

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes for 6 February 2012

Attending: Rev Mary Allen, Mimi Dupont, Wincy Jackson, Deb Kerchner, Jim Moore, Lee Moore, Dennis Rhodes, Dana Schaefer, Bibi Tew, Lynne Watson, Jere Wise

St. Martha's has an active communal life with many ministry groups already contributing to the wellbeing of our parishioners. Yet some parishioners' needs are not being fully met and some interests are yet to be pursued. The Parish Life Committee was formed to continue building our sense of community. The purpose of the first meeting was to identify all inreach ministries to be organized under the Parish Life Committee and to organize those ministries into groups based on our vision. **Those present agreed the most important actions needed to strengthen our parish life are to communicate with each other and to pray for each other.**

St. Martha's has a communal vision developed as the search for our new rector began. Those present at the first Parish Life Committee meeting, held February 6, 2012, agreed to organize existing and desired ministry groups under the three inreach sections of the vision:

VISION: The Community of St. Martha's (inreach)
St. Martha's will be a vibrant spiritual community.
St. Martha's will be a deeply caring social community.
St. Martha's will be an ambitious learning community.

St. Martha's existing and desired ministries under vibrant spiritual community – Prayer circle, bible study, blessing of the animals, healing ministry, worship committee, Cursillo, retreats, Eucharistic visitors, caregivers support group, music, vigil services, labyrinth, morning and evening prayer, lay readers and acolytes etc., patriotic holiday worship services, altar guild, flower guild, men's ministry

St. Martha's existing and desired ministries under caring social community – Dinner groups, greeters and ushers etc., coffee hour, fellowship committee, kitchen committee, special events, bake sale (Boardwalk Arts Festival, July 4th), Shorebirds outing, events such as book sale and golf outing and mardi gras, game night, Easter egg hunt, July 4th, newcomers ministry, craft/knitting group

St. Martha's existing and desired ministries under ambitious learning community – Adult education, book club, travel club and travelogues, community education nights, movie nights, field trips, children's Sunday school with steady staff

Pastoral care ministries were listed separately – Home visits, "Stephen" lay pastoral care ministry and the necessary training, knowledge about and communicating of others' needs, privacy issues, cards in seats to communicate one's pastoral care need and whether or not

the need should be shared beyond the rector, meal preparation, transportation assistance, keep priest in the loop

Congregation members suggested activities to achieve our vision during last year's town hall meetings. These ideas are included in the meeting results summarized above as well as some ideas suggested during the February 6 meeting. Holding a ministry fair was suggested as a way to introduce parishioners to a variety of ministries and to provide an opportunity to become involved in ministries to which we are called.

You are invited to convey any questions, comments or suggestions regarding these ideas or parish life in general to Mimi Dupont at mdupont228@yahoo.com or 302 228 2755, or to any Vestry member or Rev. Mary. If the Holy Spirit moves you to participate in an existing ministry, please contact the chair listed in the document *St. Martha's Committees and Chairs* on the parish documents page of the website. Chairs and members of existing ministry groups are encouraged to consider how they can welcome newcomers to those efforts. Should you feel called to start a new ministry, please feel welcome to do so after contacting Rev. Mary Allen for guidance on how to schedule and publicize the activity.