

EVANGELISM FORUM (7/1/14)

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is growing Disciples of Jesus Christ through inviting, welcoming, and connecting people to this Christian Community

VISION STATEMENT

We are part of this Christian Community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, active in Worship of God, Discipleship for all ages, Serving Christ in the world.

SCRIPTURE

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

OUR MINISTRY

Our ministry at St. Peter and St. Paul (“SPSP”) is focused on Inviting, Welcoming and Connecting people by:

- Inviting people to be disciples and to grow with us as disciples of Jesus.
- Welcoming visitors and newcomers to this Christian Community.
- Connecting all people (especially newer members & guests) into the life of the church.

INVITING

The Inviting Ministry (to be developed) helps to invite people who have no association with SPSP to visit us. This ministry involves reaching out into the community around us both with broadcast invitation messages, and with personal invitation. This ministry also involves training our ministry leaders and parishioners how to personally invite others to church and how to talk about their faith in the world.

Our invitation is open to everyone, regardless of background or situation. Our first target audience in the area is those who are unchurched, i.e. with limited or no church experience, and no framework for understanding the Episcopal church or perhaps even the Christian faith. Those are our first priority. Second would be those Christians who are looking for a church, whose backgrounds may be active or limited, Episcopalian or from other denominations. If we meet people active in other Christian congregations, we certainly might welcome them, but they already have a Christian Community, so we celebrate their discipleship where they are and welcome them as partners in ministry.

Our approach may include:

- Targeted community analysis and outreach,
- Wise and appropriate use of website, email, social media,
- Signs, advertisements, mailings, articles,
- Events that attract new people and provide a venue for personal connection and personal invitation, (such as Alpha, or special programs or events)
- Teaching/training and promoting personal invitation and faith sharing by all our members.
- Practicing personal invitation ourselves!

WELCOMING

The Evangelism Forum will provide an intentional welcome to those who visit us, with a focus on fostering a personal connection sensitive to the needs of the visitor. This guest-oriented welcome is different from an institution-oriented welcome, and so proceeds at the pace and manner that fits the individual or family. This ministry is spearheaded by the Hospitality Team and the Greeters Team. This ministry also provides training to ministry leaders and parishioners about how to provide an effective welcome.

The Hospitality Team provides a welcoming environment for personal connection, especially through organizing receptions at coffee hour and other occasions. The Hospitality Ministry plays an integral role in welcoming all worshippers (visitors and members alike) and provides the opportunity for fellowship in an unstructured atmosphere in three ways:

1. Providing a setting where people can speak personally with each other and build Christian friendships, especially building new connections.
2. Providing a venue for our Greeters to facilitate that connection by introducing guests and members to others.
3. Providing an opportunity to all SPSP ministries to share what is going on and invite others to get involved. It is free advertising, (aided, perhaps, by a table with a sign announcing the ministry that sponsored coffee hour that day).

A new Follow-up Function to be developed:

Follow-up with new visitors with information, a gift, or other appropriate follow-up as may be effective to helping them feel valued and welcome in our church.

The Greeters welcome all individuals (guests *and* parishioners) who attend SPSP. In addition to welcoming SPSP's parishioners, the Greeters have the opportunity to provide a guest that important "initial first impression" about SPSP which could have a positive influence their decision whether to visit us again.

The Greeters use a three phase approach: (1) a simple welcoming prior services and (2) an invitation to visit during coffee hour after services and (3) the introduction to other SPSP members.

See the greeters procedures for more details.

CONNECTING

The Connecting Ministry helps newcomers and newer members connect to the congregation. The first priority is on a personal connection. The second priority is on helping people to get involved in ministry (either to be fed or to serve).

The Connecting Ministry uses the following resources (and others that could be added):

- Newcomers' class
- Newcomers' dinners
- Foyers groups
- "Shepherding" ministry designed to intentionally support newcomers in their integration into the community. This is chiefly about personal welcome, personal introductions, and personal invitations. This can also be about helping them discern their gifts for ministry and helping to introduce them to others that will invite them into ministry to share those gifts.
- Helping to improve and maintain internal and external communication about our ministries to build awareness and support invitations.

The Connecting Ministry can make use of the church's database (ACS) to help insure appropriate attention is given to our newcomers and new members. This ministry can also help the church office maintain useful and accurate information in our database.