

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE

VISION, GIFTS, MINISTRY & MISSION

Recap

During the Nov 17 Visioning Day and the Dec 2 congregational presentation, members were invited to list what "Gifts, Assets and Passions" they believe God has given St. John's. 317 entries were submitted and posted on the walls of the Parish Hall. These 317 entries were then gathered and grouped into seven broadly themed categories. In some cases, an entry could land in more than one category. These categories were: Building; Community; Finances; Music; People; Social Media; Worship.

Jan 20

Following the 10am liturgy on Jan 20, approximately 20 members of the congregation gathered in the hall to consider possibilities for mission and ministry at St. John's.

The Treasurer offered a brief summary of our blessed financial position, explaining different ways we can use our financial resources to fund outreach ministry. We are called to be good stewards of these resources and to continue to use them wisely, faithfully and effectively.

The seven categories where St. John's reflected its gifts, assets and passions were posted around the room with brief summaries of the entries that had been submitted earlier for context. Those present were then asked to go to the category that most resonated and excited them and to have a conversation with others with similar interest. From those conversations, people were invited to record their "blue sky" hopes and aspirations for St. John's under those categories. These have been posted in the hall.

Next Steps

On Jan 27 and Feb 3, those who were not able to attend the Jan 20 gathering are invited to review what is posted thus far and to add their own ideas. People will be on hand to facilitate some conversation and to field questions.

A meeting with community stakeholders (mayor and town council, police, health services, social services, schools, youth services etc.) and St. John's will be convened in the coming weeks to hear what gaps and needs present in our community are not being met, and what opportunities St. John's might discover for ministry.

From that meeting, St. John's will then work to discern, based on our passions and gifts what we might be called to do and how we may collaborate with other local churches, community organizations and deanery churches to respond to the needs in our community.

This is an exciting time for the church and for St. John's in particular. Your input and your thoughts are important. Please continue to pray about what we are called to do. Please continue to support the ministries that feed and nurture those who call St. John's their spiritual home. And if you have any questions, please feel free to approach Canon Catherine or one of the Church Wardens.

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