

HOSPITALITY

2045 Goals

We are a welcoming, loving and open parish in the community. The diversity of our membership reflects the geographic community. Our members show their connection to the St. Stephen's community through attendance, pledging and volunteering.

2008 Outcomes

- Welcoming people is integrated into all aspects of our activities and programs.
- Parishioners understand that hospitality is a priority for us and participate actively in making all people feel welcome.
- Laughter and camaraderie are a common part of the culture of the community.
- Annual events welcome the neighborhood into our community.
- There is a multitude of opportunities to connect with a small group.
- People with pastoral or physical care needs find support from other members.



Specific Goal for 2007

Develop and implement a plan to engage the entire congregation in warmly welcoming and providing hospitality to visitors, newcomers and new staff.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

2045 Goals

The Worship and Music Action Group seeks to integrate our worship, music, and sacred spaces in ways that encourage all to be more intentional about experiencing God, connecting with each other, and belonging to the community of faith in Christ throughout time and place. We envision and support ways of worshiping and events that:

- ◆ Are welcoming, participatory and intergenerational.
- ◆ Are multi-dimensional, bring history to life, and refresh our experience of Biblical story.
- ◆ Create experiences of *sanctuary* in God and in each other.
- ◆ Create an intersection of the temporal and the timeless through musical and liturgical offerings of transcendent beauty.

2008 Outcomes

- Utilizing the expanding variety of Episcopal liturgical and music resources, a variety of joyful, personal and interactive worship and music experiences are provided throughout the week and during the year.
- Worshippers regularly experience the Peace, Love and Joy of the Living God.
- Word, music, scripture, symbol, movement and ritual intentionally engage the body, mind and heart in praising God.

Specific Goals for 2007

1. Have recording equipment, including microphones and a cabinet for recording components, installed and in use in the sanctuary for the purpose of recording and sharing our worship services with those unable to attend.
2. Identify at least one large-scale music/worship production and a target date for its presentation in 2008-2010.
3. Plan an "All-Parish Worship and Celebration" event (a combined 8:00 & 10:30 am worship service with a meal following) sometime during fall 2007, and support its implementation.
4. Increase opportunities for learning about Episcopal liturgy and music during 2007. Possibilities include: presentation(s) at the Adult Education hour, organ tour(s), sanctuary tour(s), or an instructed Eucharist, among others.
5. Expand the range of our offerings by planning and implementing services on two occasions with a music (and possibly worship) style different from what we usually experience.
6. Seek intergenerational input and involvement in the discussion and/or implementation of all 2007 Worship and Music Action Group Goals.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

2045 Goals

People of all ages are equipped for ministry at St. Stephen's and in the world.

2008 Outcomes

- We have an integrated spiritual growth and education program for all ages that supports the growth of the whole person and prepares them for their life in the church and in the world.
- Members have begun to explore their gifts and understanding of their ministry in the world.
- Following the Anglican tradition of education, members regularly participate in an ongoing conversation about God, our relationship with Christ, and how to be in the world, in terms of character and of action. Questions of faith are discussed in the context of scripture, tradition and reason.

Specific Goals for 2007

1. Synchronize the content and goals for the Sunday School and Youth programs to ensure a comprehensive approach to preparing youth to live into their baptismal covenants.
2. Prepare the congregation for the transition through an interim period into a new rector's ministry with offerings on transitions, the future church, living our mission, etc.
3. Plan a gifts ministry workshop for adults and one for teens, emphasizing using gifts in fulfilling your baptismal covenant.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

2045 Goals

Every member is involved in community service through St. Stephen's or otherwise. We serve the community in many ways, e.g., food bank, mission trips, schools etc.

2008 Outcomes

- People of all ages, including members, friends and neighbors, participate in the active volunteer ministry program at St. Stephen's.
- Both members and non-members have easy access to information provided by St. Stephen's about a variety of activities and opportunities to serve in the world.
- We welcome all to participate with us in exercising their particular calling and giftedness.



Specific Goals for 2007

1. Expand the participation base of people involved in community service by:
 - a. pursuing partnerships with other ministries,
 - b. raising awareness of service opportunities among our immediate neighbors,
 - c. providing easy access to volunteer activities through an improved online presence.
2. Formalize a business plan for the Innkeeper's mission and aggressively pursue funding from a variety of sources.
3. Establish six new programs affording volunteer opportunities in feeding, housing, visiting or communications.

Our human, financial, and property resources serve our goals and mission.

STEWARDSHIP

2045 Goals

All resources, talent, ministers and staff are focused and working on our mission. Everyone fulfills their individual calling and giftedness. We maintain a joyful, supportive, fulfilling environment for clergy, staff and volunteers. We have a sufficient number of staff and volunteers to carry out our mission. We have abundant resources to carry out our mission.

2008 Outcomes

- Members affirm God's call to use our gifts of time, talent and treasure to know and love Christ, to know and love the stranger, to know and love each other.
- The parish has developed a deep theological understanding of the many aspects of stewardship.
- The result of our commitment to giving of ourselves is abundant financial resources and ready and willing volunteers to support the various activities and programs of the church.
- We focus our resources, talents, ministers and staff on living into our mission.
- Our communication ministry has developed such that our mission and our internal and external activities are known throughout our geographic parish.
- Every member knows St. Stephen's mission statement.
- Numerous parishioners are involved in the strategic planning process, and there is widespread support for the resulting activities.
- Our buildings are inviting, well-maintained and designed to support our mission.

Specific Goals for 2007

1. Determine needed modifications to our present facilities to further support our mission.
2. Meet our funding and budget needs by increasing giving through a vigorous year-round stewardship initiative.
3. Increase parishioner involvement in various ministries by identifying and matching gifts and interests.
4. Increase the funding available for mission initiatives by completing the sale of the house at 4841 45th St. NE.
5. Develop and execute a plan for communicating about our mission and ministry with parishioners and non-parishioners, in person, in writing and electronically.



2007 PARISH-WIDE GOALS

1. Living your faith: Intentionally engage people in using their gifts and talents in the church and in the world.
 - a. Develop an ongoing gifts identification program
 - b. Develop a gifts inventory of parishioners
 - c. Engage people in using their gifts
 - d. Develop a recognition program for volunteers

2. Communication: Foster engagement in our mission by telling our story.
 - a. Disseminate information about programs, activities, the search and transition process, and Vestry actions.
 - b. Develop useful information for new members and the new rector.
 - c. Initiate personal visits to parish members.
 - d. Gather information for use in the rector search process.

3. Foster a ministry of hospitality parish-wide: Develop a plan to engage the entire congregation in welcoming and providing hospitality to visitors, newcomers, members and staff.
 - a. Assess how St. Stephen's is currently providing hospitality
 - b. Conduct a literature review on church hospitality
 - c. Research how other congregations provide hospitality
 - d. Communicate findings and plans to the congregation



WORKING ON OUR PLAN TOGETHER

Oversight of implementation of our plan is shared with an Executive Team made up of the Rector, Senior Warden, and the Strategic Planning Coordinator. These are supported by the Vestry. Action Groups are created to address the goals.



Action Groups are formed around a particular goal to be accomplished. The goal is organized into four manageable parts that individuals assume responsibility for. If the work becomes too much, the individual can organize a new action group with four parts to accomplish the work towards the goal. Members of an Action Group support one another in prayer when they meet, thereby enriching their spiritual growth as well.



2007 ACTION GROUPS

Hospitality
Worship and Music
Community Service
Communications

Coordinated by Cindy Glad
Coordinated by Darlene Franz
Coordinated by Frank Lawler
Coordinated by Tracy Romoser

In addition, the following groups are working on the 2007 goals:

The Vestry
Youth Ministry Team
Sunday School Program
Adult Education Ministry Team

Led by Mark Schedler
Led by Debbie Kearnes
Coordinated by Jennifer Yerkes and Andrew Bruce
Led by Peter Snyder



Thank you to those who participated in various ways to bring our dreams into focus for the future:

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