

# Shaping Our Future 2018-2022

*St. Matthew's Parish Dialogue*

26 November 2017

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **OUTLINE**

- Welcome/Prayer/Introduction
- Guiding Principles
- Small Group Discussions – Worship, Community, Formation
- Reports and Conclusion

## *St. Matthew's – shaping our future*

### **TODAY'S OBJECTIVE**

- Get your feedback on proposed guiding principles and mission
- Collect your input in the areas of worship, community, and formation/learning

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### PRAYER

#### Embracing God's Future

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for our faith and the many gifts you have entrusted to us.

In your compassion, revealed to us fully in Jesus, hear our prayer so that by your Holy Spirit we may joyfully strive to be your dream for the Church. Amen.

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### *SPP Team Summary Report to Vestry*

- We must be bold: refreshing our current plan would not be sufficient
- What does God See at St. Matthew's in 2032?
  - Vibrant and inclusive community (in and out)
  - Faith-based, music-filled worship
  - Learning that challenges and promotes searching
  - Affordable and multi-purpose physical presence
- Themes and Guideposts
  - Worship – an adaptable parish, where tradition and innovation meet
  - Learning/Formation – a focal point for seekers
  - Community – in-reach and outreach, compassionately caring for those within and serving those without
  - Sustainability – stable financial and resource footing to sustain operations into the long-term

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### ***SPP Team Summary Report to Vestry***

- Next Steps included:
  - Refresh vision and mission statements
  - Launch work to “shape” strategic plan for first 5 years
- Initial responses by the Corporation:
  - Seek further SPP Team advice and support
  - Consult Executive Committee of Parish Council (ECPC)

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### *A Case for Change*

#### **Sustainability**

Prudent stewardship is critical. Physical plant and donors are aging. Operating costs are rising, more resources are required to expand ministry, and capital is scarce.

#### **Challenges**

**People.** Donors over 65 account for 70% of givings. Five new members are needed to replace givings by a donor over 65.

**Priestly Services and Staff.** We cannot afford a 2<sup>nd</sup> priest and do not pay decent wages to part-time staff.

**Property.** We need flexible space to gather for worship, hospitality, learning and fellowship and generate revenue.

**Shared Ministry.** Nearby parishes are making decisions about their future. We need to be engaged. Collaboration sparks creativity and expands capacity.

*Our future requires us to collaborate*

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **Principles**

#### **We are the Church**

The Church is the People of God, the Body of Christ in the world. As we gather around Font, Word, and Table, we express our relationship to God in Jesus Christ, to one another, and our mission to the world in the Holy Spirit.

#### **Worship and Mission are one**

Worship and mission are transforming activities. We serve the world when we glorify God, and we glorify God when we serve the world. Our building supports corporate worship, serving the community and learning.

#### **Christian Formation is vital**

Building on our baptismal identity, our journey as Christians includes lifelong formation and conversion.

#### **Hospitality and Relationships are central**

We welcome all, meet people where they are, engage seekers, and nurture a sense of belonging.



## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **Mission**

St. Matthew's is a vibrant Christian community that welcomes strangers, reaches out with loving hospitality and service, and embraces inspiring worship and learning.

*"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." – John 14:12*

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### ***Theme: Worship***

*“An adaptable parish, where tradition and innovation meet”*

#### **Objectives**

- Joyful, live-giving, and music-filled worship
- Build on our strength and identity in Anglican choral music, while being open to emerging forms of musical worship

### ***Theme: Learning***

*“A focal point for seekers”*

#### **Objectives**

- Building on our baptismal identity, our journey as Christians includes lifelong formation and conversion
- Use our material and human resources to provide learning opportunities for all ages and stages

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### ***Theme: Community***

*“A compassionate community, actively caring for those within the church community and beyond, and lovingly serving those without”*

#### **Objectives**

- Maximize the use of our available resources for in-reach and outreach activities
- Collaborate beyond our walls to achieve common goals

### ***Theme: Sustainability***

*“A stable financial and resource footing to sustain operations into the long-term”*

#### **Objectives**

- Implementation plan must acknowledge demographic and economic trends and make provision for smaller donation amounts
- Seek to expand multi-use of building to increase revenue
- Foster a culture of transparency and accountability around financial decision-making

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **Group Discussions**

A short presentation and group discussion will be held on three themes: **Worship, Community** and **Learning**. Please choose your group.

*You will receive information on all three themes and are welcome to provide written comments on any aspect of the dialogue session.*

*Your input will inform proposed actions, on which you will be able to comment later. We also invite you to let us know if you would like to be more actively involved in this work.*

**Discussion.** Participants in each group are asked to consider:

- Is there anything missing that should be addressed within this theme during the period 2018-2022?
- What are the top 3 priorities to be addressed within this theme during that timeframe?
- What aspect is most important in the longer term (2022-2032)?





# Shaping Our Future

## 2017-2021

*St. Matthew's Parish Dialogue  
Handout for Group Discussions*

26 November 2017

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **WORSHIP** Working Group (Rick Trites and Rev. Kevin Flynn)

What is your best worship experience

- Shared worship, praise music, preaching, scripture, the Eucharist, mission, a sense of the Spirit's presence with us.
- Community and hospitality can enhance the experience.

Ideas on enhancing worship at St. Matthew's

- Offer worship with enhanced participation by children, youth and families, and wider music selection
- Consider alternative forms of worship for families, seekers, students, or others who are unavailable on Sunday morning
- Assess options to reconfigure church space that could
  - Allow for the gathered people to be a central symbol
  - Enhance acoustics, lighting and visibility
  - Facilitate parish and community events, concerts, less formal forms of worship, hospitality, mission, rentals and additional uses of underutilized space



## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **WORSHIP** Working Group (Rick Trites and Rev. Kevin Flynn)

#### Ideas for Revamping and Worship Space and Experience

- Bring all worshippers together in focused space near Font, Word, Table
- Address organ problem and work towards “one room” versus “two room”
- Identify options to improve flow of people and flexible use of space.
- Consider additional hospitality space, possibly at the back of the church
- Identify other options to use our space to enhance worship, to connect with mission, and to offer hospitality and build community

These ideas and others require assessment and preliminary costing before proposals can be prepared for recommendation.

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **COMMUNITY** Working Group (Charles Nixon and Rev. Allan Box)

#### **1) Hospitality within the church (Parishioners, Guests, Visitors)**

- Sustain our reputation as a welcoming place, explore ways to offer a complete approach
- Look at ways to be a parish “family”: keep people connected, offer support in times of need, provide pastoral care, update and improve access to church directory, hold social events to foster sense of belonging
- Assess current kitchen capability and ways to support evolution of hospitality

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **COMMUNITY Working Group (Charles Nixon and Rev. Allan Box)**

#### **2) Outreach beyond the church, including social justice**

- Signs on Bank St to attract/direct people to the church
- During open doors in August, encourage music and organ playing
- Consider a “time and talent” survey of abilities, experience and interests
- Offer broad range of volunteer opportunities, from one-time to longer-term
- Social events to engender community
- Consider target groups: Carleton U/Indigenous peoples?

#### **3) Marketing and communications (inside and outside)**

- Communicate what St. Matthew's does in the community
- Find ways to expose renters and non-parishioners to the church space
- Exploit multi-media recordings to broadcast, transmit services and sermons

## *St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow*

### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION Working Group (Claire Bramma and Archbishop Barry Curtis)**

Seek

Discover

Become

- Christian formation begins at the seeking phase, but must also provide avenues to move toward Christian commitment.
- Acknowledge importance of our Baptismal identity and life-long Christian journey, which requires additional formation and relationship-building.
- Complement formation with activities that create and support community, including outreach and in-reach, and use outreach to reach non-practising Christians and seekers.
- Space, staff/volunteers, communications, and hospitality are important enablers.

*“...the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.*

*C.S. Lewis – Mere Christianity*

## St. Matthew's – today and tomorrow

### LEARNING/FORMATION Working Group (Claire Bramma and Archbishop Barry Curtis)

	SEEK	DISCOVER	BECOME
Relationship	Aquaintance curious, hungry <i>leads to desire to know Christ</i>	Friendliness Come to meet, to know Christ <i>leads to baptism/recommitment</i>	Freindship Life long conversion <i>Baptismal living, fed by Word and Table to MISSION</i>
Qualities	formal, reserved testing unfamiliar hopeful open/critical Hearing the Story	uncommitted exploration Self- challenge questioning traying, risking Learning the Story	Identity/claim entrust commitment vulnerableness Deepening Becoming the Story
Hospitality - Table Fellowship - Relationship			
Formation and Learning Activities/ Examples	Taize, Evensong yoga useful learning events: parenting, end of life, Book study Secular, open spirituality, education, concert Social events volunteer opportunities attend worship Tutoring, Student events	liturgical formation and learning Christianity 101 Scirpture study, Lectio Divina Book study participate in groups Baptisma/marriage I prep volunteering in committee Christian practice retreat	Leadership/mentorship Mission/ministry pastoral care Eucharist Book club Further Christian study Retreat interfaith dialogue

*Then those who gladly received his word were Baptized... they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and the prayers.*

*Acts 2:41-42.*

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### **Group Discussion Questions**

- Is there anything missing that should be addressed within this theme during the period 2018-2022?
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# Reports and Next Steps

## *St. Matthew's – shaping our future*

### **CONCLUSIONS/SUMMARY**

#### **TODAY'S OBJECTIVE**

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