

# The Chimes

## Summer 2008

The Newsletter of St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
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Dear Friends:

Lively discussions were one of the primary focuses of this year's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 4. People at each of the tables were asked to respond to four questions which were developed at the Vestry's retreat (with the help of our consultant Carroll Sheppard) in April.

Each of the four questions centered on the issue of accessibility. The questions were:

1. What is the most welcoming and accessible aspect of our worship? Are there things we can do to make our worship and other events more accessible and meaningful?
2. Are there things we can do to make our communications more accessible?
3. Are there things we can do to make ourselves more accessible to each other and the surrounding community?
4. What are our hopes and dreams for how St. Mary's might be more welcoming and accessible?

All of the responses from each of the table are currently being collated and will be distributed with a summary of the main issues in the near future. However, it is clear that one of the primary issues people dealt with was the accessibility of our worship, particularly at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist.

It was noted by one table leader that none of the people at his table were raised in the Episcopal Church. It was widely recognized that our style of worship is fairly traditional. While people like this style of worship, many of them also expressed a desire to learn more about why we worship as we do. Some of the suggestions offered to make our worship more accessible include an occasional instructed Eucharist, the development of a booklet explaining the different parts of the service and the rituals involved, and regular worship notes in the bulletin.

While not all of the suggestions made at the Annual Meeting will ultimately be implemented, our community life will be strengthened by open and honest discussions. I hope that the experience at this year's Annual Meeting will encourage us to continue these conversations and become a more accessible Christian community. I am

Yours, in Christ

Acolytes

Robert Boyer

Altar Guild

Joan Bulley

Fall Fair

Mary Bale, Susan Huck

Building and Grounds

Drew Betten

Church School Committee Co-chairs

Mary Dixon, Kim Wetzel

Fellowship

Drew Betten

Finance

Robert Boyer

Greeters

Rick Assoian

Newcomers

Rick Assoian, Mary Dixon

Men of St. Mary's

Drew Betten

Outreach

Toni Hoffacker

Spiritual Resources

Robert Boyer

Stewardship

Richard Greene, Mary Ann Jones,  
Gordon Fowler, Dave Phillips,  
John Radford

Ushers

Harry Bulley

Women of St. Mary's

Susan Huck