

Parish self-evaluation using Percept reVision Context materials, fall 2004—Report to Congregation

Christ Episcopal Church, Marlboro, New York

What are the most significant discoveries made about our community?

- A significant number of people in the community have healthcare needs.
- Considerable spiritual neediness was expressed.
- Many in this community need help with basics: food, clothing, etc.
- The average family income level in this community is quite low (\$36,000).
- Educational level in this community is lower than average, although there's a very high percentage of high school graduates.
- The population is "older."

What are the most significant opportunities we see for our congregation to be of service to the community?

- Assist people with healthcare needs
- Assistance with basic needs: food, clothing, etc.
- Provide religious education for adults.

What are the most significant opportunities we see for evangelism in our community?

- "Disenchanted" Roman Catholics
- Influx of new residents

What are the most significant discoveries we have made about our congregation?

- The data collected from the congregation is outdated or was inaccurately gathered, and was not thought to be useful.

What are the most significant opportunities we see for nurturing the members of our congregation?

- Provide opportunities for study, education, discussion, etc.
- Provide opportunities for teenagers to discuss, learn, and grow.
- Nurture parish families—keep children involved.
- Provide a variety of liturgical expressions.

How effective are our current inreach and outreach programs.

- The Loan Closet (recycled hospital "hardware" is barely utilized, yet requires a huge amount of overhead and some liabilities.
- The nursing home ministry meets the needs of residents at the Mid-Hudson Nursing Home, and is a satisfying experience for those who minister there.
- We're really good at potlucks, and they bring the congregation together in a meaningful way.
- Regular contributions to the Food Pantry are effective and needed.

What changes should we make?

- Eliminate the loan closet.

What new programs should we add?

- Regular discussion group at various times
- Offer *via media* to attract “inquirers” from the community
- Additional nontraditional “come-as-you-are” service at a time convenient for commuters, busy weekenders, workers.
- Organize activities for parish young people with parents.

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