

Messy MAP January 14, 2012
Activity Transcription

1) *The Journey: (reflections on our journey. Make a comment about: How do you achieve your practices? What (little or big) action(s) can your parish start doing right now to achieve one of your chosen practices? What practical activities can you begin to meet our MAP mandate through your practices? What are the strengths of your community? How can we work together to help each other reach our goals?)*

Work on: financial sustainability; increase pastoral visits by laity; work toward team ministry

Strengths: welcoming to young families and all ages; food bank site

Cultivate hospitable heart in yourself and assist others to be so as well; suspend your own agenda in order to welcome others

Strengths: we believe; we have faith; we have a common tradition; we have people; we have facilities; we have no corporate affiliations

Community service; ministry to seniors and healing

After discerning all our ministries what are common ones, where can we aid each other?

Service in the community; worship in the community; all ministries

Hospitality; training our parishioners to be more open to newcomers; not overpowering but friendly and helpful and attentive; understand the basic meaning of hospitality and put it into practice

Sessions on non-sectarian faith and spirituality for dialogue and learning; urban monasticism gatherings of the interested

Hospitality; welcoming seniors to coffee or lunch regularly at Ateria House

Contemplation: become a spiritual centre; encourage people to be still; be present; psalm 23 – lead people to still waters; propose a regional meditation/contemplation garden

Redefine the presentation of our core ministries

Start with acceptance & forgiveness and then move forward to achieve anything

St Catherine's to have their summer Sunday evening services at the labyrinth in Newport Village in conjunction with St John's

Ministry to seniors; helping to include talents and wisdom from our elder members; mentoring children

Campus ministry at SFU: fellowship; meditation; communion; community reflection

2) Walls of Jericho: (Activity – You’ve got questions? So do we! Write a newspaper ad, story board or graffiti remark focusing on ideas to attract/bring the non-churched to God, such as: (1) Activities; (2) Alternative programs; (3) How to make church more accessible? (4) Spiritual outreach through non-traditional methods

Got Spirituality or Religion? Want to come in and discuss your views in a safe environment? Want to discuss our similarities over differences? Com on in: “One Rive, Many Wells”

Music night for the community – not just hymns

Got questions?

Got Faith?

Open House Meditation Nights

Small informal quiet area that is open 24/7 and doesn’t look/feel like a church

Help! I’m trapped behind this wall!

Where would you like to travel to? Presentations on “Tourist” subject (aimed at baby boomers) with or without a list of religious history and done by someone who has been there

Potential Activities: community discussion/small groups on “end of life” issues and strategies for the sandwich generations

Why are we trying to attract “them”? Who are “them”? What does God want with “them”? There is no “them”. We are all God’s children and we need to learn to love and live together. Can we come and play with you?

Informal “coffee-hour” discussions about: (1) faith; (2) What is God; (3) What is the Holy Spirit? Participate as “Faith Communities” at community meetings.

Cornerstone – do not remove

Neighbourhood chaplaincy model – hang about with the intention in those places other congregate. As them about what is important to them. Fins common concerns and share your hope with them

Acceptance of everyone

Scared off of church? Try Eucharist ion the Street. Break bread as Christ did. “Hats Off on the (Burnaby) Heights” street festival, June 2/2012

Potential activities: presentations to the community on estate planning

Interfaith discussions to learn more about our society>>>development of tolerance

Cornerstone Communion at SFU: Welcome. Communion and fellowship lunch on Thursdays at 11:30 in the Cornerstone Building. Please join us; we’d like to meet you.

- 3) ***Messy Communion: (Activity: Altar Cloth - Ask each of the clergy to outline their hand(s) in any colour permanent marker they choose. Decorate the cloth with other symbols, etc. In the book provided, make comments, write ideas and dream dreams about how you see our regional clergy team evolving. This is a book where anything goes. It doesn't matter if your community would never go for it or a Bishop has already said "no way". If you have dreamt of it happening one day, write it down.)***

Like the hands on the cloth, hands of people from different parishes, working together on shared ministries; where if several people from different parishes have the same ideas, they share and work together for the strengthening and betterment of the ministry.

I would like to see the priests be allowed to consecrate bread and wine and the deacons be allowed to serve it at communion services. I would like to see our service times altered so they are not all at the same time but have enough time between them that clergy could cover the services of more than one parish when necessary (vacation/sabbatical/leave etc) without having to pay extra for supply clergy

Clergy and lay leaders need to be owned by the whole community. When we play favourites amongst the disciples we risk denying God's larger plan for the Body of Christ

Buy a bus to get seniors to church as we join together. More and more seniors are not driving and NEED CHURCH

Spirituality; healing; vision for life in a changing/confusing world

Complement each other's strengths so that you don't have to be all things to all people

Car pools happen but back-ups don't, need to recognize that church attendance depends on carpools. Recognize, reward, support, relieve

We are small church people but big hearted; need more open minds and doors

Use strengths of regional clergy to support each parish in region

Have the clergy attend community events both within and outside the church and tell those in outside events who they are and where they're from

Allow deacons to administer a "blessed" communion; develop lay leadership to be a link between deacons and parishioners

Ministry to "shut-ins"; more authority and flexibility for deacons

- 4) ***Jesus is found in the Temple: (Activity: How can our buildings sustain us? on the scroll, write, draw, doodle a vision for your church property or one of the other church properties in our region. If appropriate, note the name of the church you are visioning. If you could have any kind of building what would you build? How could the building and land serve the community? How would you design it to be shared with the local community? Is there potential to obtain revenues from the community activities? Where would the facility be located? How can the facilities address our formal and informal spiritual needs?***

Three variations: 1) Development of site as a multi-purpose "Christian Centre" incorporating worship space, a community use accommodation for social purposes as need locally, e.g. meeting and/or office space for non-profit community groups or other compatible religious/social/educational/community organizations. St Margaret's has the advantage of suitable undeveloped land appropriate to this kind of development and use; (2) location on present site; (3) address formal and informal spiritual need with the combination of orthodox Christian/social/educational activities

Storefront coffee shop/lending library with small meditation room in back; convertible to worship space on Sundays

4-5 storey building; top floors for commercial rentals – revenue shared by developer/church; bottom floor used for church activities, sanctuary, hall, daycare, coffee room

Solar panels

St Timothy's – tree church on lawn made out of flora near the meditation labyrinth; a place to attract teenagers to visit; a little space where they would be attracted to outside and we'd have a chance to meet with them and bring them in; this could be full of possibilities – whatever would bring them to hang out near the church - a place to sit together or skateboard where they would consider the church

Big font for adult baptisms; beams, adaptable worship space; modern a/v; no pews; centre/moveable altar; historic value (maintain some of our features); space for altar guild; indoor labyrinth; safe place for youth/children; indoor/outdoor coffee space; door with street access; outside space with garden/bistro/labyrinth; washrooms and showers; large working kitchen; washer and dryer; office/meeting spaces with moveable walls

Kitchen, library/reading room; study/teaching/education space; elevators; social services offices; offices/meeting spaces with moveable walls

Storage storage and more storage for: sleeping mats for homeless shelter and storage for clients' belongings or they aren't afraid to come in

Community kitchen; food co-op; community garden; coffee bar; showers for homeless with a new set of clothes; flex space/moveable walls

A large open, flexible area full of God's love; small sanctuary; storage; office space large kitchen; shelter space for up to 15

No pews – chairs to facilitate different worship configurations; accessible sanctuary to include people with disabilities as readers and at the altar; bathrooms on the same level as the worship space; elevators as necessary

5) The Good Samaritan: (Activity: "who is my neighbour?" collage: (1) Things that we have done together; write, draw or otherwise make note of past and current joint ventures; (2) Things that we want to do; how can we start working together today in pairs, as a region, in subgroups?)

I would love to see a regional weekend retreat focussing on outreach ministry

We could have: more pulpit exchanges, more interaction with inter-parish; develop a common float for city parades; share deacons

Opportunities: regional youth (teenager) group; share Messy Church; regional activities for young adults

Visiting events at each other churches to get ideas and help for programs we want to run

Men's breakfasts

We share: EfM, Stewardship

"When the morally right thing harms your neighbour it is no longer the morally right thing" collectively counter the absolutes of the right wing that hijack our faith

Joint stewardship: participate with united church in social activities and some church services; building maintenance

Joint stewardship: programs sharing human resources and developing joint stewardship materials

1 year of Regional MAP

Summer solstice celebration

Church history – region; province

Get involved in local politics

Outreach to families in need and all other needs in our community

Making building available for non-churchy activities

Pulpit swaps

Support local initiatives like SHARE, LUMS, Tri-City Housing, and Tri-City Women's (?)

Have done joint services in the past

Improve inter-parish communication

Expand participation in EfM

More pulpit swapping

Joint EfM

Do joint outreach – e.g. homeless/hungry support

Better use of existing sites

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Pulpit exchange

3 parish Lenten book study

Campus ministry at SFU spread the word

Shared chair for Regional MAP

Work to end homelessness. Burnaby needs cold weather shelters

Sharing deacons

Joint youth gatherings

Clergy coverage

Two congregations join once a month in community

Regional adult Messy Church to introduce people to what the Anglican Church has to offer

Better use of existing sites

- 6) ***The feeding of the 5,000: (Activity: Braiding Bread: Find 2 other people from 2 other parishes (3 people in all, each from a different parish). Working together, braid 3 strips of bread into a loaf and put onto a baking sheet to rise. Talk about and make notes on the poster boards: (1) What food sufficiency programs is your parish currently providing? (2) What shelter programs is your parish currently providing? (3) What joint programs/opportunities could we take advantage of as a region to feed the community?***

Pre-synod presentation: Metro Vancouver Alliance is a partnership between labour and faith advocating together on issues of social justice. The group decides together what to work on.

Synod/Diocese office: promotes food and shelter programs in communication through Michael, the Bishop. Promotes networking between parishes doing food stuff, e.g. Last year's pre-synod day.

I would like to see the Anglican Church be a more politically active voice questioning our government about why food banks have become the norm instead of the stop gap measure they were meant to be.

St Catherine's hosts Paul's Place, a weekly lunch program on Wednesdays. Everyone enjoys sharing a meal and the volunteers all get a chance to join in the meal. It runs in conjunction with the Food Bank and a 10am service.

St Columba Pitt Meadows: food bank, day care after school, participating in the Caring Place, we get day old bread and veg from local businesses; support Cuthera Place

Opportunity to do food programs together? Need to look at size, central locations near easy transit.

St Timothy's is the North Burnaby depot for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Every Thursday we have 170+ people lining up for physical food and spiritual feeding through our food bank hosts who provide pastoral care to clients.

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St Stephen's: we have a large kitchen with a "community kitchen" once a month. They create meals together and everyone takes a variety of meals home with them.

Cold Wet Weather MAT: support and provide people resources. Food and clothing supplied by parish. Affiliated with Hope for Freedom and St Andrew's United.

Provide vouchers for food for families in need and visit at the same time. We need more visitors.

St Timothy's has/had a women's activity day making food together for distribution at the food bank at St Tim's. We would socialize while making something fresh (e.g. bread)

St John's: family Food Bank (every 2 weeks); supported fully by parish; food through Quest and donations; luncheon served by parish; holiday meals, school supplies, Angel Gift Program

Assist Community Food Bank and have a community lunch weekly (also host community meals). Potential for cold weather shelter with Trinity United; approach other organizations to assist in hosting additional community meals and; approach community retailers to provide food and donations; participate in regional activities to reduce the need for Food Banks and informal shelters.

St Margaret's: supporting an indigent family on a continuing basis; also at Thanksgiving and other occasions donations in cash & kind are made to organizations such as the Food Bank

- 7) ***Fishers of Men: (Activity: Elevator pitch/story board: An elevator pitch is a short concise statement that you might use when talking to someone who is not familiar with church. Write your pitch on one of the fish and attach it to the mural. It's ok to work in groups of 2's and 3's. Some ideas to get you started: (1) Why do you go to church? Describe what you get out of church (2) What is the Holy Spirit? (3) Why should I do what God wants me to do? (4) What does faith mean? (5) Why you should come to my church. Some writing tips: (1) The hook: open your pitch by getting the person's attention with a hook; (2) Keep it to 150-225 words, about 30-60 seconds in length; (3) Passion: people expect to find passion and dedication from those who truly believe; (4) A request: at the end of the pitch you must ask for something. Do you want to know more? Do you want someone to contact you? Would you care to come to one of our coffee times?)***

Would you like to go fishing with me? I know a place that is sunny warm, has beautiful waterfalls and plenty of fish. It is a peaceful place with more of everything that one could ask or imagine. We will find everything we need and be part of a great community. Come and catch the wave...

By your actions you will be known.

At our church we're curious about what value there is underneath the myths. We're more spiritual and faith oriented.

I go to St Timothy's just north of Brentwood. It's a great community, very family oriented. Kids everywhere but the old folks love them.

Activities with the church (list here). Come and join in. Ask again. Choose the services most suited to the person or people. Listen to what they say to you. Perhaps ask what they are looking for?

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For me, the Holy Spirit is the prophetic breathe of God breathing strength in us to do what is radical; to do what we know is right even if it isn't easy. The Holy Spirit guides us on our journey to do God's will, even as the words of Jesus teach us practical ways to do God's will in our lives. The community of St Catherine's is filled with the Holy Spirit. You can see it in the teaching, questioning and supportive atmosphere as we try to understand what God is asking of us. Like most people, we ask many questions about God and faith and what it means to live a good life but being part of a strong faith community helps make stepping into the radical just a little easier.

I love my church. You don't have to leave your brain at the door; you don't have to swear to a bunch of statements. Bring your questions and issues. Bring your joys and griefs. Bring your kids – we're ready for them. Bring your sense of beauty. If you want to help make the world a better place or if you need to figure out who you are and where you're going, or if you just need a community that accepts you the way you are, it's a good place to be.

I would begin the conversation about faith by listening to the other – what is important or of concern to them? What strengths or supports do they have already? What gets them through the hard times? I would be careful to frame any expression of my belief system in language that does not lecture or condemn but offers another way of seeing things. For example: My faith draws me out of a self-absorbed way of living into a place of seeing my connectedness to all of creation and especially my kinship with other people. What is of concern or hurtful to them also hurts me. How can we find ways to work together to find solutions that honour the Holy in everything that is life giving?

Love saved me. God never left me even though I left God. God is love and love saves.

1) Acceptance of everyone; (2) healing; (3) education about the church, historical biblical sites in modern times (e.g. Jerusalem, Damascus) & mysteries (e.g. angels)

Church provides a sense of direction and moral structure in my life. The Holy Spirit is the "voice of God" giving me the direction I should take. Faith is the belief in something that cannot be proven by human reasoning alone. I feel one should worship God in any Christian church, not just my church.

Why do I believe in God? Well, a good question is it because I think there is more to life than just existence? I think we need to have a life purpose. Why are we here? The guides to discovering my life's purpose are enthusiasm, inspiration, improving my understanding of myself. I know what my life's purpose is. It gives me the ability to feel comfortable and on task as I work, play and live. Come home! Come home to St Timothy's. We have Kids' church! We welcome all ages to take part in our Sunday morning services and meditation services! Come on in and feel the pulse of the heart of the suburb! Walk the labyrinth! Meditate! Enjoy communion, fellowship and spiritual guidance! Anglican service followed by coffee hour every Sunday @ 10am.

I go to church to re-affirm my faith in the teachings and of God and Jesus Christ and to receive the blessing and communion with my fellow parishioners. I enjoy hearing Paul's sermons. I enjoy the friendship of the people we meet at church.

Elevator Speech: Don't be alarmed, I'm not a Bible thumper! I have no agenda or need to convert you to my way of thinking. I am open to your doubts and darkness and questions, like: where do you get off?

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Notes from discussion group after the service:

Tony Sauder opened discussion following our messy MAP activities, worship and lunch. Not all were able to remain for this part; there was some moving in and out but about two dozen participated. Tony cautioned us that some ideas generated today will take more effort and some less.

Have we learned something today?

- different ways to look at a problem
- appreciate the creativity itself
- big change in thinking about our buildings: moving out or adapting
- "elevator speeches" led to discussion of opportunities that arise to speak of our faith
- messy church as a way to reach out to unchurched in a less formal way

Materials from the 7 stations could be summarized or rotated, the better to share this with our parishes. Arlene Sturn asked what people want.

- a way to elicit from our parishes what they want from MAP
- rotating the materials, 2 weeks for each parish, would take about 16 weeks but this could be shortened with 2 priests each covering 2 parishes, carrying the materials back and forth
- rotating materials probably more appropriate for the Sts. Catherine, Columba and John as the others concentrate on the Team Ministry proposal and move forward more quickly
- need to keep involving parishioners even if the timeline seems long
- make background materials available to the parishes, including the stories and directions for the activities: photocopy or put descriptors to the visuals and distribute the video

Tasha Carrothers described our impasse as 3 dimensional tic-tac-toe

- parishes are in different places: some are gathering data; some, visioning the future;
- At this stage of MAP, frustration and fatigue are common but it is also a time when excitement can build. We have to accept that we are not all on the same page.
- She asked us, "Do you split into the group of 4 and the group of 3 for now and come together in the future or do you keep going as the larger group?"
 - The decision was made to split into 2 working groups that may choose to meet together at a future date
 - Sts. Laurence, Margaret, Stephen, and Timothy will meet to consider the Team Ministry proposal in time to draft presentations to their respective vestries (January 24, 7 pm, St. Laurence). Rev. Trudy Lebens, Geri Grigg and Rick Barr will confer on agenda, process and timeline. (Each parish is currently at a different stage of introducing the proposal to their congregation.)
 - Sts. Catherine, Columba and John will get together to continue their dialogue and explorations (tentatively January 26).