

Dear members of St. Brendan's,

In preparation for developing a Mission Statement and a Values Statement at the parish meeting following worship on Sunday, September 10, the Vestry/Renewal Team proposes the following two models that might serve as a starting point for crafting a single parish mission statement:

1) *The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to **love, serve** and **praise**:*

- + to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
- + to **serve** the needs of each other and those on the island and beyond,
- + to **praise** God in all things.

2) *The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to **love** one another as Christ loves us, to **support** each other on our journey in faith through life, and to **minister** to the needs of those on the island and beyond.*

Our task at the meeting will be to consider adopting a single Mission Statement that will drive our life and work as a congregation for the next 13 months of the parish renewal period. The Vestry/Renewal Team suggests the following criteria to inform our deliberations at the meeting:

The parish mission statement should be:

- 1) **Memorable** and
- 2) **Memorable**: people need to be able to recall from memory at least the important features of the statement;
- 3) **Succinct** enough to be useful in all our publications and publicity;
- 4) **Definitive**: the statement should define who we are at St. Brendan's and where we should be headed as God's people;
- 5) **Distinctive**, recalling what makes us unique as a parish;
- 6) **Comprehensive**: it speaks in relevant ways to all we try to do and be, especially in this time of transition and renewal;
- 7) **Comprehensible**, easily understood by all.

In addition, the Vestry/Renewal Team proposes that we consider adopting a set of values to guide us in how we work together as a parish. Here is a proposed Values Statement to serve as a possible guide for our work at the meeting:

*These are our **values** at St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church. We will:*

- + **Treat others with respect and compassion;***
- + **Listen to others with trust and appreciation;***
- + **Seek God's goodness in each person;***
- + **Strive for consensus and work collaboratively;***
- + **Join in acts of loving kindness;***
- + **Share our faith joyfully across the generations;***
- + **Learn from our past and look to the future with hope.***

At the end of this process, we hope to have a Parish Mission Statement, and a Parish Values Statement that, combined with the already-adopted Parish Renewal Plan, will set our agenda and guide our work and life at St. Brendan's into the new year.

We look forward to engaging together in this exciting and important work on Sunday, September 10 following worship!

St. Brendan's Vestry/Parish Renewal Team