

Vestry Retreat

April 5, 2025

Your Vestry held a retreat last Saturday. We gathered at 9:00 a.m. on a sunny day at the Southwestern Yacht Club, a beautiful setting provided by one of our Vestry members. Reverend Roger opened with a prayer service and an ice breaker, and then we got right to work!

Bob Dunn reviewed Vestry roles and responsibilities, leadership and governance. We were provided a copy of St. John's Parish By-laws. Its one of the jobs of a Vestry member to know what is in the bylaws and where to find answers, so we have homework!

Bob also told us about two resolutions from the Diocesan 2024 Convention that the Diocese has asked each parish in the Diocese to consider.

We had a discussion about what the protocol might be if law enforcement or immigration officials should arrive at St. John's and wish to enter the property. ECS has their own protocol regarding the preschool. We have some information from the Diocese regarding this.

Our guest from the Diocese was the Reverend Canon Allisyn Thomas, who gave a presentation on Listening as a Spiritual Practice. I really enjoyed this presentation, which brought out different kinds of listening, attempts we make, what we are sometimes doing when others are speaking (formulating our response, so we're not listening with intent). She also spoke about listening for God to speak to us. I learned a lot from this and I want to try to be more intentional when I am listening to others.

We were each asked to complete a personal Spiritual Gifts Inventory before coming to the retreat. Rev. Canon Allyson and Diane Gustafson took our scores and then listed them on a chart so we could see what gifts members of the Vestry have. It was interesting and in some cases revealing as we consider how to use those talents in our Parish. It would be helpful if parishioners completed the inventory. I'm sure many of you have gifts that you may not have discovered yet.

After lunch, Rev. Canon Allyson led us in a review of the Mutual Ministry Agreement. This agreement was reviewed, revised and signed by Rev. Roger and the Vestry when he was called. It contains roles and responsibilities for the rector, the Vestry, and the Congregation.

Rev. Roger and Jeff Bates led a discussion on the Mission and Vision of St. John's, and a touch on goals for 2025, which we will pursue further at a future Vestry meeting.

- Who is God calling us to be
- Where and what is God calling us to do
- Ongoing ministries
- Course correction - anything need to be eliminated or added

Finally as we set goals for 2025, how do we implement them and how do we engage the Parish in the process (Mutual Ministry Agreement).

Rev. Roger gave a closing prayer and the Retreat was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. - a full day with lots of work and great inspiration!

Lynn Young
Vestry Clerk