

During this visioning time, we ask that all members of the Church of the Good Shepherd take time to...

- Pray for this parish,
- Listen for God's word



The following prayer may be used in your daily prayer for the parish as we go through the visioning process...

Assist us merciful Lord Jesus; we have no idea where we are going. We do not see the road ahead of us. We know not for certain where it will end. Are we following your will, or are we following our will? Make us instruments Lord that we can do your work. Cleanse us of our desires so that we can do only what is your desire. We know that if we do this you will lead us by the right road. All our trust will be in you Lord Jesus. We shall fear not, for you will never leave us to face our perils alone.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Visioning Task Force encourages you to contact any one of us with your questions or comments.

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In Christ, all things are possible

—Special Edition—

The Visioning Corner

Church of the Good Shepherd

October 2007

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24

We all realize that every once in a while individuals, families, businesses and communities need to sit back and take stock of where they are and where they want to be. Church communities are no different. Society changes, and so does its needs. Not to reflect on this leads to a narrow vision, following a single direction which has become comfortable, perhaps, but ill fitting, like an old set of clothes. The community no longer serves those it was meant to serve.

As a servant community, led by our Lord, Jesus Christ, it is now our time to evaluate where we are and decide where we are being called to serve. By doing so, we will serve others more successfully and, in turn, better serve ourselves.

“How are we going to do this?” you are probably asking. Good question. First and foremost, we are going to do it together, which means every parishioner counts. The vision process is a “grassroots” approach based on your and, collectively, our spiritual discernment. Our basic question to answer is: “What does God want Good Shepherd to do at this point in time, based on our strengths?” In other words, what should our future be?

As of this newsletter, your Vestry has had a retreat exploring and discussing this vision process. Next on the horizon is a Visioning Forum

on Sunday, Oct. 21. The forum will be your opportunity to learn more about the process, ask questions and learn how you can be involved in discerning the future of Good Shepherd. Following that, there will be a series of Home Gatherings where small groups of parishioners can come together to share thoughts, explore and discuss where we are and where we want to be.

On the inside of this Special Edition, you will find the timeline we will be following over the next many months. Take out this insert, post it where you can refer to it and mark your calendars as the various gatherings, small and large, are announced.




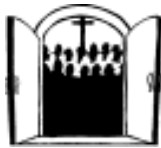
The Vision Task Force Group

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If you would be interested in hosting a gathering, please call a Task Force member!

Preliminary Visioning Time Line

August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Vestry to discuss <u>Discerning Your Congregation's Future</u> First meeting of core Task Force Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vestry and Task Force Retreat: Sept. 28 and 29 Set up hosts and home meetings for Oct., Nov., and early Dec. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Force training for home meetings. Sunday Forum: October 21 Begin home meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Meeting with Visioning Update: January 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Force preps for 1st Congregational Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Congregational Meeting: focus on Parish History Task Force preps for 2nd Congregational Meeting 

**Interested in hosting a Home Meeting?
Please call a Task Force member!**

April 2008	May – August	September 2008	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Congregational Meeting: focus on Norms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview key people in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vestry and Task Force Retreat: clarifying goals Feedback on goals with congregation. Task Force prep 3rd Congregational Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Congregational Meeting: focus on Endorsing goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write Mission Statement, provide opportunities for feedback from congregation. Rewrite Mission Statement as feedback is received. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vestry adopts Mission Statement and Goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Meeting: Accept Mission Statement and Goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop implementation steps: Vestry and an implementation task force 

Listen with the ear of your heart

— St. Benedict