

Discernment Processes

A Summary

Color Key

Sunday Survey

Spiritual Discernment

Saturday Listening Workshop

Listening Groups

Strengths/Values

A plethora of worship opportunities and incredible music.

Silence

The traditional strengths of liturgy.

Connection to the community through liturgy, music, traditional forms of worship.

Traditional strength and liturgy that embraces others and new experiences.

Music as an experience of the Holy Spirit – making music together as a source of unity.

Community of fabulous people – accepting and warm.

Community, Trust, Love, Unity, Humility, Authenticity

Older people become marginalized because they can't get to church.

Connection/Community – the feeling of being a connected community

Friendship, food, and fellowship.

Intimacy, trust, togetherness.

Relationships are what matter, regardless of whether they are church related, from lay people in the church, or from clergy.

Community connectedness requires effective communication.

Strong, Christ-like ministries – commitment to service

Involved/engaged/service to others

Past, present and future are connected and honored in what we do.

Connected to the world.

St. Paul's works best when providing opportunities for service and enabling parishioners to provide service to a suffering world.

We come together as a community to support important and deep need ministries.

Inclusive of all people and a positive progressive Christian message .

Transformation

Inclusive/welcoming/diverse

An inclusive and diverse community of congregants.

All generations and peoples are embraced.

Community should welcome and include a diversity of thought about ,and experience of, the Holy Spirit.

Expressing openness to new ideas requires effective communication.

Truly compassionate, talented, supportive clergy.

Spirit

Through prayer and meditation we are called to journey into inner richness and healing.

Spiritual growth through contemplation to ponder challenging questions and to share experiences of the Divine in our daily lives.

Balance between activity in service and spiritual reflection.

Balance of intellect and spirit; action and quietness.

Balance intellectual concerns or investigations with faith and spiritual pursuits.

Use art/music to engage emotionally.

Information about how we might be helpful to those on the prayer list.

Areas which could be strengthened

Build a better children's program and youth program.

Vibrant and relevant Christian Education for children and their families.

Jr. Altar guild

Consider a more flexible worship schedule.

Need to do a better job of drawing in and meeting needs of children in all grade levels.

Provide more opportunities for small groups, spiritual growth, sharing, and education.

Groups! Groups! Groups!

Add some new groups – dinner groups, dream groups.

Let's connect with more people in their homes.

Small groups as a way to form lasting links among people.

Groups that are either social or spiritual in nature.

Benefits of intergenerational groups – intentional intersection between “old people” and young families.

Small groups with a focus and a spiritual foundation.

Education with multiple opportunities available.

A visible, welcoming attitude, especially toward newcomers.

Reach out to the unchurched, build a stronger community of young, working professionals.

Do a better job of drawing in newcomers and helping them “step in” to our life.

Shepherding within the congregation so that no one gets lost.

Better job with the young people, preparing them to create the church of the future, making sure they feel part of the community.

The way we speak, and the way new generations are growing up are totally different. We need a new language.

Concentrate on follow-up with newcomers and to families who come to the church for Baptism.

Welcoming to all – how can we communicate it better? Form a greeting ministry.

Examine what being inclusive really means.

An effective system of signage would be more welcoming to newcomers.

Nurture and provide for young families – support for young mothers.

Present more opportunities for social service and challenge members to serve.

By being transformed and discovering our gifts and where to use them, St. Paul's will be strengthened.

Our outreach must always grow out of love; social action bathed in prayer.

Perhaps we might better listen in the wider Charlottesville community for what is needed.

We acted boldly on race years ago. It's time we acted boldly on social justice.

Active outreach ministries are attractive to younger people, and make visible our desire to put our faith into action in the world.

Provide support for going out into the world.

Growing our ministries, giving, stewardship ethic, and action.

More retreats; help with providing new understandings of metaphoric language.

Through prayer and meditation we learn more deeply to see God in ourselves and God in all.

The elderly population will double. How will we serve them?

We need to do more with environmental stewardship.

Enable service through leadership, and through training and support for those engaged in caring ministries.

Pilgrimage and service trips enable service and promote involvement in the world.

A need to reach out to people to encourage their involvement. People have to be invited in person to help with things – to join in an effort.

Support the development of leadership.

The burdens of action should be spread around, blessing will come with challenge.

Increase involvement and incorporation with the University

Do we need to serve the wider University – or is our mission to the students? Can our University ministry be a part of everything we do?

Compline for students

Contemplative student service.

More outreach to non-Canterbury University students.

Worship:

More silence; Longer moments of silence.

More inclusive language; Celtic and Taize services.

The importance of the liturgy feeling “stable”.

Have a lay/clergy group look at changing liturgical language.

More involvement by lay people in liturgy at every level.

More experiential worship.

Listen carefully to how different people of different generations experience God in worship.

Incorporate new innovative technology in worship.

Variety in service format - Openness to different forms of worship.

Increase time in passing the peace.

Joyful, user-friendly music.

The discernment process must be ongoing, both individually and corporately.

At St. Paul's we are afraid of failure. We need a framework for experimentation and evaluation – trying new things for a fixed period of time.

Activities should be carried out with mindfulness of larger issues and goals. Act strategically to achieve the change we want. Be intentional.

Set a clear course for the future.

Challenge people to accept new roles. Engage specific talents of lay people.

More creative use of our building – food coop, childcare, university, labyrinth

We aren't very good stewards of the building in between services. The building could be a playground to try interesting stuff.

We could have adult education in between the two morning services.

Art as inspiration – a mural in the chapel?

A better system of signage to make it more welcoming to newcomers.

Single annual parish-wide work event.

Effective communication

E-contact.

Effective Communication is a requirement for community connectedness, for speaking to diverse parts of the community, for expressing openness to new ideas.

Communication on social networks.

A live person answering the telephone/improved church telephone reliability.

Continuous quality improvement in this area.

Parish newsletter for children including activity pages and art.