

Our Next Step

Into God's Restoration of the World

A Ministry Plan for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mount Vernon, Washington
By The Vestry and Clergy of St. Paul's

*We believe that God is healing and restoring the world,
and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.*

St. Paul's has a long history and legacy of vibrant ministry in the Skagit Valley. At this point in our journey, the Vestry and Clergy of St. Paul's are calling for focused work on the redevelopment of our ministries so that we can be stronger participants in what God is doing in the world.

We believe that God is leading us to take many steps into the future God envisions for us including:

- Continuing to welcome people with diverse backgrounds and age groups
- Strengthening our care of our current membership
- Developing youth and children's ministry
- Enjoying the world and people God has put in our lives

The Vestry and Clergy envision a future in which we broaden participation of all age groups and other diversities in our ministry, has a vital ministry among our participants, and a lively engagement with the community in service and public conversation. We feel we have good strengths to build on: a good facility in a good location, a quality worship life, many ministries, honest and interesting conversation, and an energetic and committed membership.

To best utilize the gifts that we have as a congregation the Vestry and Clergy will seek to:

1. Strengthen the baptismal ministry of all people
2. Explore a 5 year Experience of Total Common Ministry with the congregation
3. Support the intentional stewardship of the congregation
4. Engage in realistic but hopeful budgeting and diligent money management
5. Encourage planned giving on the part of the congregation's members

(We will encourage members of the congregation to make an unrestricted legacy gift to the congregation to help the St. Paul's take our next step into God's healing and restoration:

- i. Operational budget
- ii. Maintenance and upgrades to our facility)

Our next step includes partnership with leaders of the congregation in focused attention in these areas:

- Pastoral Care • Worship Life and Faith Practices • Children's and Youth Ministry
- Faith Formation • Hospitality to and Incorporation of New Participants • Public Conversation
- Serving Ministry • Management and Leadership
- Internal Communication • Deepening our Relationships With Each Other

The Vestry and Clergy believe that St. Paul's has all the gifts we need to take our next step into God's Healing and Restoration. We trust the Holy Spirit will bring us to joyful participation in God's restoration of the world – until God makes all things new.

