

June 3, 2010

North Worcester Summit Meeting

Host – Christ Church, Fitchburg

Attendance – Representatives from:

Christ Church – Fitchburg
Good Shepherd – Fitchburg
All Saints – Leominster
St. Mark's- Leominster
St. Paul's – Gardner
St. John's – Athol

Bible Study: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12 (led by Rev Bill Coyne)

Discussion notes:

- Death living in us, but Jesus in me
- Through Jesus' death, life in us
- Non believers kept blind
- The god of this age.....
- Afflicted but not crushed
- Asking the "why" question – what is God trying to teach me

What have we learned/experienced since our last gathering April 8, 2010?

- May 16th St. Mark's and All Saint's shared a service
 - All Saint's enjoyed it
 - Fr. Jim Craig was on vacation and Fr. Hendy filled in from All Saint's
- April 28th All Saint's had a parish meeting
 - Laid out parameters to keep the parish going for 12 months
 - Starting point was to set goals
 - August 29th free concert by Christian Rock band for All Parish Day
 - Sending out 400 invitations around the area
 - Hosting a Bar-B-Que
- June 20th Bishop Scruton to visit All Saint's
 - Brunch will follow 9:00 am service with music
- Christ Church – S. Barre is celebrating 100th anniversary with a series of events
 - Bill Coyne to join them next week
- St. Mark's – Leominster
 - Hosted a luncheon for veterans
 - Doing collections for military in Afganistan, etc.

- Jun 6th Church school closing will be at Camp David in Shirley
- St. Paul's and St. John's
 - Had a great turnout for the Pentecost celebration at Christ Church, Fitchburg
 - Gardner and Athol share a priest half time for three years (model for how it can be done)
 - Lay people have to pick up the slack
 - Pastoral care, visiting shut ins
 - Vestry does more without a full time priest
- Good Shepherd vestry voted to merge with Christ Church
 - Long difficult process that took three years
 - Listened to the Bishop, members, allow for grief.....
 - Nesting in Christ Church Chapel during month of June with own 9:00 am service
 - Merge into Christ Church services in July
 - Property to be appraised
 - Sep 26th Bishop Scruton coming at 4:00 pm to bring some closure
 - Need checking in on the merge process
- Christ Church – Fitchburg
 - Wardens meetings with Good Shepherd
 - Welcoming the “missionaries” home to Christ Church
 - Synergy is God's doing
 - Karen Campbell's office moved to Christ Church
 - Continuing with Rector search
 - Have three candidates from the Diocese
 - Calling for a priest in charge with option for rector
 - Have had awesome supply priests

Debrief on the Pentecost Celebration.

- Great time with great music
- More fun with more people
- Need to do this more times over the year
 - Epiphany??
- Combined Sunday worship can be disruptive, perhaps an evening service??
- Everyone brought something
- All together – light shining
- Voices of the combined choirs
- Having three clergy at the altar

- Decision of Good Shepherd merging with Christ Church was a big surprise
- Thought would be All Saint's and Good Shepherd merge
- Kept the April 28th meeting as an all parish meeting
 - Gave guidelines for benchmarks for October 28, and December 28.
 - Hoping that the Concert August 29th will be well attended
 - Counting on getting new people to come
 - New finances coming in

Discussion ensued on Good Shepherd and All Saint's

Next Steps

- All will support the August 29th event at All Saint's
- Having more combined services
 - All Saints Day or All Hollows Eve Service

Next Meeting will be:

Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 6:00 pm at All Saint's – Leominster

There will be a safe church training at Christ Church on June 7th at 6:30 pm

Notetaker: Marilyn Benoit