

Ministry Action Plan

OUR VISION

St. George's Place du Canada Ministry Action Plan

To actively witness to the love and hope that is given to each of us as we open our hearts and minds to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to share this whole-heartedly with those who live, work and study in downtown Montreal.

Autumn 2011

OUR GOALS

Increase the effectiveness of our worship and Christian education to touch the hearts and minds of our congregation and others we hope to attract.

Assist families and individuals in coping with the many challenges of modern life.

Attract young professionals, students, new Canadians and the de-churched to our parish ministry and community.

Be a comfortable place to be. Communicate effectively within our parish community and with our neighbours.

Support and sustain our ministries through consistency and generosity in stewardship and fund raising.

Redesign and repurpose our property to be a more attractive and functional liturgical space, and to increase potential for income

Mission Team #1

Worship & Christian Education

St. George's will continue to offer high caliber worship and Christian Education in the tradition which appreciates Prayer Book liturgy, traditional Anglican music, and excellence in preaching.

Goals:

Increase the effectiveness of our worship and Christian education to touch the hearts and minds of our congregation and others we hope to attract.

We will do this by:

IN THE SHORT TERM:

- Increasing the use of French in worship: producing a bilingual bulletin, using more French within the liturgy.
- Vary sermon presentations, making them more interactive: use visuals, include a question/answer or dialogue approach, use the pew Bibles
- Establish 3 to 5 facilitated Home Groups which will meet regularly to discuss upcoming Scripture lessons, seasonal themes, and to pray together. These groups might use a curriculum such as Serendipity.
- Establish a Christian Education group to co-ordinate events

- Offer booklets such as *Daily Bread* or *Everyday with Jesus* to the congregation

IN THE MEDIUM TERM:

- Continue with Advent and Lenten studies
- Offer a study starting to look at basic Christian beliefs such as: Who is Jesus? What is the Church? Anglican liturgy.

IN THE LONG TERM

- Begin the choir season in mid-August when students are returning to school
- During the summer when the choir is on a break, have a small group leading the singing and use the piano or guitar accompaniment for a hymn or two

Mission Team #2

Mission & Outreach

St. George's Church is strategically located in the downtown Montreal area across from Place du Canada; we as a congregation are called to witness to the love and hope which is given to us as we open our hearts and minds to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This we seek to share wholeheartedly with those who work and live in this area, more specifically, those living within our parish boundaries.

Goal:

Assist families and individuals in coping with the many challenges of modern life.

We will do this by:

IN THE SHORT TERM:

The continuation of our current Outreach initiatives such as

- the service and reception held annually on All Saints Sunday for those who were baptized, confirmed or married in the Church during the year
- the annual dinner for the sheltered
- work with our seniors in regard to visits, transportation to church, telephone calls
- support ecumenical initiatives such as the World Day of Prayer.
- collect canned goods in a box in the Nathtrex for local

missions

- have a "mitten" Christmas tree

IN THE MEDIUM TERM:

- Hosting lectures, seminars, or conferences focusing on the issues facing this generation: examples, anger management, abuse (child/elderly), addictions, health and well being, loneliness, anxiety, challenges of single parent families and so on.
- hold a Memorial service for the families of those whose loved ones have passed away in the previous year

This would be a much needed service and one which could eventually lead someone to embrace the spiritual life based on the love of God and the promise of everlasting life given to us in the life of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.

IN THE LONG TERM:

- sponsor a pet show to bring awareness to pet adoption
- screening of a movie

Work within our congregation to prepare us for this work

Our Committee cautions that in order to carry out this work we, as a congregation, need to take stock of our resources which

would allow us to be able to carry out our vision in an efficient and effective manner.

- Our congregation needs to be unified and work together in harmony
- Communication needs to be improved, particularly in the area of setting up the parish calendar to make sure that dates for events do not clash
- Need for publicity and public relations person
- Need for a parish coordinator
- Need for a hospitality committee

Budget implications:

Budget for speakers

Possible source is the Diocesan Mission grants

Mission Team #3
New Member Ministry

St. George's will bring people into the church, welcome and nurture them so they return, leading to more rewarding fellowship, engagement, and service.

Goals:

Attract young professionals, students, new Canadians and disenchanted Christians to our parish ministry and community.

Be a comfortable place to be.

Communicate effectively within our parish community and with our neighbours.

We will do this by:

IN THE SHORT TERM:

- Welcoming each other at the beginning of the Service.
- Avoiding insider references in sermons and announcements for all people will understand
- Changing bulletin instruction on intinction to a positive statement
- Improve e-mail etiquette
- Improve bulletin board: dedicated board for the church in

high traffic space (where people drink coffee), with announcements, sign-up sheets, pictures

- Create a plan for children and family ministries including child friendly spaces
- improve fellowship at coffee hour by starting a "Bisquit Brigade"
- Offer space for music students to practice or perform e.g. during lunch hours

IN THE MEDIUM TERM:

- Recruit a Fellowship Committee
- Create a friendlier interior space: sit more closely together, improve signage and wheel chair accessibility
- Create a friendlier exterior: flowers, signage
- Increasing the visibility of young people in leadership (e.g. recruiting and scheduling for July through September)
- Offer resources for prayer and reflection in our sanctuary
- Improve our web presence
- target particular groups by using more effective communication

IN THE LONG TERM:

- make the church available for quiet time and offer 15 minute lunch time ministry
- Recruit a Gardening Group (BYO bulbs)
- Create a plan to develop our environmental and social

responsibilities

- Redefine and strengthen teams with clear terms of reference, leaders, responsibilities and clearly communicated ways to join the team
- Advertising

Mission Team #4

Stewardship & Finances

St. George's has good financial and property management, healthy endowments, the ability to garner public grants, and a strong Investment Council. Building on this, work will now focus on developing transparency of communications, and consistency of stewardship practice within the parish.

Goals:

Support and sustain our ministries through consistency and generosity in stewardship and fund raising.

We will do this by:

IN THE SHORT TERM:

- Communicate with the parish the true costs of operating the church
- Improve fundraising consistency
- Establish a Capital Campaign Cabinet to organize a 2 year

capital campaign

- Initiating an annual pledge programme with quarterly actuals and tracking
- Set up a permanent Finance Planning Committee

IN THE MEDIUM TERM:

- Improve communications
- Look at new sources for revenue
- Promote the PAR method of giving
- Promote giving through the church to other organizations

IN THE LONG TERM:

- Offer seminars on Planned Giving and Insurance Policy-based giving

Mission Team #5

Buildings & Grounds

Goals:

Redesign and repurpose our property to be a more attractive and functional liturgical space, and to increase potential for income

We will do this by:

IN THE SHORT TERM:

- Reactivate the tower entrance

- Improving lighting within the church
- Aggressively seek out a long term tenant(s) for hall
- Provide hearing aid hook-ups in pews

IN THE MEDIUM TERM:

- Remove pews from the back section of the nave in order to provide alternative church hall space with movable chairs
- Build washroom and coatroom facilities in the church
- Encourage public use of the lawn and remove the fence at the sidewalk on Stanley Street

IN THE LONG TERM:

- Continue restoration of the building