

World Café 4/1/23

Why are you committed to Saint Paul's?

- God's hands & feet in the congregation
- Committed people- talk the talk, walk the walk
- Worship in the community and serve it as well
- See God's face in members
- Family, feel good, feel comfortable here
- Most honest, members understand we are helping each other
- Most AA church. Acceptance of woundedness. Help repair our damage
- Intimate feeling- parish family. Can ask and receive forgiveness
- Diverse, eclectic group
- So many come from different backgrounds. Not many "cradle Episcopalians"
- Sunday school nourishment- learning about scripture and each other.
- Always stay family- will not walk away, will work out differences
- We have feet on the ground.

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- Lew Heigham's commitment to keeping it going
 - Parish has grown
 - Feels like home. "Pull for the underdog"
 - Life-long Episcopalian.
 - Good clergy.
 - Peaceful
 - Can use gifts
 - "Good difference" Acceptance. Part of the family.
 - Choir
 - Reach those who need us most.
 - Authenticity. Love.
 - Support for spiritual growth

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- Upbeat church, upbeat people
 - Ready for all worldly people. Accept all people.
 - Small size.
 - Outreach
 - Sunday school.
 - Diversity
 - Looking for a place to grow.
 - I feel good to practice what I believe
 - Raise my family here.
 - Sermons.
 - Feel warm when come in
 - Family feeling
 - [As a recovering catholic] started starving for the spiritual
 - God's hands and feet on the ground
 - Not giving up on spiritual growth
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- Committed to the outreach that St. Paul's provides
- The ability to have a place for someone in need
- History- 6th generation- Very strong family connection
- Church is here for people that need it
- Loves everyone here! Never been in a church like this!
- Became a home
- Committed because of Love
- Worship is just right- perfect mix of traditional and informality and humor
- Best pastor ever
- The relationships I have here
- Pastor Rebecca
- The way the church lifted me up with love and compassion when my husband died
- The music- fun, informal yet spiritual and purposeful
- Recovering catholic
- No other traditions felt right
- Wasn't being fed in last Episcopal church
- Now grows spiritual
- Sunday school
- We all support each other
- Here because feel the need of community
- Authenticity of people here

What do you love about St. Paul's? Are there ways we could maximize our strengths? What would you change if it were possible to do so?

What do you love about St. Paul's?

- Welcome
- Music
- Rebecca- her realities
- Clergy, community, acceptance, support
- Enjoy services, music, and sermons
- Community of persons present

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- People
 - Accepting
 - Variety- not boring
 - Worship- traditional service music
 - Rector
 - Outreach

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- Family feeling, Welcoming, Spirituality
 - Family feel, instantly accepted, beautiful worship
 - Community, welcomed no matter how long been attending
 - Feel love instantly when walk into doors
 - Has the solemn worship/liturgy along with humor
 - Not stiff! Relaxed and beautiful
 - Physical look of church

- Family feeling

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- I love the people- small congregation to carry out God's commission
 - Preaching
 - The people
 - Openness to other traditions i.e. Celtic
 - The people
 - The people- connections to people and God
 - Authenticity
 - The service and family

Are there ways we could maximize our strengths?

- Diversity- boots on the ground
- We are being (?) in serving our community
- Yes, more outreach

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- People use their own strengths
 - Promote live stream worship
 - More people participating other than Sunday morning
 - Be more visible in neighborhood
 - Promotion

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- Room for every type of person, accepting, great outreach
 - Having more opportunities to interact
 - Continue to grow choir program
 - Do more things together outside church
 - More church outings, see more growth in choir
 - Figuring out a working choir space to grow choir
 - Encourage women to come to ECW
 - Choir

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- More organized
 - Be more of a joiner
 - Be more vocal to those who do not know about us
 - Communicate more about his gem
 - More outreach to others- "Visit just one time"
 - Buddy system to get more parishioners involved

What would you change if it were possible to do so?

- Change- money coming in
- More outreach/ more with food
- Helping me grow spiritually, adult classes grow my mind
- I would love to change the environment of Church
- Sunday- parish's community outreach leads to more of the community showing out on Sundays
- More individual contact

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- More people find out about us
 - ~~Pews~~ moveable seating
 - Opinion about demolishing Heigham House

- Reaching out to neighborhood
- Be more visible in the neighborhood

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- After church fellowship to connect with people
 - Would like through the week activities
 - Bring back 8:00AM service
 - Parking
 - More youth programs

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- Win the lottery and have money for mission/priest
 - Change myself to be more vocal
 - My commitment to show up more
 - Work with other churches in the area to increase
 - Ask the bishop to give us more money

Imagine the best-case scenario for St. Paul's in 3- 5 years. What does it look like for you?

- Importance of the parsonage- priests may need it
- Neighborhood outreach- tutoring - aging /older adults
- Don't tear down house for parking
- Providing a home for clergy or students
- Continue to grow as community, pull more people and more youth
- Partner with YMCA to pull use -> Heigham House
- What would attract families to come?
- Multigenerational parish
- Multigenerational music growth
- Multigenerational parish growth

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- Grow in numbers
 - Continue outreach, music, barbeque
 - More people, more money
 - Able to grow community feeling they are part of St. Paul's
 - Younger people- food thing- playground
 - Changing physical appearance
 - Kids activities
 - Keep openness with neighborhood
 - Money brought in by pledges- make church independent

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- Continue to grow
 - Feed people in neighborhood
 - Continue to gather in groups/discuss growth opportunities
 - "Snowball" analogy
 - More people, more \$
 - More kids, Sunday School, VBS
 - Food pantry
 - Hub 4 Community
 - Reach out to marginalized communities

- Financial Solvency (would have to double giving to do that now)
- Younger membership

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- Increase congregation by 20%
 - Pledges would cover expenses
 - Demographic spread- younger members
 - Active youth ministry -> neighborhood kids
 - International Institute like would partner with us to increase income
 - Congregational growth. Self-sustaining.
 - Use building more.
 - Community-financial partnership
 - Use building for community - tutoring
 - Choir from neighborhood
 - Involve more young people
 - Need ways to use building to grow financially
 - Grow to have two services
 - Young couples to have more commitment when children are involved
 - Income matches expense

Talk about rehabilitating Heigham House or removing Heigham House for parking. What are your thoughts and feelings, and why?

- Rehabed but depends on cost
 - Try to save house
 - Need parking but HH could be used for youth programs
 - We need to balance cost with rehab and keeping house and tearing down
 - Use as a rental for student going through seminary
- Value of house 150k if sold
 - Debt 175k, tear it down = \$87,000
 - A lot of debt for parking spaces
 - 2 possible parking lots for Sundays, minimal charge
- New here, but as a newcomer there was no parking, had to walk a ways, it was cold...but now with more information
- At first- tear house down NEED parking
 - Vacant Lot- could cause problem- people hanging out and others using spaces
 - Not attractive to have the parking lot there
 - Ministry partners good option
 - Shuttle available for those parking far away

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- Purpose, intention
 - Use and intention for space/save
 - Look forward
 - House is important
 - Parking - need
 - Parking- blessing for Church
 - Children play area
 - Not interested in rehab house

- Additional parking now down the street
 - Looking into renovation of the house
 - Many possibilities for use of HH
- We have community space now
- Parking lot would open up walkthrough space which could increase crime
- Buildable space on top of current parish hall

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- Rehab- turn it into something the neighborhood needs
 - Need to make money out of it
 - Save the house. Could be a money maker
 - Other places to park
 - Senior center, tutoring center
 - Would a parking lot do anything for the church?
 - Rehab- getting info on cost
 - \$150-180 as is value as is
 - Do not know the cost of tearing it down
 - Shortage of affordable housing
 - A safe house
 - Meeting house to use for youth
 - Affect future of St. Paul's
 - Could be a home for next priest
 - Is there a potential financial aspect of having a parking lot?
 - Drug deals are hidden by the house
 - Church-priests not a land lord
 - Need a partner
 - The house is like an old car- keep putting \$ into the house
 - Need a real plan
 - Need a time line
 - Need to tear down the house
 - Not livable
 - Cost the church every month
 - More may rent our space if we had a decent parking lot

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- More parking needed
 - Use house with ministry partner
 - Current status should change
 - Security
 - Maintenance
 - Possible future use as rectory
 - Possible sale for income
 - More cost-effective to keep it
 - Place for family in need

From the Facilitator for World Café Question 4, Deacon Barbi:

I would like to add my own compilation from Table/Question 4 about Heigham House.

While the statements might not show it, out of the 16+ people that came to that table, there were exactly 2 who were sure the house should be torn down and replaced with a parking lot and exactly 2 who were just as sure that the house should be saved, renovated, used.

Everyone else saw both sides of the concern, the pluses and the minuses. Only 4 were absolutely sure and resolved.