

*Adult Faith Formation*

**Part 1A**

- . . . What strikes you about faith formation in your/our parish?
- bible study, especially if more people would join
  - Christian meditation
  - music is part of it
  - the existence of LAM itself
  - St. Luke's work in community (re)connecting / sparking and forming faith and deepening faith of current worshippers
  - so many initiatives in our region inspire
  - parish advisory council study discussions - would be good to have more devotional time and we need to expand that, including study time in liturgy
  - recognizing in study times that people not speaking does not mean they are not processing

What are we doing as a parish that is currently deepening your own faith?

- all of the above
- being out in community

What are our discipleship strengths?

- willingness to go into community and ask them what they need
- work with community
- work with Agape Refugee support

What are our growing edges in faith forming? What do we see little of in this community?

- little traditional church attendance
- Covid has focussed us
- the visible profile of the Thrift Shop
- not connecting with newcomers IDEA - connect with local Welcome Wagon(s)
- how to find language to reach others
- how to encourage adults to join faith formation events without fear

**Part 1B**

How might we strengthen the spiritual practices we are currently doing?

- one Sunday per month interactive study in worship
- book study
- make transportation available to worship, fellowship activities
- consider rotating time schedule so current 9am congregations have opportunities for those who can't do early, and for events after

What might deepen our spiritual rhythms, connect us more strongly to continuing in Jesus' word?

- see answers to previous question
- workshops on e.g. journaling prayer
- prayers on signs (esp. Kitley), prayer / information handouts - 'What Is Pentecost?' etc.
- blessing boxes
- restoration / enlargement of worship prep. teams

What practices might we add or explore that would invite our parish into the growing edges of our discipleship walk?

- see answers to previous question
- outdoor worship and alternate locations - NB PWRDF in the Smiths Falls mall could be at arena in October? IDEA - Sophie Kiwala coming to speak about PWRDF
- increase participation in The Big Give

What might we add to our spiritual practices that could engage friends or people in the neighbourhood asking questions about our faith?

- forest walks,
- trust walks
- meditation walks
- labyrinth
- "Not A Perfect Worship Service" as publicity
- more faith sharing on Facebook etc.
- connect with municipal and local organization web presences

### *Reshaping Parish Culture*

#### **Part 2A**

. . . What struck you about the culture of your parish?

- LAM enhances each parish (Lansdowne Rear inter-congregational dynamics hinder this)

How does your parish culture currently enhance ministry and mission?

- before we formed as a region we made the decision to come together
- we've already done a lot of the 'wrecking ball to the silos' work
- have different gifts to use sharing in each other's ministries (individually and as congregations)
- strong lay voices for mission outreach
- good mix of leaders and followers

Are there any noteworthy ways in which the parish culture gets in the way of ministry and mission?

- we are truly rural
- there is the challenge of voices who speak for maintenance and old ways of being church

IDEA barb quilts (/Dawn Fagan) on church themes

## **Part 2B**

What might we add to or change about our current practices that would deepen our spiritual rhythms and our ability to engage with God's mission?

- take Peace out with us!
- reinforce what we're already doing
- look at each of our (print, web etc.) resources for possible updates
- LAM for Kids bags continue / expand in place of traditional Sunday School
- space (literally and figuratively) in worship for families

What practices might we start that would speak into our growing edges for transforming parish life?

- see answers to previous question
- laity regularly, publicly speaking about their faith, e.g. restore St. Luke's 'Ministry Minute' and expand this to share on social media NB G.G.'s walk to the middle of the field and back!

(Naming the anxiety / disruptive feeling that accompanies or precedes anticipated change)

Which of these change-oriented calls might need more prayer and listening time so that people are ready to move forward?

- promoting acceptance
- could the LAM (5 Marks of Mission) prayer be a basis for this prayer/listening process?

## *Fullness of Life*

### **Part 3A**

. . .What struck you about the community engagement culture in the parish:

\* question not engaged with as it was finally discovered that we hadn't had access to the 'tools' that we were presumed to have already engaged with

What are we doing that is currently deepening your own connectin to God in the world?

- study at the beginning of parish advisory council
- meditation
- prayers of the people relating to readings and world situations
- specific appeals, e.g. PWRDF
- healing prayer on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month
- LAM regional prayer times (group prayer)
- fellowship after worship

What are our community engagement strengths?

- ecumenical worship and programs, e.g. Kitley Elders
- connections to municipal / governance people who have multiple connections
- Donna Robinson 'the catalyst'
- not just asking people to share their needs so we can serve, but encouraging people to share their gifts for others

- partnerships
- web of rural connections (see obverse of this in next question)

Where are our growing edges in community engagement?

- (see last point in previous question) many new people are moving into our communities and not getting connected. How can we truly welcome them?

IDEAS - Doors Open, Street Party

### **Part 3B**

What might God be calling us to add to our current practices that would restore our community relationships and enable us to better know our neighbours?

- very different answers for each congregation
- could be to focus on new people
- key element of move from Lyndhurst to Elgin with doors open for such significant amounts of time, unlike other locations. How to spark that elsewhere.
- fellowship events
- buddy up for VBS - including transportation, ecumenical

What practices might we start that would speak into our growing edges?

- invite teen volunteers for monthly community dinner prep, serving, cleanup with seniors to mentor
- include youth
- could be rotation of location for events like (Kitley) Fun, Food and Faith
- target marketing events for new families
- placemats with events listings (e.g. per Kitley breakfasts)
- invitational mailbox stuffers

How might we practice becoming more aware of God in our daily lives, and in the neighbourhood?

- forest walk worship      IDEA Gibbons Farm, Frankville
- prayer walk of neighbourhood
- beat the bounds - go out and pray!
- time of silence in nature and in community
- take time to listen

What might we do that could create space in which we could listen deeply to people in the neighbourhood?

- really listen to people at events
- have draws with questions on ballots to get information / meet needs
- restore Athens PA day program
- have bibles to give at blessing boxes

## Part 4

Which Adult Faith Formation idea or initiative excited you personally the most?

- G.G.'s walk in the field
- silence surrounded by nature
- meditation
- prayer walking through the parish from the outside to the middle

Which Adult Faith Formation idea or initiative do you think might have the most impact in your parish, and why?

- community prayer walking, especially in Athens (could be ecumenical)

Which Reshaping Parish Culture idea or initiative really spoke to boundaries you personally would like to see expanded?

- rural integration of newcomer demographic
- we did work on this over five years ago in forming LAM and we continue to do so. We know that there is growth and strength
- strengthen our regional ministry
- restore / reboot after Covid
- is it bad if we don't want to change the parish culture?

Which Reshaping Parish Culture idea or initiative do you think might have the most impact in your parish, and why?

- see answers to previous question

Which Fullness of Life idea or initiative really engaged you personally?

- hardest to define
- relating of prayers of the people to the world situation

Which Fullness of Life idea or initiative do you think might have the most impact in your parish's neighbourhood?

- anything outside church buildings (church buildings are most likely to be places of community engagement if we have community dinners)