

Missional Budget 2012 Introduction

St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Monument, Colorado

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 855, The Catechism

The task of the Christian Church is to reunite with God each person who does not love and serve Him, and to unite His people as the Body of Christ. "All people" includes our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family; they include those who live in our community, in our nation, and in the world - friend and foe alike. This mission is carried out by the worshipping community through the fellowship and mission developed as they grow as disciples who serve one another and God's purposes in the world.

It is the strategy for accomplishing each of these five purposes (worship, fellowship, discipleship, service/ministry, and outreach/mission) that determine a particular local church's vision: How will we fulfill our God-given mission? What is our distinctive character? What is non-negotiable? Who is our target?

These questions have been haunting St. Matthias since 2006. At that point we moved from being a congregation in recovery to a congregation seeking a way forward with focus and identity, yet these escaped us. We loved each other, maintained high affection for our worship style, and believed that God had revealed Himself and how we should live in the Bible, but we had not figured out how to translate this into decisive action. We were in God's ship, just not under power or with a course.

So we have asked in the last months, "Is God Showing us a Vision?" in various ways. This has been asked in the context of our Strategic Initiatives and the 40 Days of Community in many conversations with worshipers, ministry leaders, vestry, and 40 Days leaders. And the answer seems to be a four-fold "yes". God is calling us to:

- Invest in Christian Community through small groups with a purpose larger than themselves
- Develop personal and regular relationships with those we serve in the community around us and whom we support as missionaries in the world
- Explore additional expressions of worship to engage those not now a part of our worshipping community
- Reinvigorate our ministry to children and youth

The page that follows seeks to describe how St. Matthias will implement these aspects of a vision through each of the five purposes of the Church, and to quantify how we use the resources of facility and finances, people, and ability to accomplish the mission of the Church.

Missional Budget 2012 Draft

The Vision of St. Matthias Episcopal Church

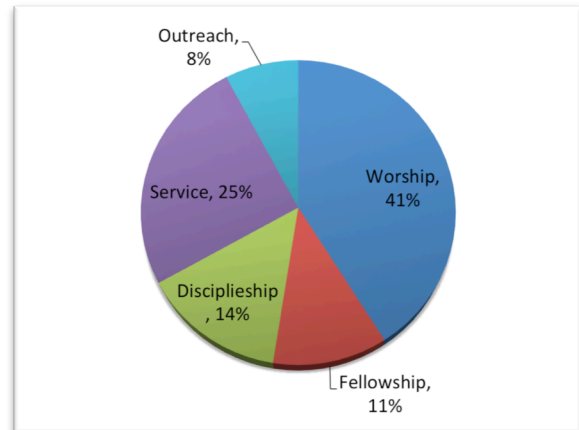
\$217,000

It is the vision of St. Matthias to create and nurture Christian Communities that reach out in love and draw others into the family of Christ.

Worship **\$89,800**

“They devoted themselves...to the breaking of bread and the prayers...praising God.” (Acts 2.42-47)

The St. Matthias vision is that our worship services bring pleasure to God through a blend of reverence and joy, and by using the best resources of our Anglican Heritage, the liturgy, and the richness of Christian expression, to give worshipers the chance to grow in love and gratitude toward our Lord, Jesus Christ. Worship is the fruit of all other activity in the body of Christ, and thus uses the greatest portion of our lay and ordained ministry energies and is the focus of our property use.



Notably, in 2012 we will develop a second worship service to reach those who are not now part of our worshipping community, deepen our understanding and engagement with the best of our ancient tradition, and simplify our worship services. This will require shifting some of the Rector’s time to this second service and expanding our musical leadership staff and developing additional lay worship leaders (new expense \$4,250).

Fellowship

\$24,800

“They devoted themselves...to fellowship...all the believers were together...they ate together.” (Acts 2.42-47)

The vision of St. Matthias is that we grow in Christian Community through small groups. Biblical fellowship is not socializing, but the mutual investment in one another’s lives as believers that allows for the growth of love, emotional support and joy, and sharing in one another’s sufferings. It involves membership in the local church, deep friendship among believers, partnership for life, and kinship in suffering. St. Matthias’ goal is that each who chooses to worship at St. Matthias would become part of a small group Christian Community, and through this connect each to their ministry, develop their life-long Christian formation, and call them to reach out into the community and world.

In 2012 will support the small groups that have continued from 40 Days of Community, codify the lessons learned and develop the mechanism for recognition and equipping of group leaders. St. Matthias also will start three new small groups. Outside of worship,

this will be the substantial focus of our Rector's time and development, and the focus of lay leadership development.

Discipleship

\$31,200

"They devoted themselves...to the Apostle's teaching." (Acts 2.42-47)

The vision of St. Matthias is life-long Christian formation for each worshiper. The Church is the family of God, made in His image and being re-made in the image of Christ. We are to have the same thinking, behavior, passions, and will as Christ has, empowered by the Holy Spirit and guided by the elders in His family. St. Matthias' vision for the formation of believers as disciples is through participation in committed, purposeful, and regular Christian Community of a small group. It is there, with others and with the benefit of shared wisdom, discernment, accountability, and ministry that we are each formed to be like our Lord and Savior.

Along with the deepening of our fellowship, 2012 will be marked by shifting our formation emphasis from events to small groups. This will take the building of a pool of high quality and accessible resources for formation, including curriculum and small group development resources (new expense \$1,000).

2012 will also see the first step of a reinvigoration of our ministry with you and children. Youth Ministry will adopt and develop a small-group based model. Children's Ministry begins with a lectionary-based curriculum with parent tools so that families can continue the conversation of faith into their homes more explicitly.

Additionally, 2012 will see the development of a healing ministry seminar that compliments and deepens the ministry of Prayer Partners.

Service/Ministry

\$54,800

"They gave to everyone as they had need." (Acts 2.42-47)

St. Matthias believes each believer is given a manifestation of the Holy Spirit meant to bless other believers. Our vision is to identify, support, and build the use of each person's gift and call to serve in the body. The Bible describes these gifts as "person-to-person" as teachers of the faith, through personal acts of care, and as elders (Vestry and ministry leaders). They include offering oneself for the upkeep of the church, the provision of worship, and the equipping of others for ministry. As part of the Episcopal Church, we also serve in supporting of our diocese and region through time and the sharing of our financial resources.

The exercise of these gifts will occur through small groups, in discipleship, and in Mission and Outreach, as well as support of our worship life in Sunday Ministries.

Mission & Outreach**\$16,900**

“They...added to their number daily to those who were being saved.” (Acts 2.42-47)

The Vision of St. Matthias is that we connect with, serve, and evangelize our community and world through face-to-face contact and the development of long-term relationships rather than simply giving money or things. This includes the way in which we support agencies such as Tri-Lakes Cares, invest in missionaries, and envision outreach and evangelism done from St. Matthias.

In 2012 St. Matthias will explore and implement ways to fulfill our vision through possibilities like a Community Meal, a coffee-shop Alpha, and “exploring faith” small groups. Further, St. Matthias will purposefully work to connect the congregation to the already rich number of ways we serve the community, support missionaries, and care for the world, working through each opportunity to connect the people with the project, and demonstrate the relationships we can nurture. This includes our financial support for one of our families who is in transition, continued financial support of the Linquist as our missionaries serving with Engineering Ministries International, and the special and regular contributions of food, backpacks, and Christmas gifts to those in need in our community through Tri-Lakes Cares.