



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome | Diversity | Community



## Celebrating exceeding our goals!

May/June 2017 is a time of celebration for Holy Communion. As we wrap up an academic year, we are celebrating incredible growth and progress on goals we set for ourselves as a parish. **We will host a Celebration June 4 after the 10:30am service.** We'll have a big cake and a sparkling toast to a year where we met, exceeded, and made deep progress on goals we set as a congregation.

As we celebrate, we are also looking ahead. We want to hear from the congregation about your hopes and dreams for next year. The Vestry will again set goals, based on our three values: Welcome, Diversity, and Community. Below you can see some background on the Mission and Vision Process, and read about our progress on the 2016/2017 goals.

Included in this newsletter, and available on our website, the Vestry is asking all our members to fill out a survey about Mission and Vision, both celebrating the work of this year and looking to the year ahead. **Please return your responses by May 22.**

Mike+

# An Update on our Strategic Goals for 2016/2017

A look at how far we've come:

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## Welcome

### **All new visitors will receive a personal touch/follow up.**

New Visitors are receiving welcome letters and an invitation to meet with the rector.

### **Increase Average Sunday Attendance to 125.**

Our Average Sunday Attendance for 2016 was exactly 125, representing a 12% increase over the reported average of the past 10 years. As of April 23, 2017 our Average Sunday Attendance for 2017 is 156.

### **Increase weekly email recipients list from 198 to 300.**

Our weekly email list now has 302 recipients, with an average open rate of about 50%

## Diversity

### **Increase diversity of leadership in worship, and in participation in parish life.**

We have been paying strategic attention to the diversity of readers, altar servers, ushers, and those who stand up front on Sunday morning, and working to intentionally invite diverse participation in the life of the parish at all levels.

### **Create and publicly communicate a diversity statement.**

The Diversity Committee is currently drafting a statement. We hope this process will be completed this summer.

### **Convene conversations regarding Church & Diversity.**

We have held adult forums at the Church, and have participated in Diocesan level events. At the end of February, the Diocesan Anti-Racism Committee hosted a "state of anti-racism work" conversation at Holy Communion and unveiled a portrait of The Rev. Emery Washington, our late Priest Associate. We hope to continue to expand these offerings.

### **Increase diversity in our music program.**

Our choir has been leading the church in music from more diverse sources, and we have launched a children's and youth choir.



Alice Washington, The rector, Tito Gay (artist), and the Rev. Chester Hines (chair of the Diocesan Anti-Racism Committee) at the unveiling of the portrait of the late Rev. Emery Washington.

## Community

### Internal Goals

#### **Increase participation in parish events from 30 to 50 people per week.**

Thanks are to the hard work of our "Party and Prayers" group, we have seen a large increase in participation in social events like the Dinner Group, Fall Festival, and Advent Party. Theology on Tap also continues to grow. We discovered this year that these numbers are hard to quantify, so finding a reliable method of tracking may be included in next year's goals.

#### **Create a Strategy for Pastoral Care and communicate it to the parish.**

The Rev. Marc Smith held a training for new Lay Eucharistic Visitors. His presence with us has greatly increased our capacity for clergy pastoral care. Before the end of May, we will publish a print brochure and website page about Pastoral Care at Holy Communion.

### External Goals

#### **Raise Holy Communion's profile in community by identifying 10-15 "soft relationships" with community partners.**

We identified over 15 relationships that already existed at the start of this process. Moving ahead we are looking to intentionally cultivate 2-3 new partners (like Cristosal in El Salvador).

#### **In one year we will launch and assess an outreach ministry based on a community need.**

Holy Communion has built a team that plans to launch a "Laundry Love" ministry in mid-summer/early Fall.



## 13 pilgrims headed to San Salvador over Memorial Day

As we continue our ongoing discernment about a relationship with El Salvador, a group of 12 pilgrims is headed to a conference at the headquarters of the non-profit Cristosal in San Salvador, the capital of the country. The rector and senior warden will be leading

the group. In El Salvador we will meet with a group of local leaders and scholars to discuss “state violence” in St. Louis and El Salvador.

St. Louis and El Salvador have faced similar crises in confidence between the public and the police. At the conference, we will be sharing stories, prayers, and learning about one another’s contexts. We will also be talking about immigration, poverty, and other challenges that face both of our countries. The group will visit sites related to the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero and others who were active in the church as it worked among the poor of El Salvador.

## New in Children’s and Family Ministry: Welcome Heidi Olliff



Heidi Olliff will be consulting with Holy Communion over the next months as we discern together the future shape of our ministries with children and families. She would love to talk with families about their recent experience at Holy Communion. **We are planning a teachers, parents, and children’s meeting after the 10:30am service on May 21.** You can reach Heidi at [hmolliff@holychommunion.net](mailto:hmolliff@holychommunion.net)

Heidi Olliff and her family have been a part of the Holy Communion community since they moved to University City in September 2016. They came to us from Chicago and St. Paul & the Redeemer, where Heidi held the position of Director of Children’s Formation. Through this position she served as a catalyst for the overall spiritual growth of children by envisioning and implementing the Christian formation program for children and by taking an individual interest in children and their parents.