

Congregation Members' Ideas to Achieve Our Vision

The Community of St. Martha's

St. Martha's will be a vibrant spiritual community

- Use the *Book of Common Prayer*, Rite 1 and Rite 2, and other traditional services
- Hold family-oriented, contemporary Vigil Services on Saturdays during the summer
- Include music at the 8:00
- Offer more instruction from the pulpit on specific teachings of the Episcopal Church
- Offer Morning and Evening Prayer and "Praise and Worship" services
- Expand the Prayers for the People to include prayers for members and their families
- Offer an array of regular spiritual retreats
- Start a Cursillo Group
- Initiate Prayer Partners and Prayer Circles
- Expand Episcopal Church People to include elements of St. Andrew's Society for Men
- Make the Blessing of the Animals an annual event
- Increase volunteer staffing of the Sunday School
- Include children in the Choir once a month and find other ways for them to participate in the service on a regular basis
- Offer an adult Sunday School between the services
- Continue special prayers and consider including elements of a healing service
- Organize a Labyrinth

St. Martha's will be a deeply caring social community

- Provide name tags for all attending services with Vestry members identified
- Hold more church-wide activities that appeal to members' interests
- Host picnics and more potluck dinners; target some to summer visitors
- Start Pizza Night, Game Night, Movie Night
- Create a Caregivers Support Group and re-establish the Bereavement Group
- Hold coffee hour between the 8:00 and 10:00 services to bring the groups together
- Provide babysitting on Parents Night Out
- Offer a combined Sunday School/babysitting program at 8:00 during the summer
- Sponsor a Drop In Tea Room to discuss spiritual issues
- Implement a way to notify members about health issues and deaths of parishioners
- Provide a way to respond to needs for meals, respite care and transportation
- Organize lunch groups and continue the dinner groups
- Offer a special event on the 4th of July
- Hold occasional dinners to communally celebrate member birthdays
- Organize a Fellowship Committee to find out what kinds of social events the members would like and to coordinate their implementation

St. Martha's will be an ambitious learning community

- Offer classes on a range of church-related topics
- Organize a Book Club for discussions of spiritually themed books
- Sponsor travelogues and organize a Travel Club
- Sponsor talks that respond to needs such as caring for aging parents
- Combine talks with potluck dinners and lunches
- Organize Movie Nights; begin with soup and follow with discussion
- Host Bible and Barbeque events to foster learning by a variety of age groups
- Purchase an Automatic Defibrillator and train members in its use
- Sponsor a Parish Health Day

St. Martha's in the Community

St. Martha's will be faithfully active in the community

- Establish/reestablish links with local churches to increase our outreach
- Cite our affiliation with St. Martha's when we serve as volunteers
- Increase involvement in and support for the Home Repairs program
- Develop an after-school tutoring and/or English As A Second Language program
- Provide a list of Outreach contacts to the congregation so members can volunteer
- Sponsor a summer Vacation Bible School on the beach
- Participate in town-sponsored events such as beach clean-up and the July 4th Parade
- Take on activities like road clean-up, park maintenance or making sandwiches for the homeless
- Open events like Mardi Gras and the proposed Game Nights to the larger community
- Organize social events of interest to post-college through mid-30s adults
- Compile a *Directory of Emergency Community Resources* to respond to walk-ins
- Pledge time as well as financial support during the stewardship drive
- Establish an Environmental Committee for activities related to our beach setting

St. Martha's will be a sanctuary in the community

- Continue and expand support of 12-Step programs
- Ensure our "Open Door" policy is maintained by including the needs of these groups when planning church renovations
- Expand sanctuary by providing counseling services at the church
- Offer special choral recitals on feast days and at times of national mourning

St. Martha's will be a growing influence in the community

- Align with other churches to support community efforts
- Broadcast news about St. Martha's regularly to the larger community
- Market St. Martha's as a desirable venue for the arts, particularly for small groups
- Include St. Martha's Confections at parish Book Sales and other public events
- Publicize St. Martha's services, events and programs at Book Sales and other events
- Identify ourselves as being from St. Martha's when we volunteer in the community