it.
- Through a successful mission trip to Haiti build the partnership with the school in L'Acul.
- Have the Stamford *Habitat for Humanity* project get started on West Main Street and involve parish teams in volunteering.
- Develop a vision and plan for using additional and refurbished space in our newly renovated building to serve the needs of the downtown community.
- Have St. John's name and ministry become better known in the wider community through various media and advertising.
- Develop more contacts and visibility in the downtown business community.

Christian Formation (*Strengthen spiritual journeys through prayer, study and scripture*)

With Children and Youth

- Renew energy and increase attendance in children and youth programs this spring and fall.
- Recognize and build excitement about the present *Rite 13* class as they have their *Rite 13* ceremony and move on to their *Journey to Adulthood* class in the fall.

With Adults

- Plan and develop a dynamic multi-generational Lenten program for March-April, 2009.

- Build consensus and a vision for adult Christian formation through our 1/18/09 *education summit*.
- Develop *teachable moments* in committees, parish groups, staff and worship.
- Find ways for the parish to celebrate our diversity and reflect on the meaning of becoming *a new humanity in Christ*.
- Build more small-group learning opportunities – both short and long-term – to strengthen our spiritual journeys through prayer, study and scripture.
- Study healing prayer and develop a lay healing ministry team.
- Develop new group(s) for adult fellowship, service and learning (e.g. mom's group, young adults, singles, urban Christians, Tuesday mediation group)

Pastoral Care (*St. John's is a wonderfully diverse community of faith rooted in the heart of downtown Stamford, where the Holy Spirit is leading us toward a new humanity in Christ. We welcome all people...*)

- Continue to grow our Lay Eucharistic Ministry program and regularly bring Holy Communion to 15 homebound members.
- Develop a phone ministry to be in contact with everyone in the parish at least twice a year. Program staff members (clergy, Children and Family Ministries Leader and Administrator) and volunteers will have a rotation of phoning 5 parish households per week to offer a prayer, share concerns and stay in touch.

The rest of the goals in this section relate to newcomer ministry

- Develop Newcomers Committee and recruit new members.
- Create a visible *newcomers welcoming area* with information about St. John's that can be staffed between the Sunday worship services and following the 10:15 a.m. service.
- Hold a seminar on newcomer ministry for Newcomers Committee, Greeters and Ushers.
- Have more visitation by phone and in person with newcomers.
- Develop regular newcomer's welcoming events (suppers, coffee and desserts, etc.), at least twice a year and preferably more.
- Develop an ongoing *Journey in Christ 101* parish membership class.

Stewardship

- See a 10% increase in parish financial giving, mostly through new pledges.
- Develop a 2010 pledge appeal that works to build parish community and significantly increases parish financial pledges.
- Have a helpful workshop on wills and planned giving.
- Visit over lunch or tea by wardens and/or clergy with parish's top givers (by percentage as well as overall dollars) to say *thank you* and encourage their ideas and input.
- Build Stewardship Committee and parishioner's understanding of stewardship through Stephen Clapp's leadership and mentoring.