

**Visioning Small Group**  
 Thursday, October 1, 2009  
 Parish Library

Attendees: Rachel Alcorn, Sarah Adler, Rebecca Boscovic, Marsha Webster, Elizabeth Lewis, Martha Pfefferman, Carin Fanter, Amy Rooke, Caroline McAlpine, (Penny Taback stopped by with one suggestion but could not stay for the whole session).

Facilitator: Elizabeth Lanzillo

We had an energetic group. We met during the regular NOVA meeting time on Thursday morning so we even had a couple of young observers in the room! We covered a wide range of ideas and the participants were engaged and creative.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Idea</b>
general	have a babysitting list of youth available to parishioners-- make it secure.
general	list babysitting and other youth services available
general	don't add any more events/clubs/groups. Lets be good at what we do and not spread ourselves too thin
general	I have heard that some people feel spread too thin
general/communication	what are we known for? Identify and articulate our common purpose
general/communication	more clarity in food drives, donations, etc--it sometimes feels like we are scattered
Communication	we should have a bumper sticker--pass out with pledge envelopes
communication	have a physical bulletin board and on the website to post notices, sell things, etc. "Marketplace"
communication	more mid-year invites to join programs already in progress -- ongoing message that ministries are open
communication	have a better plugged in community using facebook, online signups, online ordering
communication	computer kiosk for sign-ups, also online signup
communication	improve design and functionality of website, with real time access to info; if more people had access to info they could be more involved.
communication	photo sharing website (but must be password secure somehow or approved by parents if kids are photographed)
communication	more clarity in Sunday children's programs--what ages go where
communication	more clarity in offerings for nursery, Sunday school, etc.
communication	more photos in our literature about St. Marks activities
communication	full time communications person
communication	fulltime webmaster
communication	need volunteer coordinator--people are not aware of opportunities and who to contact

outreach	We can be known as an artistic community; e.g. have an art show night, but be careful of adding too much
outreach	Allow children to be more proactive in choosing ministries to support. Vote as a group, or each class choose one.
Formation/outreach	Provide diversity training--e.g. about the world, our mission partners, our congregations heritage, recuding/preventing hate crimes
Formation/outreach	St Mark's should be known for our youth programs and it should draw from outside our parish
Formation	tap skill sets so parishioners share expertise with each other e.g. Yoga, writing, art, money management
formation	do a survey to figure out individual parishioners' gifts; psych. Assessment tool to assess skills and match with needs and focus our parish efforts
formation	use rotation workshop format for children's ed
formation	youngest children need consistent adults each week. It can be hard to get used to changing faces
Formation	maybe a youth pastor
formation	parenting classes
formation	marriage class/program similar to MOMS group
formation	marriage classes/retreat
formation	increase adult participation in Sunday school
formation	library as reading/study resource; parenting, marriage, teens, etc.
worship	tie our worship (prayers, music ) to our world mission partners
worship	more singable music--less concert-like, easier well loved hymns like we have in the summer.
worship	more world music in worship
worship	more variety of worship music...not necessarily "contemporary"
worship	more open invitations to sing/make music without requiring ongoing year commitment
worship	keep choir on floor of nave
worship	more kid friendly Sunday service
worship	more family friendly service at 10:30 or a separate time Saturday evening; it should be shorter and more child focused during the time while they are present
worship	the service is too long for children
worship	The service is too long for adults
worship	The whole morning Sunday school + worship is too long for small kids and takes away from family time
worship	offer Sunday school during the service
worship	additional service 9 or 9:30. 10:30 is too late for small kids
worship	have Sunday school during service so I can sit and listen to service!
worship	service would be more worshipful if children were in sunday school

worship	Saturday or Sunday evening Eucharist
worship	Saturday evening service
worship	additional family service (could be Saturday evening 4 pm)
worship	teen/family mass occasionally
worship	preaching by laypersons (submit drafts before?)
fellowship	running group (on Saturday)
fellowship	more men's activities--sports, social, service opportunities
fellowship	men's retreat
fellowship	men's retreat
fellowship	more women to women opportunities for all women to gather
fellowship	more casual programs for all women
fellowship	more fellowship for adults in people's homes
facility	better use of dark hallway between library and narthex
facility	redecorate narthex- lose linoleum and acoustic tile
facility	when rectory not in use as housing, use as extended campus (not worrying about the cost!)
facility	make library more vibrant and reflective of our parish. It is stodgy and stagnant
facility	make more cozy spots for gathering and conversation (fireplace, chairs, candles, music)
facility	make a "teen zone" for gathering
facility	ventilation in kitchen so it doesn't get so hot
facility	clean the kitchen thoroughly--have a regular cleaning party
facility	I miss the blue sky ceiling in the sanctuary
facility	sunbrella for play area
facility/environmental	bike rack (three suggestions)
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facility/environmental	roof garden
Finance/Outreach	the preschool should contribute to the parish bottom line while being of educational quality equal to or greater than other preschools in the area, and should capitalize on synergy with PDO, VBS and other programs we do for kids.