

Visioning Small Group
 Wednesday, September 30, 2009
 Kim Reed's Home

Attendees: Edna Heatherington, Joyce Hetzel, Judy Jackson, Marylu Olsen, Peggy Schoen
 (Carol Bennett and Kathleen Leid were unable to attend)
 Facilitator & Coffee Maker: Kim Reed

We met in the morning, a good time for those who attended. Because our group was small, it allowed for an intimacy we might not have had in a larger group, and many of us were meeting each other for the first time. Our group was all women (except for Peggy's infant grandson who tolerated us pretty well). We were somewhat intergenerational, especially if you factor in Owen. Some of us have been members for a long time; others were relatively new. The conversation was stimulating with a lot of idea sharing. This effort was very worthwhile for many reasons, among them, for the visioning process as well as for fellowship. Below you will find what we came up with in response to our hopes and dreams for St. Mark's.:

Category	Idea
Facilities	Create new ceiling (or whatever) to make Mahon Hall less like an assembly hall or school gym/auditorium
Facilities	Create access to classroom building other than through the church to get from office area to classrooms
Facilities	Does Buildings and Grounds have a good operational and maintenance manual? If not, develop one.
History	Avoid forsaking history in preparation for the future
Worship/Service/Liturgy	Saturday evening service
Worship/Service/Liturgy	Weekday communion in early evening
Worship/Service/Liturgy	Maintain, support, improve liturgical music and have concerts, too
Music/Arts	So many parishioners have talents in the Arts – love to see jr. & sr. high perform instruments one night, along with adult performers
Music/Arts	Have an Art Fair – photography, paintings, etc.
Fellowship	Provide something for all ages – work, study, organizing, fun
Fellowship—Women	Can we spread women's ministry out amongst the week vs. only Wed. nights?!
Fellowship	Have opportunities for those who are uncomfortable being leaders
Fellowship	Maintain and develop "special interest" groups
Fellowship	Green Group – getting St. Mark's a bit more environmentally healthy
Fellowship—Seniors	How to keep seniors connected
Fellowship—Men	Men's groups – address Christianity in the workplace
Fellowship—Parents	Great parent support groups already – would love a parenting class targeting teens
Education—Adult	Keep the excellent Adult Ed programs

Category	Idea
Education—Adult	Develop learning programs – bring in monthly speakers/specialists
Education—Adult	Continue and increase and improve study and discussion of scripture, history, and liturgy
Education—Children’s Worship	For consistency, have same teacher weekly to establish consistent relationship with adult leader (teen teachers?)
Education—Youth	Mentor Program for Senior High (i.e., senior matched up with freshman, etc.; boys with boys, girls with girls)
Education—Youth	Involve senior teens with more volunteer activities within the church (clean-up days, etc.) and outside (PADS, etc.)
Education—Youth	Involve young members – teens into adulthood – in thought and conversation about church and world in American society
Education—Youth	Keep jr. and sr. high groups involved in study and activity
Education—Youth	High school gender study groups (boy group/girl group) and co-ed service/social group
Education—Youth	Would love for St. Mark’s to have a really active youth program (what about teaming with other churches’ youth groups for events?)
Education—Youth	Adopt-a-grandparent for Blythe and Basement Boys
Mission & Outreach	Get youth and teens more involved in outreach
Mission & Outreach	Adopt an inner city church or school
Mission & Outreach	Hook up with Habitat for Humanity
Mission & Outreach	More ways for M&O can help the community (find needs)
Mission & Outreach	Weekend mission trip to Chicago in addition to Mexico trip, as many can’t participate because of the time commitment of the Mexico trip
Mission & Outreach	One-time commitment opportunities such as Feed My Hungry Children
Mission & Outreach	What about having a PADS facility/night at St. Mark’s?
Mission & Outreach	Through engagement with traditional work of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and healing the sick, come to larger understanding of how as persons or groups we can improve our society
Mission & Outreach	Interact with our community and surrounding area on a need basis, example: habitat for humanity one day food pantry for a couple hours
Mission & Outreach	Ecumenism – seek educational connections with other religions in our region – I’m aware of Muslims in Villa Park and Hindus in Naperville – even Theosophists
General	Keep the personal aspect no matter how large we may grow
General	How do we juggle all of our outside responsibilities with church? (i.e., culture of too many commitments such as Sunday sports, etc.)
General	Keep George (forever!)