

**2013 Priorities from the Parish Council Retreat:
A Status Report**

During the Parish Council retreat in March 2013, Council reviewed the status of priorities that had been established by the Moving Forward process in 2011/2012, and identified further actions that could be taken in the course of 2013. The priorities Council reviewed and determined action for included (not listed in any order of importance) pastoral care, worship, welcoming and membership, financial stability, volunteer management, social justice and Christian education. In some cases action was deferred until the Rector has had more time in the parish; in others, it was noted action had already occurred; and in still others, plans were made for future consideration.

Priority	Comments/Actions Taken
Pastoral Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pastoral Care Committee is struggling, and needs additional members. • The requirement of attending a 10-week course before doing hospital visits is a challenge. • The Committee’s mandate needs to be clarified. • The Pastoral Care Committee will address the above issues in early 2014, when it meets to discuss its future role and function. • Committee members continued with regular visits and support.
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beth plans to work with the Worship Committee to clarify roles and begin to develop new directions. • For the time being, finding a new liturgy and considering other times for worship services are not priorities.
Welcoming and Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that we should continue to find opportunities for small groups and meals together, perhaps on a “Fifth Sunday” basis. • Beth is in the process of getting to know our neighbourhood, but does not plan a connecting-with-the-neighbourhood event this year.

<p>Financial Stability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stewardship Committee has struck a subcommittee under Ian Myles to examine where renting fits into our financing, and if it can be expanded upon. Kim Chadsey is also reviewing whether current rental rates should be increased. • Stewardship education initiatives included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inserts from The Episcopal Network on Stewardship were placed in pew bulletins during the fall stewardship campaign. ○ Rob preached two homilies on stewardship before he left, followed by two homilies preached by Beth. ○ Several parishioners gave brief talks on the meaning of stewardship during the fall. • A simplified format for budget presentations is under consideration. • A draft fundraising events policy will be considered by Parish Council in 2014.
<p>Volunteer Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council agreed that a discussion is needed in the future regarding ministries – specifically, what does it mean to be a ministry of St. John’s? • “Celebrating the Good” continued to highlight and thank individual ministries during Sunday worship and in TWSJ.

<p>Social Justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council agreed we need to convene a meeting of all those concerned with social justice issues to determine the need for a Social Justice Committee. • Jane Maxwell developed a proposal for such a meeting, to be brought forward to the new Council in 2014. • Council agreed that in the meantime we should pay attention to social justice issues that are promoted by the national church or the diocese, acting through letters or appeals as is appropriate. • Council discussed a number of ways of surveying and publicizing parishioners' work outside the church that reflects their faith and commitment to social justice. • Beth will be in discussion with the Christian Education Committee about an adult program on how to better live life as a person of faith.
<p>Christian Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because there are many new people in the parish, Beth wants to focus on Christian basics. She will be offering a Lenten course on basic Bible, "Bopping through the Bible with Beth." In the fall, she intends to offer another course on what it means to be an Anglican. • The idea of encouraging a place for teens by holding intergenerational services was discussed at a meeting with parents in November. • Beth is working on better links between Parish teens and Diocesan activities for teens. • Beth will be revisiting the question of staffing for Christian Education once she has been at St. John's longer.