

## **Children & Family's**

**Where are we, as the Saint Mark's community, right now?**

**What is going well/less well at Saint Mark's right now?**

**What inspires you at Saint Mark's right now? What do you find less inspiring?**

### **Well:**

Welcoming:

Kids in service welcome, even when kids are loud/disruptive, families feel comfortable staying, carpet area is "full of life"

Open to people at different places on faith journey

Knit baby blankets as gifts!

Love the announcements of new babies

Godly Play going well

Dynamic worship environment –

Always a way for kids to engage as they grow (acolyting, reading, choir)

eagerness to try new things outside of worship

Example: Eat, Play, Love – this past summer, intergenerational – babies, elders

Childcare space – renovated, good location (close)

Appreciate Kelly's emails/communications and shared spirituality

### **Less well:**

There is not enough space for parents to sit around the rug

Childcare staff need to be employees, not volunteers

Dynamic worship environment –

Always a way for kids to engage as they grow (acolyting, reading, choir)

Wonder if # of opportunities is overwhelming or if it makes it hard to engage – is it hard to interpret the value of a particular event/activity and it's accessibility

Challenging to come to multiple activities due to traffic and time/timing

**As a community, where should we grow?**

**Where should we focus our energy?**

**When you envision Saint Mark's in years to come, what would you most like to see?**

Better way to connect kids from childcare to communion

Way to have Sunday school during service (some Sundays?)

FAQ on website for parents (2)

Guidance for parents re communion and other rites/transitions (1)

St. Mark's daycare – Episcopal Community has so much to offer – daycare instead of preschool (licensing and helpful to working families) (1)

Parents night out

Parents session during 10am hour with different themes/topics

Events with strategically planned people to facilitate interactions/connections

Create programming that fosters connection across generations, groups kids' ages – with food (5)

Community services activities incorporated into programming

Interactive calendar (google, outlook)

Music classes for 0-5 years (5)

Roles of congregation in shaping/knowing our kids – name it, equip adults with ways to do this

Idea of gym mat for babies

Adult forums to focus on family topics

Way to include kids at events already well attended by adults (ideas: bread-baking, quilting) – will need a patient person to manage behavior/ground rules (5)

**What do we need to do to get there?**

**What commitments are we prepared to make?**

**How will the community of Saint Mark's accomplish that growth?**

Focus on family engagement of kids 0-5 and kids not in choir (4)

Visual communication of events/activities (monitor in the narthex?) (1)

Outreach individually to engage families in activities on Sundays (team of people taking turns? script for those interested/willing?) (1)

Nametag storage place for pick-up/drop-off of Sundays

Recruit and empower all St. Mark's staff to be children's ministers – great value in their involvement (5)

## **Justice Ministries**

**Where are we, as the Saint Mark's community, right now?**

**What is going well/less well at Saint Mark's right now?**

**What inspires you at Saint Mark's right now? What do you find less inspiring?**

**Well:**

Music is fabulous

Children and families programming blossoming

Sanctuary – positive impact to Jaime and his family and the congregation

Financial transparency

Cohesive staff – felt by community – not dominated

Inspired by community members – contributions of talents/time, heart

New Director of Operations – to address facility issues/deferred maintenance

“On the way” with some ministries

The building is beautiful

Spiritual leadership from clergy is powerful, grounded, liturgical, and progressive

Faith formation grounds spiritual, educates us progressively

Appreciate interfaith connections

Cathedral community is connected to greater community

Bishop who is involved in public activism

**As a community, where should we grow?**

**Where should we focus our energy?**

**When you envision Saint Mark's in years to come, what would you most like to see?**

Grow intergenerational mix of people at St. Mark's – events together, like Eat, Play, Love (4)

Offer interest groups to foster community/connections (1)

Communication to community is that all are welcome

Both interfaith and intrafaith gatherings/events – opportunity to be ambassadors and grow connections, delegation to other churches/faith communities

Facilities:

- Continue working on deferred maintenance on campus

- Use of Bloedel Hall as greater community space
- Become a green cathedral – heated floor/replace St. Nick furnace (2)
- Library on campus (music and books) (1)

Place/space for octogenarians discussion of spiritual experience of aging/mortality (2) – this could be intergenerational, wisdom school (?)

Grow more in diversity (4)

Formal process for reconciling disagreements in the congregation – involving pastoral care (?)

**What do we need to do to get there?**

**What commitments are we prepared to make?**

**How will the community of Saint Mark's accomplish that growth?**

Focus on stewardship as year round, not just annual campaign (2)

Talk about membership – what does it mean? Is it important?

Foster bigger exchange, community connections – going out and bringing in (ex. Pride Festival) (2)

Get clearer guidance about use of Bloedel Hall as community space

Prioritize making Bloedel Hall accessible, attractive, affordable

More outreach/advertising of St. Mark's in social media, print, digital – ex: Meet-up for events

Healing with community – holiday music

Wisdom school – discussion of mortality (intergenerational) (6)

Visits to community /interfaith/intrafaith – every other month/quarterly (2)

## **Youth**

**Where are we, as the Saint Mark's community, right now?**

**What is going well/less well at Saint Mark's right now?**

**What inspires you at Saint Mark's right now? What do you find less inspiring?**

### **Well:**

Choir is going well – community, mentoring, great sound

At youth group, appreciation for age range, feels inclusive, like getting to know each other (mention of name games), talk about subjects from church (a continuation), focus on service to others (2)

Donuts (1)

Cathedral day

### **Less well:**

Loss of wifi/poor signal (1)

Missing less structured, hang out time, which creates community

Would like conversation to go deeper

Board in youth room needs to be cleaned/painted and have new writing utensils – like having a place to do art/write

Missing advent traditions – need these for older kids

**As a community, where should we grow?**

**Where should we focus our energy?**

**When you envision Saint Mark's in years to come, what would you most like to see?**

Youth delegates on SM committees (2)

Board in youth room needs to be cleaned/painted and have new writing utensils – like having a place to do art/write

Calendar in room, also on Google

Add youth stuff on walls

Service events – donations/drives – projects (gardening/planting) (3)

More people to youth group events

Timing of gatherings for youth – try extending Sunday morning time

Would like conversation to go deeper (5)

More less structured, hang out time, which creates community (5)

**What do we need to do to get there?**

**What commitments are we prepared to make?**

**How will the community of Saint Mark's accomplish that growth?**

Youth delegates on committees – get to know committees that exist, let Nicole know of interests, consider having visits by committee members to youth group

Deeper conversations – let conversation take its course, which may mean abandoning planned topic/structure; adult facilitators may benefit from additional training in group/youth facilitation (not taking things personally, being defensive, feeling the need to be optimistic or make excuses for the way things are). Current lack of trust. Youth learn quickly from responses of adults about what is safe/unsafe to say and then stop talking.

Brainstorm activities to account for variability of # of youth participating