



RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Adult Forum

Sunday, April 18, 2010

LET US PRAY

Almighty and everliving God, we acknowledge our need for you in this time of transition as we search for our new rector. We ask for your protection and guidance as we discern your will. We pray for the members of the search committee, that their minds and hearts will be open to your Spirit's leading. Give them your patience and strength in this work. Thank you for the priest you are preparing for us, whose name is yet known to you alone. We ask that he or she be open to your call. Thank you for all you have done, are doing, and will do among us to form us into your people that your name may be glorified and your love known to all people. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

SEARCH PROCESS

- So, how do we call a new rector?!
- First step is to prepare the Parish Profile

PARISH PROFILE

- Document that states who we are at Church of the Holy Family, our vision for the next three-to-five years, and the attributes we seek in a rector
- Opportunity for the parish family to contribute during the season of transition

PARISH DIALOGUES

- Three Dialogues
 - Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, February 27, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 - Sunday, February 28, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- For those 16 years old and up
- Framed by the observance of a Prayer Book service

PARISH DIALOGUES

- Other Conversations
 - EYC and acolytes: Sunday, February 28, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
 - Clergy and staff: Tuesday, March 2, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
 - Sunday School: Sunday, March 14, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

PARISH SURVEY

- Available for those unable to participate in a Dialogue
- Available Thursday, March 4 – Monday, March 15
 - Inserted in *Family Affairs*
 - Available in the Narthex over two Sundays
 - Distributed electronically twice

DIALOGUE AND SURVEY PARTICIPATION

- Dialogues: 107
- EYC and acolytes: 28
- Sunday School: 59
- Clergy and staff: 11
- Surveys: 29
- **TOTAL: 234**

QUESTIONS

- Reflect on your time at Holy Family. Locate moments that were high points, when you felt our parish was doing God's work.
- Name the three things you value most about Holy Family.
- What will be Holy Family's three most important accomplishments TO YOU over the next three-to-five years?

FINDINGS

- Every sticky note has been saved!
- Spreadsheet of notes and survey responses
- Data must be reviewed in its entirety to get a complete sense of the diversity of responses

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Parishioners have named clearly **liturgy** as the center of our lives.
- Parishioners are centered by the use of our parish name—**Holy Family**—as a description of our lives and worship together.
- Parishioners named our **size** as important, along with the recognition that we are not only a hospitable community but one that is determined to extend that **hospitality**.
- Parishioners look not only **inwardly** but **outwardly**.
- Parishioners are committed to the calling of a rector who will transform Holy Family and who is willing to be transformed by us through life and ministry together as priest and people.

BEING A FAMILY

- Process was “appreciative” —intentionally focusing on the best of our parish
- Not intended to gloss over the challenges of being a family
 - Identified need to be deliberate about having difficult conversations while maintaining our commitment to welcoming all

REPORT

- Summary report and data spreadsheet will be added to the website
- Report connects the findings of the Dialogues/Surveys to the Vision for Ministry—the recent work of the parish to define strategic goals and actions
 - Focus on seven keys words from the Vision for Ministry
 - Worship
 - Holiness
 - Reconciliation
 - Witness
 - Evangelism
 - Fellowship
 - Servanthood

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

LITURGY

- “Prayer Book based liturgy done with lively spirit, respect and knowledge.”
- “Emphasis on baptisms—that they are frequent and highly celebrated.”
- “Our church makes the sacred both very important and very accessible.”
- “That the Eucharist table holds us together despite very diverse beliefs.”
- “Holy Family is known locally as the place to be during Holy Week.”
- “The joyous nature of our church: baptisms, funerals, inclusion of children in worship.”

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOLY FAMILY

- “My altar guild work has been Godly work for me. . . I often feel closer to God as I dust, wash, scrub, and polish. Then in preparation for the Eucharist, I am actually preparing a feast for my Holy Family.”
- “We walked into Holy Family on a Sunday after Christmas, and, as soon as our feet entered the Nave, we felt a great sense of holiness and awe...it felt like “the family of God,” as my 15-year-old daughter said.”
- “Our care of one another as a Holy Family.”
- “That other parents look after my children as their own.”

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

SIZE AND HOSPITALITY

- “When random people stopped me to welcome me as a newcomer from day 1.”
- “Expand our congregation—welcome seekers, let more people know our doors are open, joining with others.”
- “Size, in an era of megachurches, a “family size” church is a treat. When we run out of space, help plant another.”

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INWARDLY AND OUTWARDLY

- “Challenged to grow spiritually, to be involved, to “step-up” and fulfill your calling.”
- “Our church is not that diverse (in terms of social class), but the opportunities for outreach have brought me face to face with the poor, the imprisoned, and the needy. And there I see Christ.”
- “There is someone at the building doing something every day. The doors are always open. But it doesn’t feel like a business. It’s not about job titles and programs. It’s about prayer and outreach.”
- “Teaching me how to pray. This is ongoing. It started, but I keep learning.”

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

FACILITIES

- Spaces that support the ministries of Holy Family are an important element in implementing the Vision for Ministry
- Comments from the Dialogues and Surveys support the facility recommendations of the Vision for Ministry

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

FACILITIES

- “Expanding physical space to Holy Family creating more room, thereby creating more ministries and youth activities.”
 - “Make the kitchen more usable since fellowship is part of every ministry.”
 - “Space for quiet, contemplative prayer.”
- Worth noting the gratitude parishioners feel for a Nave that is available 24/7

YEARNINGS

- A yearning for communion with God through worship and sacraments
- A yearning for fellowship/care giving with our family of God at Holy Family
- A yearning for sharing our fellowship and resources through meaningful outreach
- A yearning to nurture children, youth, and adults in the history and traditions of the church and biblical texts
- A yearning to make our facility work efficiently in both the physical design of the space and energy consumption
- A yearning for a forum to share out differences in thinking about the issues facing the Episcopal Church

CONCLUSION

- Parishioners were engaged in the discussion about the strengths and aspirations of the parish
- The committee gained excellent first-hand testimonies that will be used to convey the spirit and intention of Holy Family through the Profile

PREPARING THE PROFILE

- Committee is in the drafting stage
- Submits to the Diocese for review
- Submits to the vestry for approval

AFTER THE PROFILE

- Once the Profile is approved and made public, the search is officially opened
- The period to submit applications will last eight weeks
- We are on a 12-18 month timeline, start to finish, to call a rector

PARISH PARTICIPATION

- Ask priests you know and respect to inquire through the diocesan deployment office
- Add your history to the timeline that is running down the hallway from the Parish Hall to the Nave
 - It's part of telling our story now
 - And will be a gift for the new rector
- Pray!
 - For the priest God is calling whose name is not yet known to us
 - For the congregation that must say goodbye to its priest
 - For our clergy—Jim, Michelle, and Paula
 - For the search committee

CHARGE

- In January, the Vestry charged the Search Committee with the responsibility of searching for and identifying, through prayerful discernment and a rigorous review process, a candidate to serve as the new rector of Church of the Holy Family
- Our goal and our prayer is to present a candidate to the Vestry who will be our priest in our journey to be transformed into the image and hands of Christ through life and ministry together

Questions?

- Glad to answer any questions now
- Seek out the search committee
- Email rector_search@chfnc.net

