

## **St. Mary's Outreach Discussion Meeting**

Second Meeting: July 14, 2009 7:30 p.m.

*[Next meeting: Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall]*

### **1. Present:**

Rich Rella, Cathy Carlson, Marcia Farrell, Claire Oyelaja, Eileen Cole, Edie Kuffner, Fr. John Stubbs, Nancy Calta, Sally Rizzo, Rose Myslicki, Pat Moschella. Apologies: Jane Cangemi

### **2. The Appearance of the Church:**

We began in front of the church, and discussed how we might make our signs, church, and grounds more inviting to the public. Our new doors are to be installed early next week. Cathy suggested new signage. We should all look around for the best looking signs. Also we will need to place a sturdy wastebasket on the grounds.

### **3. Previous meeting:**

In the Parish Hall, Fr. John opened the discussion meeting with a prayer. He then went over the notes from our last meeting (4 June 2009). He also suggested that we bring in some ideas from Canon Claudia Wilson's workshop (20 June 2009).

### **4. Results of Responses to the Questionnaire on Outreach (see the attached summary):**

- People are very concerned for the youth of the area. We would need to make a major commitment to institute a youth program (after school, summer, etc)
- We could have a monthly field trip to a local event for our parishioners
- We can extend our outreach to the elderly and/or homebound

- Cathy suggested “resurrecting” the Released-Time program for youth here at St. Mary’s. She knows some licensed teachers who might be available.

- No one feels that we can keep the church/chapel open extra hours (security risk).

- Edie mentioned the “Building Bridges” organization (ecumenical service group); along with the subject of St. Mary’s involvement with the SI Council of Churches. Cathy said that Herb would have the answers to Edie’s questions.

## **5. Contacting Previous Membership:**

Nancy suggested contacting former parishioners (go down the membership list) and inquiring as to where they’ve been and whether or not they might be interested in rejoining us. Rich suggested we call them- ask them again to join us- ask if they have needs we might pray for (whether or not they wish to come to services here). Rich says we need to be persistent and not give up on those who are estranged from the parish. Ask how we might be of service to them or supportive to them. We cannot forget them! We need to start with making our own parishioners feel welcome, no matter what. We can look further than our own immediate neighborhood. If we can bring kids in, their parents will likely follow. Rich would like to be active in such.

We need to let the area know we exist, we are open for business, and we are here! The church bells ought to ring everyday, inviting people to take part in our daily prayer services. Richard also suggested handing out cards in church and in the neighborhood- put the picture of St. Mary’s on the card and have a space for people’s prayer requests.

## **6. Social programs:**

We ought to join the other Episcopal parishes to mobilize our services (food, clothing, etc) for those in need.

## **7. Choir for Boys or Girls:**

Fr. John suggested a program for youth- singing for nursing homes, etc. Get the word out that we are teaching kids to sing. Cathy asked who would be willing to do this who is also a licensed teacher.

Based on his studies and research last summer, Rich would like to start a boy's choir or chorus- separate from a girl's choir or chorus. He feels that if you combine them, the boys will find it a "girlie thing" and quit. He would like to get 10 or 12 boys who could add another dimension to the choir, and could travel all around the area to sing for special occasions. If we organize an appeal which is sufficiently wide, this number seems achievable. He recounted that music was something that always led him back to church, no matter what may have been distracting him in his personal life. This could lay the foundation for more involvement in the life of St Mary's, including the dimension of more male participation.

Rich would like to set up just such a program. Parents will come to pick their kids up and will come inside the church. The church will look appealing to the kids since it echoes the building in the Harry Potter series! He would like to start with kids younger than 8<sup>th</sup> grade (from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade), before their voices start breaking. Rich says he's sure his brother would be willing to assist him with the program. He also would be willing to give instrumental music lessons, if the singing programs work out.

Sally knows of a grant program for kids- connected with the Diocese, she believes. Edie brought an article from the Advance listing some types of grants available, and sources of said grants, for faith-based & other organizations.

Rich related some of his past experiences singing with and teaching various choral groups. He believes music is an excellent vehicle to bring people into the Church. Fr. John related some experiences of his sons growing up in a choral music tradition.

It was suggested that we put an announcement about the plan to start a boy's chorus into the Sunday bulletin. Rich will write up a prospectus/plan to present for consideration.

Pat asked Rich when he plans to begin recruiting boys for the chorus. He said we would need to get the word out before school starts- he would need 6-8 weeks to rehearse for a concert in the future. He would like to get things going sooner than a month from now. The goal could be a first presentation on Advent 1; with subsequent appearances in hospitals and centers for the elderly. The training could be after school and in the summer. This proposal meets with many of the top rated responses to the outreach questionnaire.

Pat mentioned that there are probably many people (not necessarily present at the meeting) who could support/aid Rich in putting the program together. Fr. John asked if Pat, Cathy and Rich to work together on a proposal, and also, to put a notice in the bulletin about the proposed program. (There are two Sundays before the following meeting of the Outreach Discussion Group.) We could ask for those who might offer input of talent/time/support/advice for this proposed program. Fr. John suggested contacting Galt and Marlene MacDermot for input.

It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Cathy will see that something is put in the Sunday bulletin. After the next meeting, we will have something placed in the Advance in regard to our plans. Fr. John asked if Cathy Whitford and Edie Kuffner will contact the Advance when we have something concrete to print. (NB: Cathy Meyer is an accomplished journalist.)

#### **8. Close:**

The meeting concluded at 9:20 p.m. with the Grace.

16-Jul-09

Item no	Item	Sub-item	Comments	Score	Rank
<b>1</b>	<b>Community: Research(etc)</b>		Research		
<i>2a</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>After School</i>		11	5.2 (See 3b)
2b	Youth	Driving		4	
<i>2c</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>Summer</i>		14	5.1 (See 3b)
2d	Youth	Evangelism		10	
2e	Youth	Other	Dances Trips Games	1	
<b>2</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b><u>40</u></b>	
<i>3a</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Singles</i>		<u>20</u>	<u>3.1</u>
<i>3b</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Childcare</i>		<u>18</u>	<u>3.2 (See 2a&amp;c)</u>
3c	Adults	Performances		11	
3d	Adults	Ethnic Services		1	
3e	Adults	Other	Dances Trips	1	
<b>3</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b><u>51</u></b>	
<i>4a</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Befriending</i>	<i>(Include youth in this)</i>	<u>21</u>	<u>1</u>

4b	Elderly	Communion					14	
4c	Elderly	Other	Transport				1	
<b>4</b>	<b>Elderly</b>	<b>Total</b>					<b><u>35</u></b>	
5a	Hospital	Patients					10	
5b	Hospital	Staff					2	
5c	Hospital	Music					13	
5d	Hospital	Other	Staff Services				0	
<b>5</b>	<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Total</b>					<b>25</b>	
<b>6a</b>	<b>Hobbies</b>	<b>Hobbies</b>	Speakers	Shawls	Robes	Music	<b>16</b>	6
			Bake sales	Advertise Events				
<b>7</b>	<b>Poverty</b>	<b>Total</b>	Epis Charities	Food Pantry	Soup kitchen		<b>4</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>Total</b>	Assessment	Gift Bags	World Vision	Diocese	<b>0</b>	
9a	Communication	Discussions					6	
9b	Communication	Community Circular					10	4.2
9c	Communication	Signage					4	
9d	Communication	Internet/Email					11	4.1

9e	Communication	Cloister		4	
9f	Communication	Other		0	
<b>9</b>	<b>Communication Total</b>			<b><u>36</u></b>	
<b><u>10</u></b>	<b><u>StM Buildings &amp; Grounds</u></b>	<i>Afternoons</i>	<i>&amp; Play</i>	<b><u>21</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Total</b>	Chapel/Church	<b>9</b>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>	Fundraising e.g. through ads in Cloister		