

St. Mary's Episcopal Church 2010 Mutual Ministry Review

At the April 26, 2010 vestry meeting the vestry and Father Brown met to work together on their first Mutual Ministry Review. Mutual Ministry Review is a way for every parish to ask, "How are we doing?" It is a time to celebrate what has been done well and to understand what might be done better. As Christian people we must always ask: "What is God calling us to do and to accomplish here in this place?" And then, "How can we best practice this ministry?"

Because of the promises we make in our baptismal covenant, we understand and see the gift of ministry as the work of the whole people of God, not just of the ordained clergy. Therefore, Mutual Ministry Review is meant to help the entire parish better accomplish God's mission. What is being reviewed is the ministry of laity and clergy working together in the daily life of the community for the glory of God.

Mutual Ministry Review is intended to nurture environments where what is happening at the parish is discussed and reviewed regularly and comfortably. Participants are encouraged to remember that the intent of the Mutual Ministry Review is to improve effective ministry. Focus is on the means of improvement rather than on reasons why something was not done. Within the pastoral context of the review process, the emphasis is on **celebrating the successes and resolving future challenges**. This is sound, healthy stewardship of the gifts of the people, structures and finances within a given parish community.

After discussion and compiling answers to all three questions on the review, the vestry and Fr. Brown voted on three "*areas of our life together at St. Mary's that you feel need attention or improvement so we might glorify God more fully.*" The top three areas of our life on which the vestry chose to concentrate, and with which the help of the entire congregation will be needed are:

1. *Bringing in families*
2. *Get "St. Mary's" name out*
3. *Broader Stewardship*

The vestry and Fr. Brown felt that if we work together as a congregation on these three areas that many of the other items on the attention or improvement list would be resolved. We welcome feedback or ideas on how we can, as a congregation, successfully achieve these three items, as well as input on any other item in the Mutual Ministry Review results.

The complete results of our review are listed below for your review.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church 2010 Mutual Ministry Review

Question #1 – What are the areas of our ministry together at St. Mary's we feel are going well and are successful that we need to raise up and give thanks to God for?

Listed below are the 40 ministries and persons the vestry raised up and gave thanks to God for at St. Mary's:

- Positive attitudes
 - priest
 - congregation

- Adult Sunday School
- Meet the needs of those who cannot attend
- Men's Breakfast
- Music Ministry
 - Barbara
 - Adult Choir
 - Tone Chimes
 - Instrumentalists
 - Soloists

- Outreach
 - Love One Another
 - Basket Auction
 - Food Basket Collection

- Communications
- Volunteerism
- Friendly congregation
- Stewardship
- Programs for Youth
 - acolytes
 - youth choir
 - youth group
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Ushering
 - Christian Education

- Altar Guild
 - Flowers

- Grounds keeping
 - Workdays
 - Volunteers

- Sandra Sartain
- Bookstore

St. Mary's Episcopal Church 2010 Mutual Ministry Review

- Outreach jewelry event
- Women's Bible Study
 - Breakfast
- Dinner for Eight
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers (lay readers and chalice bearers)
- Ushers

What are the areas of our life together at St. Mary's that you feel need attention or improvement so we might glorify God more fully?

Listed below are the 16 areas of attention or improvement so we might glorify God more fully at St. Mary's.

- Hard entry
 - Bringing in new folks
 - Making it their church (so they can say this is our church)
- Bringing in families
- Inviting people into various ministries
- Christian Ed – need more children
- Parish Life
- Get St. Mary's name out
- More Food for the Food baskets
- Broader Stewardship
- Expand volunteer pool
 - coffee hour
- Young Adult's groups
- Healing old wounds
- Hearing impaired accommodations
- Bookstore opened more often

What are your "dreams" for the future of St. Mary's?

- Enough Money
- Large number of young people who enjoy worshiping in Their church
 - Plenty of families with children
- Growth in unity of Church
- A place for all age groups in fellowship, learn & grow in the spirit
- Broad use of facilities to invite in (buildings in use all the time)
- Build a large multipurpose building
- That St. Mary's becomes a preferred place to worship
- Hire a full time youth minister