

The Summons of the Spirit Revisited

2012

Our Vision

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church will be a community of hospitality, hope and healing for all seekers of faith, in order to bring the light of Christ to Cleveland's west side and the wider world.

Our Worship Life

Saint Peter's has a long history of classical Anglican worship. We highly prize this tradition, and commit to keeping it at the core of our identity and practice. With that tradition at the heart of what we do, we are open to experience and experiment with different ways of worshipping. We are also open to reaching back to earlier forms of worship in order to remember our heritage. In all things, we are committed to excellence in liturgy and music.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will continue a strong musical program, centered on the classical Anglican repertoire. We will, from time to time, draw upon other resources and traditions of music (ethnic, contemporary, jazz, etc.) to enrich our core experience.
- 2) We will, from time to time, use earlier forms of worship such as Rite I Eucharist and Sunday Morning Prayer.
- 3) We will, from time to time, and with the consent of the Ordinary, use new forms of liturgy such as "Enriching Our Worship" or the prayer books of other Anglican provinces.
- 4) We will continue to support music training for children (Choristers) and young adults (Choral Scholars).
- 5) We will continually strive to make our worship more welcoming and "user-friendly."
- 6) We will be open to and welcome new initiatives that support this mission.

Servant Ministry

St. Peter's congregation is very interested in and energized by servant ministry to the community and larger world. We are involved, directly and indirectly, with our time, talent, and treasure, in many activities that serve others. We commit to continue our outreach in these ways, and to remain open to creative involvement in new forms of servant outreach ministry.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will continue our monthly Community Meal.
- 2) We will continue and strengthen our relationship with Watterson-Lake Elementary School.
- 3) We will continue and enhance our Monthly Outreach Focus program, and encourage loose plate giving to ministries within this program.
- 4) We will continue our support of the Lakewood Community Service Center.
- 5) We will continue to invest our time and talent in support of St. Peter's Child Care Center ministry.
- 6) We will support parishioners who desire to participate in foreign or domestic mission work.
- 7) We will continue to make our building available to outside groups and organizations.
- 8) We will be intentional about educating parishioners concerning these ministries.
- 9) We will be open to and welcome new initiatives that support this mission.

Creating Community

We desire to strengthen our sense of authentic, meaningful, and caring fellowship. We will strive to be imaginative, flexible, and creative to form a healthy sense of community among our highly dispersed membership.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will continue our monthly Sunday morning parish breakfast to provide regular informal fellowship.
- 2) We will continue our Pastoral Partners program.
- 3) We will continue to enhance the Explore and Connect program.
- 4) We will formalize our new member inclusion process.
- 5) We will explore and implement the technological means to facilitate communication among parishioners.
- 6) We will be open to and welcome new initiatives that support this mission.

Growing and Forming Confident Disciples

Parishioners of all ages need continually to grow in their confident knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, our faith tradition, and how to put faith into action in their lives. Often new members of Saint Peter's come to us with little background in the Episcopal Church or the Anglican tradition. Saint Peter's commits to being an active place of faith formation for all ages.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will make the Christian formation of children and youth one of our highest priorities.
- 2) We will maintain a Sunday Morning nursery.
- 3) We will work to keep church school for youngsters in place.
- 4) We will continue programming for junior and senior high students.
- 5) We will provide a range of meaningful formation and discernment opportunities for adults to learn about and grow in their faith.
- 6) We will be open to and welcome new initiatives that support this mission.

Sustaining Space for our Ministries

We value the history and architectural beauty of our worship space, and we will preserve it.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will begin the process of discernment in late 2012 or early 2013 to plan for further renovation or rebuilding of our worship and program spaces. The long-term goal will be to complete these projects by 2016.
- 2) We will be open to and welcome new initiatives that support this mission.

Accountability

We look to the Rector and Vestry to devise a clear System of Accountability for church programs and projects. This is to ensure that programs and projects have every opportunity for success, smooth continuation, and even expansion. This System of Accountability will also prove its worth if it reveals that certain programs and projects should be reduced in size or discontinued.

The System of Accountability is to have three parts. The first part includes assigning each Vestry member to serve as a contact with specific programs and projects. This is so Vestry members have closer connection to, and understanding of, programs and projects. The second part includes assigning Staff members to serve as liaisons for those same programs. This is to keep the programs and projects grounded within the realities of day-to-day church administration, and to connect Staff and Vestry. The third part will involve a more explicit and ongoing encouragement of new and current parishioners to give their time, talent, and treasures to the church, its programs, and projects.

This System of Accountability will work best if the Rector and Vestry review church programs and projects on an annual basis.