

Vestry Midyear retreat August 2016
Setting our parish priorities:

The Vestry, your elected governing board for our parish, has been deeply immersed for more than a year in discerning where Christ is leading us as a congregation. To broaden this listening process, we held several congregational meetings. The Vestry also held several workshops with parish leaders, led by our consultant Caroline McCall.

This past Saturday, the Vestry met in an all-day retreat with Caroline to review our ministries over the last 12 months and set general priorities for the next 12 months, called a “Mutual Ministry Review” that should be done once a year.

Taking the work and ideas from many of you, we agreed a statement of our core purpose as a parish:

We are called as followers of Jesus Christ to...

Gather in Santa Rosa as Christ’s Body, shaped by our worship and service, transforming lives by bringing our faith, hope and love into the world.

We talked for several hours about our mission priorities for the next year or two, and how these priorities fit with this core statement. We agreed on these four:

- Formation and education, with a renewed emphasis on children and youth.
- Membership and congregational development through a structured invitation/welcome/connect orientation program, and by broadening our worship appeal.
- Strengthen and develop our lay pastoral care ministries to each other.
- Define how to build our outreach programs into the world beyond what we already do (for example, Open Table, St. Andrew’s food program, etc.).

All of us have a role in making real this mission, each according to our talents and gifts that God has given us. All of us can begin with prayer. All of us can be supportive of these goals. Perhaps you might feel a call to greater involvement in one of these areas?

The Rev. Jim Richardson, Priest-in-Charge & Amy Nykamp, Senior Warden