

**Parish Vitality Working Group
Report to the Membership Chair
February 10, 2015**

1. Book Study during Lent

Betty Caughlin has taken the leadership on this activity and a book study is planned to start on February 25th and continue until March 25th. The book will be "Out of Solitude" by Henri Nouwen. The sessions will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday mornings and 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Group leaders will be Betty, along with Kathy and Eddie Chu, and Jenny Morphew.

2. Card Ministry

The group has extended the card ministry to cover get-well cards. The Health Committee was approached regarding the possibility of sending the cards and gave its approval with the proviso that the cards be sent by someone from the committee. Cards and stamps have been given to Janet Helmer for sending to parishioners when she deems that it is appropriate. This is an extension of the Christmas card ministry that we plan to continue this year.

3. Evensong on February 22nd

The evensong, planned for 4:30 p.m. on February 22nd, will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the dedication of St. Mark's church (dedicated February 24th, 1955). The working group will provide help with the logistics of set-up and the provision of refreshments.

4. St. Mark's Anniversary Dinner

Preliminary work has been completed on the planning of a parish dinner, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 23rd. We are in the process of checking with caterers to ensure that we can have a dinner at a reasonable cost. Lorne Bowerman has had successful dinners catered for a few years. Once the planning details have been developed, we will present a proposal to Corporation.

4. St. Mark's Movie Night

We have been in communication with All Saints Westboro, who have been operating a successful movie night. They offer dinner and a movie at 6 p.m. on a Wednesday each month (with the exception of July and August) for \$10. Each year, they obtain a license called an Entertainment Performance Copyright License (cost is \$372.90 tax included) and they find that their revenues more than pay for this. The dinner is prepared by volunteer members of the movie group who take turns doing it. The movies, rented from Glebe video, are sometimes religious and sometimes movies that provoke discussion on social issues. There is group discussion and fellowship after the movie. We will be determining if there is interest in this type of activity at St. Mark's.

5. Survey of Parishioners

A small group, consisting of Brian Harrison, Ray Davidson and Margaret Lodge has been formed to develop a preliminary questionnaire. The main objective of this survey is to determine the extent of parishioner interest in the possible activities that we foresee. Once a questionnaire has been developed we will test it on a group of about five parishioners to ensure that it is reasonable and clear. It will then go for review by the Parish Vitality Working Group and then to Corporation.

Submitted by Brian H.