

Parish of St. Mary and St. Jude
Vestry Retreat
Mutual Study of Ministry
June 4, 2011

Sarah Flynn, consultant, assisted the Vestry in preparing questions for the Mutual Study for Ministry project before us.

The purpose of the study is to help the leadership of the congregation identify the strengths and growing points of the congregation and to develop goals that will lead the congregation into God's future for the church and the world.

Basically MSM is a parish self-evaluation and we will be seeking answers to: What are we? How are we doing? How could we do better? by interviewing selected parishioners with the goal of generating healthy discussions and varied perspectives on the state of the Parish.

First, to identify strengths and potential areas of ministry to which they feel the congregation is being called we revisited the section of the parish profile that delineated parish goals at that time.

Next, we developed questions and a process to include as much of the congregation as possible in the study of ministry.

In going over the parish profile we focused on three areas:

1. Diversity is seen as a strength and it was felt that the lines are "blurring" – mostly the diversity is economic and seasonal.
2. Providing a spiritual home for
 - a. Worship
 - b. Music
 - c. Opportunities for Christian education
3. Community involvement – identify. Can SSMJ focus on only a few and especially become known for a particular area of community involvement?

We also gave thought to:

1. SSMJ as a nurturing centering place
2. Nurturing children and families

The questions developed after much discussion are:

1. What is your history with SSMJ? How do you identify yourself within the parish?
2. Your vestry sees the cultural and economic diversity in this parish as a strength.
 - a. What do you think?

- b. How welcome and comfortable do you feel at SSMJ? How could your experience be better? Do you feel valued?
3. The vestry thinks of SSMJ as a spiritual home for its parishioners.
- a. Do you value SSMJ as a spiritual home? What does that mean to you? In what ways does SSMJ nurture your spiritual growth and development?
- b. Are there additional opportunities(in music, education or worship) that might enrich your spiritual life?
- c. If a program were offered, when would you be able to participate – time of year, day, time etc.
4. The vestry sees our role in outreach to the community as essential to our mission.
- a. How are you involved in your community?
- b. How can SSMJ make a difference in our community?
- c. How would you like to see SSMJ be identified in the community?
- d. SSMJ is the church that _____.
5. Are there other strengths or challenges that you would like to talk about?

Timeline

By June 11, 2011: 10 +/- suggested interviewee names to be submitted to sub committee - Email to Axie(micp748@aol.com) Committee: Axie, Arthur and Maudie will winnow the list to a final 30 names

By June 20, 2011: 30 names (with 5 or 6 back up names) will be chosen for interviews.

By June 30, 2011: 3 names to each vestry member will be assigned for interviews.

By July 30, 2011: Interviews to be completed

August, 2011: Collation of data to be completed. Axie, Maudie and Patricia will complete this task.

At August 25, 2011 Vestry meeting the vestry will review the data and create a goals and action plan document. We will also decide how to disseminate the information to the congregation.