

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 550 Long Beach Mississippi 39560



Vision Report

*Compiled by:
The Data Subcommittee &
The Mission and Ministry Subcommittee
Of the Planning Committee*

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Diocese of
Mississippi

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PERCEPT for Zip Code 39560 (Long Beach)

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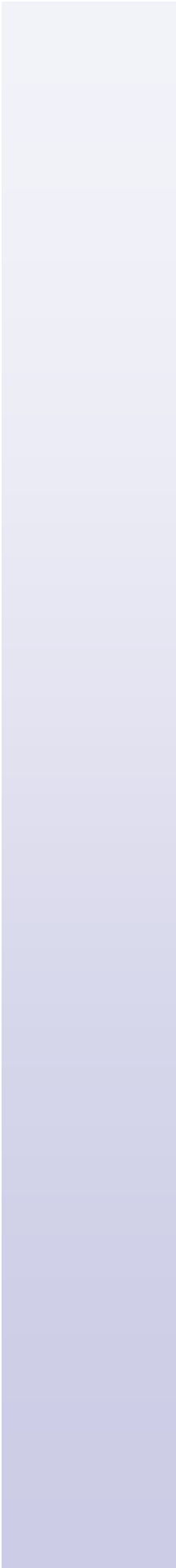
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Section 1

The Mission and Ministry Report of Congregational Interviews

Introduction—”What in God’s name is going on here?”

Demographics for Interview/Survey Participants

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Children’s Banner

Interview Form Used with the Congregation

“What in God’s name is going on here?”¹

The Mission and Ministry Subcommittee was asked to discover what we, as a people, believe St. Patrick’s is about, what we value, what we can get excited about, and what we would wish for in the next three to five years—in other words, to discover “what in God’s name is going on here.”²

The committee chose to do one-on-one interviews with adults and EYC members using a questionnaire based on Appreciative Inquiry. The questionnaire focused on past best experiences at St. Patrick’s, values, and wishes for the next 3—5 years. The Clergy Leadership Institute Home page states:

Appreciative Inquiry is based on the idea of discovering what works and gives life to an organization and building the organization on these life giving properties.²

Interviewing began at the parish weekend at Camp Bratton-Green (Sept. 15-17). To involve younger children in the process, a banner was set out during the weekend for children to draw or write their answers to: “My favorite thing about church is...” and “If I had a magic wand, my three wishes for St. Patrick’s would be...” A summary of their responses is given later in this section.

In the following weeks, parishioners were contacted for interviews, four blocks of time were set up during the last week in Oct. where anyone could come and be interviewed, interview forms were mailed out to people without internet access, and a link for the interview form was sent out in St. Patrick’s E-news. In addition, Jr. and Sr. EYC members were encouraged to participate in interviews prior to the family service on Nov. 4.

The Mission and Ministry Subcommittee met on November 12 to read the interviews again and tally the responses. On November 16, the Rev. Bill Livingston led the committee through a process to pull themes from the interviews and develop a draft mission statement. Copies of the notes from the November 16 meeting and the draft mission statement appear later in this section.

¹Clergy Leadership Institute Home Page www.clergyleadership.com/clergy/ai.html

²The tasks and purpose of the Mission and Ministry Subcommittee can be found in the Episcopal Church Building Fund’s “Helping Build the Church and Helping the Church to Build,” November 2002.

³Clergy Leadership Institute Home Page.

Demographics for Interview Participants

Fifty-six people took part in the Interviews/Surveys, including four participants from EYC. When asked “Which services did you normally attend?” (interviewees could list more than one service):

Sunday, 7:30AM – 17 people
Sunday, 9:00AM (Family Service) – 24 people
Sunday, 11:00AM (with Choir) – 20 people
Wednesday Night Healing Service – 31 people

Those that listed a primary service or stated that they regularly attended more than one service:

Sunday, 7:30AM – 12 people
Sunday, 9:00AM – 16 people
Sunday, 11:00AM – 11 people
Wednesday night – 5 people

The Wednesday Night Healing service attracted people from all three Sunday morning services. The four EYC members surveyed listed 9:00AM as their service (one also listed 11:00AM).

Number of female participants – 35

Number of male participants - 22

Youngest participant – age 13

Number of youth interviewed - 4

Oldest participant – age 76

Number of interviewees in 1 person households – 10

Number of interviewees in 2 person households – 17

Number of interviewees in households with 3 or more people - 29

1. Best Experience

Most people identified their best experience at St. Patrick's as an experience during the liturgy. (All the responses below were pulled from the interviews. Where more than one person gave the same response, a number follows, i.e. five people talked about a baptism as their best experience so this was listed as "Baptism—5").

Liturgy (general) - 4	EYC Worship
Installation as Verger	EYC trip to the National Cathedral in D.C.
Baptism - 5	David Knight's Installation as our Rector
Youth (EYC) Presentation during Holy Week - 2	Patrick Sander's ordination - 1
Being Received	Asked to serve as a presenter at
Being Confirmed - 2	Patrick's ordination - 1
Wedding - 3	Harold Toop's funeral
Preaching a Sermon	Healing Service in the CES gym
Watching their child preach a sermon during Youth	Serving at consecration of Bishop Gray
Sunday	Wednesday Night Healing Service with
Maundy Thursday - esp. striping of the Altar	Al Acker and Kat - 4
Stations of the Cross	Celebration of New Ministry - 2
Easter Vigil	Services on the Beach
Serving as a Lay Eucharistic minister during Easter	August 28 th Sunday service the day before Katrina hit
Vigil	Consecration of the Church in 1991
Christmas Eve - 1	Gathering at the Altar for Eucharist during Vestry Mtg
(Serving on Altar) - 2	Music
9:00AM Sunday Service with Children - 2	Patrick Sander's playing guitar during worship
St. Patrick's Day - 2	Al Acker and Kat during Wednesday Service
	Singing, Singing, Singing in Choir - 2

Quotes from "best" experiences as liturgy/worship:

"An awesome occasion, very uplifting."

"A very special evening."

"That was the coolest wedding I've had." - "The way people pulled together." "It was a celebration."

"At that service I knew that was it. I liked this church."

"When the youth group did skits during Lent/Holy Week it was clear that the youth "got it" and the pure way they presented the crucifixion always touched me."

"When I was baptized - the first time I took communion. Felt most connected to the church. Family friends, church family. Became more active and spiritually grew. Feeling more at peace. - A turning point."

The celebration of new ministry - "such a reflection of who people are - excitement, hope, shared dreams, plus we had a great time together. ... A lot of people pitched in to make it happen."

"Watching children responding in the 9 o'clock service." Felt the electricity with the families. "I loved watching parents hug their children during the service - the gift they are giving their children."

St. Patrick's Day several years ago - "There was a genuine feeling of joy and "family" in that service."

Wednesday night service - "I was able, through music, to pray intimately."

1. Best Experience, cont.

Quotes from “best” experiences as use of time and talent:

Of service as clerk of Mission Committee - “I felt valued as a person and as a parishioner. Even though I didn’t have a vote, he [the vicar] informed me that I was welcomed and encouraged to express my opinion and feelings during the meetings.” “This made me feel that he thought I had something important to say.”

Serving as Jr. Warden during the office/classroom addition - “A feeling of accomplishment, a group effort, when the [building addition] was over there was something tangible.”

Serving on the Altar Guild – one person described a best experience as “Just one of those work days when you oil the reredos and polish silver. Because it is taking care of something that makes it nice for the rest of the congregation – not that things are important – just to make it nice.”

Serving on the vestry during the search process – “There was not one ah-ha! Moment, but the entire process was spiritual. I felt very in tune with the rest of the vestry, and I think we did good work. Although there were moments of some contention, the overall feeling was one of peace, contentment.” (As a result agreed to a larger leadership role in the church).

Quotes from “best” experiences as an experience of community:

“St. Patrick’s is a very safe place – to feel your feelings, laugh, cry and be myself – most of the time.”

“Felt embraced” “A very welcoming group of people.”

“The first day, I felt like I was really accepted.”

“Coming to church immediately after a very troubling experience, and being loved for who I was”
 “[As a result] Made a decision to be a nurturing part of the parish as the parish had nurtured me.”

“Watching the process of getting a new rector.” (by a person not on the vestry/search committee).

“The closeness of the communicants. The caring. It’s putting God first, of course.”

2. Values (Yourself)

What do you value most about Yourself?

Listening to others – 2	Helping others – 2
Working for what I want	Acceptance
Meeting/Welcoming people	What can be done for others
Hugging	Compassion
Role as a mother – 4	My faith – 2
Friendship – 7	Intuition/discernment
Loving people – 6	Reliable
Doing things without expecting anything in return	Dependable – 4
Relationship with others	Gentleness
Role as a father – 2	Sense of Humor
Spirituality – 3	Supporting people’s spiritual needs
Ability to look for the positive in negative situations	Seeker
Service – 3	“Compassion for the Gospel: It speaks to how we live.”
Human being	Good student - 2
Persistence	Athletic – 2
Organized	Can put things in perspective
Patience -2	Quick to laugh at myself
Honesty -2	Engaging people in a disarming way
Consideration of others	Role as wife
Integrity – 2	Kind
Steadfastness - 2	
Loyal – 4	
Duty, God, and Country	
Trustworthy - 2	
Strong	
Servant ministry	

2. Values (cont.) As a Parishioner

When you feel best about being a parishioner at St. Patrick's, what about yourself do you value?

- | | |
|---|---|
| Openness – 3 | Non-judgemental |
| Meeting/Welcoming People – 5 | “A spiritual meal” |
| The Peace | Trying to be a good person |
| Acceptance By/for/to Everyone | Loving |
| Relationship with God | Being fed in sermons |
| Inclusiveness – 3 | Prophetic voice |
| Work with the liturgy | Value how priests change careers to become clergy |
| Work with the Altar Guild – 2 | Even-keeled |
| Flexibility | Strong Christian values |
| Perseverance | Being still and listening |
| Helping behind the scenes to make things run smoothly – 5 | Presence |
| Time – 2 | EYC stuff – trips – 2 |
| Effort | Committee work |
| Resources/Talents – 4 | Sewing for the altar guild |
| Creativity – thinking out of the box | Driving children to camp |
| Liturgy – 3 | Cooking for Wednesday night suppers |
| Singing and music – 4 | |
| Helping in the office | |
| Ability to help in needed situations | |
| Part of something greater than myself – 2 | |
| Being fed in sermons | |
| Prophetic voice | |
| Value how priests change careers to become clergy | |

2. Values (cont.) Your Church

What is it about St. Patrick’s that you value? What is the single most important thing that St. Patrick’s has contributed to your life?

- | | |
|--|---|
| Friendly – 3 | Love |
| Worship – 7 | Even with differences, we love & accept each other – 2 |
| Consistent liturgy | Healing Church |
| That it’s Episcopal | Refuge – 2 |
| Fellowship – 3 | Wholeness – 2 |
| The people – 8 | Spirituality (Permission to and help with searching, encouraged to express struggles) – 5 |
| Acceptance – 11 | A spiritual anchor |
| Welcoming | Being nourished spiritually |
| Sense of community | Can explore gifts |
| Inclusiveness | Strong women leaders |
| Sense of Belonging – 4 | Serenity |
| Being part of a church community – 2 | Expression of music |
| Second Home to family – including children – 4 | Openness – 2 |
| The children feel like part of the church – 4 | Joyful place |
| has made my family a wonderful, strong, and loving one | Small congregation |
| like that it is a small church | EYC “fun stuff” |
| Eclectic nature of the church | |
| Extended family – 5 | |

“My Church is my second home. Really sensed that when the kids were young.”

“I value the simplicity of St. Patrick’s. No one is judgmental. The single most thing St. Pats has taught me is how to be humble and accepting.”

“Anyone can fit in there and be part of the group. We want everybody to be there.”

“How to raise children among other families. Learned from others how to be part of God’s family and our parish family.”

“A sense of wholeness—completeness I haven’t had in a long time.”

Both permission & help to search for a deeper spirituality. An openness. Free to disagree. Encouraged to express one’s struggles.

“... encourages a person to be the person that God calls them to be....Such a comfort level and letting people explore their gifts.... Individual spiritual gifts are celebrated.”

“A community—a worship community.”

2. Values (cont.) Your Denomination

What is it about being Episcopalian that you value? What is the single most important thing that being Episcopalian has contributed to your life?

Several responded that denomination was not important to them.

DOY

EYC – meeting friends

Diversity - 5

Acceptance – 7

Freedom – 3

Tradition – 3

Liturgy – 14

Gives purpose & meaningful involvement with God

Openness – 3

Respectful

“Sense of middle way while holding true to liturgy”

Kind

Love and forgiveness

Spirituality – 2

Connection with my religious upbringing

Able to attend other Episcopal churches and feel comfortable and accepted

Tolerance

Continuity with God

Agreement on core things, but don’t have to agree on non-core

“Freedom within structure”

Music

Open to tradition and to progress

Strong foundation, traditions, with a growing willingness to evolve

Acceptance for own values and beliefs, not party line

Freedom to make own choices - 2

Encourages one to think

Theology

Dissent and disagreement with love

Faith

Not as strict as other denominations

“I love being Episcopalian! It is a very open and accepting church. There are no hard core rules—I think it has taught me (to try) to be respectful of others and to be a kinder person.”

3. Core Value:

**What do you think is the core value for St. Patrick’s?
 What Values give life to the congregation? What is it that
 if it did not exist, would make St. Patrick’s totally differ-
 ent than it is or was?**

- Openness/Acceptance – 23
- Inclusiveness – 3
- Compassion – 5
- Outreach – 4
- The Eucharist – 3
- The liturgy - 4
- Commitment to Youth – 5
- Christian Education - 2
- Community spirit – 7
- The love of the people – 11
- Friendly people
- Humanity of congregation
- Family atmosphere- 4
- More children’s programs
- Spirituality – 8
- Patience
- Interconnectedness to larger church
(Diocese, national, communion)
- Old Building - 2
- Leadership
- Variety of people
- Value people and the community
- We embrace all people
- “Live your life with the good news of
Christ’s teachings”
- Need a sense of direction

“Children—that they are so central—it’s not every-
 thing—but it has always seemed to me, not in an un-
 healthy way, but that they [the people of St. Patrick’s]
 have valued and nourished them.” - one of many parish-
 ioners without children who commented on the impor-
 tance of children/youth to the church.

“The most inclusive church I have ever experienced on
 the Coast. It gives a home to people who do not neces-
 sarily fit in other places.”

“The fact that we have stayed together through all of this
 crap. Combining three very different services. Amazing
 to me that a diverse group of people managed to do that.”

“We are a very accepting congregation. Doesn’t matter if
 you are rich or poor, gay or straight, crippled or ‘whole’ -
 there is a place for you and something you can do.”

The core value always is and always has been the Eucha-
 rist. It under girds everything we do. The Eucharist is
 what is important to the congregation. [Look at atten-
 dance when we have morning prayer]. It’s been part of
 the ethos of St. Patrick’s Church.”

“have seen over and over—the understanding that we all
 help each other find the person God is calling us to be—
 not just the priest. I’ve witnessed that a lot.... Core value
 of acceptance—watching a wonderful eclectic mix of
 people that don’t necessarily socialize on the weekends,
 but when they are together they are family.”

“We are givers, it’s been a hard lesson learning to re-
 ceive.”

“A sense of community in Christ.”

“Everyone has gifts and St. Patrick’s uses them.”

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be?

Wishes that had to do with Worship:

Liturgy

Strong training program for lay ministers, acolytes, readers, etc. to strengthen liturgy

Keep spirituality

Keep the “joy” in the service

Being able to kneel

“A fully encompassing musical life’

1st rate music program

Concerts for the community

“Restoration of the ‘worship space’ feeling”

Youth more active in worship

Have an outdoor chapel

Wednesday Night Healing service back up and running -2

Crucifix and stations of the cross

Sunday services

Communion bread

Music you can sing to

Church humming 24/7

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be? (cont.)

Wishes that had to do with Christian Formation:

Active EYC- Re-engage and build a strong youth program – 8

Host a Happening

Celebrate the differences in being Episcopalian – high, low, whatever

Study history of the Episcopal church – similar to inquirer's class but more in depth?

Bible study – 5

More active Christian Ed – 3

Christian Ed that incorporates men so couples can participate together

Strong adult Christian ed. Program

Active young adult ministry

Reference Library

Keynote speakers

Tools for spiritual growth

A labyrinth

Church humming 24/7

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be? (cont.)

Wishes that had to do with Service (Outreach/Evangelism):

Outreach (general) – 5

Day Care – 4

Stronger focus in community – 4

Have the “Stars” program again – 2

Take risks in reach out to community – 3

More active women's service group to address needs of community

Provide disaster relief to others – 2

Church humming 24/7

More intentional outreach – 2

Provide inreach to support outreach

“Being a destination church, not just a neighborhood church” to meet the needs of the community

Become a pillar for outreach in the community

Rebuild a church within the Long Beach community

Be part of the bigger community – like the park, the BBQ – other things we were trying to do before the storm.

St. Patrick's as the center of the community.

Support affordable housing for families, elderly, etc.

Greater evangelism – 5

Wednesday nights as evangelism – 3

Youth services to attract – 2

More younger people joining

Weekly teen activities

“Being a destination church, not just a neighborhood church” to meet the needs of the community

Grow a little

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be? (cont.)

Wishes that had to do with Fellowship:

Dinner clubs

More informal get-togethers – 4

Weds. Night dinner community – 3

More Parish functions

Large Parish Hall

Same fellowship as in old building including picnics on the grounds

Choir

Church humming 24/7

Activities for the whole parish, not just parts

Annual reunion

Wishes that had to do with Pastoral Care:

Don't wait to reach out to people we can't find (i.e. parishioners who have moved since the storm)

Phone contact with people who miss church two times

“a full ministry to members of the parish – priest/people & people/people”

Return of members who left after Katrina

Temporary church

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be? (cont.)

Other Wishes:

Patience – 2

Grace to accept we will not all get our way in rebuilding and stay a community anyway

Understanding and unity in parish and vestry

“That church site will bring everyone together.”

To remember what we have learned while we have been in exile and that the church is not the building.

Don't lose who we are

We don't work by consensus

Energy

Active lay leadership – 3

Full involvement across all ages – keep youth involved

The physical plant (build a new church)– 8

New space that will meet the needs of all the congregation.

New space that makes St. Pat's history visible, but is open to new – both and

Get a building ASAP – 6

Building that can't be destroyed

Find a space that is ours/ a temporary church - 2

Build back on the beach – 2

Big enough property to expand

Build back on the north end of our property

Build for the future – meeting needs of people as a whole

Youth building

Moveable space to change interior from informal to formal as needed

More stalls in the ladies' room

Handicap accessibility

A columbarium

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be? (cont.)

Other Wishes, cont.

Build a quaint old country church like in England or Scotland

“That homosexuality issue in the larger church would be reconciled”

For things to move faster

“That David would remain our priest for a long time.” – 2

More music – i.e. concerts

Better communication – 2

 Better communication between church/vestry and youth

 Quarterly meetings with the congregation

A budget with an excess - 2

Adequate staffing (to avoid burnout) – 2

“Wish people could accept where we are right now and be patient to know what God has in store for us.”

No more hurricanes

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be? (cont.)

Sample quotes from three wishes:

"If we become the church we could become we are going to be rescuers [if there is another Katrina]."

"Buildings—a one word catch all for what allows the church to be part of the community. So often it's providing facilities to the community for an AA meeting, dance, - or inviting a congregation in to worship. Next time I want to be the one inviting people in."

"Music—to be blessed with people with talent and time to come sing with us. Music is terribly important to my worship."

"The imagination to find ways for us to be involved in the community whether it's Stars on the Water, Food Pantry, whatever."

"A more active women's service group which meets on a regular basis to discuss the needs of women in the community and what could be done to meet those needs."

"If someone is in need that the church has a way of providing it. I'm for the underdog."

"Get our own space!! Get our own space!! And Get our own space!!"

"A place to put the church where it's got property, accessibility, and safety with places to meditate — conducive to quiet—shielded from all the negatives (noise, distractions)."

"The return of members who left the church after the storm."

"It would be exciting if St. Patrick's had a clear presence in Long Beach, in the schools, in the community as a whole. I would like to see us reaching out to the community in nice ways. We have some creative people. I would like to see us finding ways to use these gifts."

"I would like to see us get back to Stars on the Water or something for the kids. St. Patrick's needs to be involved in the community with kids. To make a difference when they are young. Maybe it's not Stars on the Water, but some sort of kid's outreach."

"For a reasonably priced, excellent, daycare preschool for the community. That Mom's and Dad's could afford — not a warehouse. I can see how [my grandchild] is thriving where she is. Have an excellent affordable program before kids start school and may an afterschool program too."

"I would like to see an undercurrent of understanding an unity in the Parish and on the vestry now and that would continue forever."

"I want to see the crucifix, Stations of the Cross, and Mary have a prominent place in the new St. Patrick's."

"A columbarium—for all eternity I want to be a part of the church that has nurtured me."

"I hope we can find out what our ministry is going to be. Once we decide, I believe that everything is going to fall into place. [there are] a lot of unchurched people and children in Long Beach."

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be? (cont.)

Sample quotes from three wishes, cont.:

"I wish that David would stay our priest for a long time. He brings excellent leadership qualities. He brings so much knowledge that he imparts to us in his sermons, a lot of love and kindness that we don't see in our everyday life. I think he is a really, really good leader."

"That the [physical] plant would be humming, buzzing—seven days a week. Not just with Parish related activities, but the Long Beach community as well."

"A first-rate music program—concerts for the community. A good music program and good liturgy go hand in hand. Not stuffy—a variety. Music and liturgy done well."

"Don't have to have the same building— just want to be able to have the same fellowship—picnics on the grounds, the deck—a lot of fun. Being able to have the space for the different services...."

"Rebuild a church within the Long Beach Community. Re-engage and rebuild a strong youth program. Become a pillar for outreach in the community."

"Rebuilding of youth program. More tools for adult spiritual growth such as a labyrinth. More structured and intentional outreach programs."

"Quarterly meetings with the congregation because there is a lack of communication."

"Community built, (not building so much as people), Outreach, energy."

"A restoration of the "worship space" feeling of the St. Patrick's at 452 W. Beach. This comes about when the site and buildings are regarded as holy ground, and not just a location for meeting."

"Unending opportunities for education for all ages—biblical study, church history, keynote speakers, beautiful reference library — [to be] a lively center for education across the board. Education and spiritual connection go hand in hand."

"A moveable space for our church—to be able to re-create space—as we change and grow — concerts for youth (informal) to very formal (Eucharist). A space with lots of light."

"We need our own place, but the right place too."

"Being part of the bigger community—the park, other things we were trying to get going—the [Smoke and Fire] BBQ."

"1. Get the place. 2. do the inreach and 3. get everybody back together to do the outreach."

"Wish our church that emerges from the process becomes all that we need to be for our community. Find the people that need church—need us."

"Wish we could develop a strong youth program and strong Christian ed."

"That we would be know for our outreach."

"That the church would grow and prosper and be a place where my children will want to stay. That they will get the Christian Education and support they need going into their teen years."

4. Three Wishes

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3—5 years, what would they be? (cont.)

Sample quotes from three wishes, cont.:

"That the site and the church—wherever we are going will be a place of joy and peace for everybody and that it will bring everybody together."

"I wish we would grow enough to be able to have the staffing and programming to meet the needs of our community."

"For the youth ministry to be more inviting to outsiders."

"Handicapped accessibility."

"That we don't wait to reach out for the people we can't find [since the storm]."

"That congregation will grow and not lose the closeness we have."

"That schism over homosexuality issue in church would be resolved."

"Lay leadership that understands they are the only ones who can draw a diverse congregation in one... My hope and prayer is that these leaders will develop and gather us in the next 3—5 years."

"A vibrant outreach outside ourselves that becomes central to who we are out in the community and will grow us in numbers and deepen our spirituality as we grow in Christ."

"[That] we have a new worship space, fellowship space, office space, Christian Ed space that will meet the needs of all the congregation. [That will] show the core values of the Episcopal church... To have a visible story of who St. Patrick's is (and has been)... To do things to make our history visible—not to discount change, [but to have both] change AND ..."

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Long Beach, Mississippi

Mission and Ministry Subcommittee Questionnaire*

*Adapted from questionnaires on the Clergy Leadership Institute Web site
<http://www.clergyleadership.com/ai-resources/ai-resources.html>, accessed 12/6/2006

November 2006

Date: _____

Demographics:

Name : _____

How many are in your family and what are their ages? _____

How many times did you attend church in the year before Katrina? _____

How many times have you attended church since Katrina? _____

Which services did you normally attend (7:30, 9:00, 11:00, Wednesday night): _____

Which service was your primary service? _____

**Please return completed questionnaire to the Church Office by Wednesday,
November 8, 2006.**

Questionnaires can be mailed to the church office at:

St. Patrick's

P. O. Box 550

Long Beach, MS 39560

Attn: Mission and Ministry Questionnaire

The Interview (5 Questions)

1. Best Experience:

Reflect on your entire experience with the congregation. Recall a time when you felt most alive, most involved, spiritually touched, or most excited about your involvement. Describe this event in detail. What made it an exciting experience? Who was involved? Describe how you felt. What did you do as a result of the experience?

2. Values:

What are the things you value deeply: specifically the things you value about yourself, being a parishioner, and your church?

- a) **Yourself:** Without being humble, what do you value most about yourself? For example; as a human being, or employee, a friend, parent, citizen, and so on:

- b) **Being a Parishioner:** When you feel best about being a parishioner at St. Patrick's, what about yourself do you value? (Another way to interpret this question is, when you feel best about your participation at St. Patrick's, what are you contributing? Or what gifts are you using?

- c) **Your Church:** What is it about St. Patrick's that you value? What is the single most important thing that St. Patrick's has contributed to your life?

- d) **Your Denomination:** What is it about being Episcopalian that you value? What is the single most important thing that being Episcopalian has contributed to your life?

3. Core Value:

What do you think is the core value for St. Patrick's? What Values give life to the congregation? What is that, if it did not exist, would make St. Patrick's totally different than it is or was?

4. Three Wishes:

If you had three wishes for St. Patrick's for the next 3 – 5 years, what would they be?

5. Best Experience of Serving on the Vestry (Please answer if you have ever served on a vestry)

a) Reflect on your entire experience of serving on the Vestry. Recall your best experience of serving on the Vestry or committee. What made it memorable or rewarding? Who was involved? What did you accomplish and how did you feel?

b) Being a member of the Vestry: When you feel/ have felt best about being a member of the Vestry what about yourself do you value?

For current vestry members:

c) Wishes: Imagine that the next year serving on the Vestry is the most creative and rewarding year you have had at your church.

(i) What would you have accomplished?

(ii) What would the Vestry have accomplished?



The Children's Banner

A 30+ft. roll of paper was set up in the dining hall during St. Patrick's Parish Weekend at Camp Bratton-Green in September 2006. Children were invited to draw or write their answers to: "My Favorite Thing About Church is..." and "If I had a magic wand my three wishes for St. Patrick's Would be..." Adults at the weekend also contributed to the banner. St. Patrick's was worshiping in the gym at Coast Episcopal School at the time of the weekend.

"My Favorite Thing About Church is"

"Everything!"

"The people that are nice to you."

"Saying our prayers."

"Our luck is great! St. Patrick's"

"I ♥ church!"

"I miss kneeling during prayers."

"I ♥ St. Patrick's."

"Singing! (out of key)"

"David is really funny." [The Rev. David Knight]

"My favorite is communion."

"Grasshoppers are not afraid."

"David's sermons and praising God."

"The thing I will always remember is Easter 2005. It's when I got baptized!"

"On August 29, 05 hurricane Katrina Hit and destroyed the Church."

"My favorite thing about Church is putting the books up after service."

"Getting Doughnuts and talking to everybody."

"Mason is ten and is from Mississippi."

"We had the best view in Mississippi."

"I really miss 2nd Sunday suppers watching the sunset."



The Children's Banner

“If I had a magic wand, my three wishes for St. Patrick’s would be....”

“If I had a magic wand I would have made Katrina never come.”

“I would make myself climb the ladder to the zip line.” [Ropes course at Camp Bratton-Green]

“I would make parish weekend longer.”

“I wish I could redo time and let all the world know that there was a hurricane going to hit Mississippi.”

“If I had a magic wand I would make everything right.”

“1. I wish more people would come to church. 2. We could have a long service. 3. We could have a huge home (church) were anybody could come.”

“My 3 wishes are: 1. Every 1 could get along. 2. We could have a big, airconditioned church! 3. The hurricane had never hit!”

“I wish our church was back. I wish the hurricane did not hit us. I wish that we could have are people back.”

“My 3 wishes for St. Patrick’s would be...

1. We all get along well. 2. We all be friendly to each other 3. Respect other people and their property!”

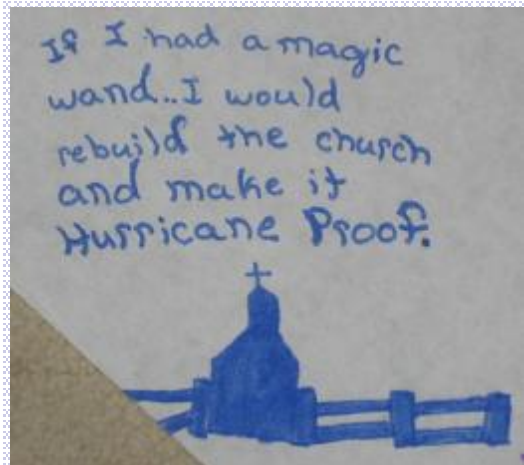
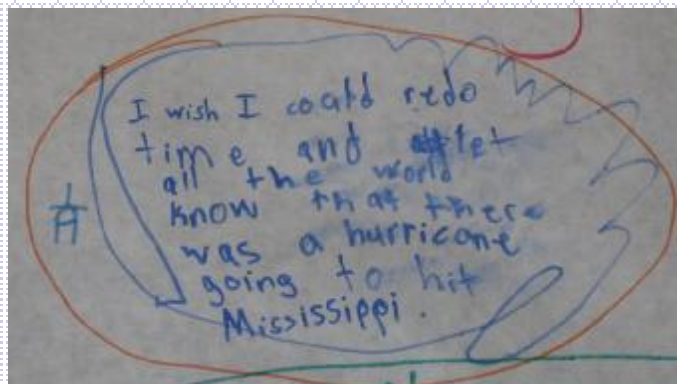
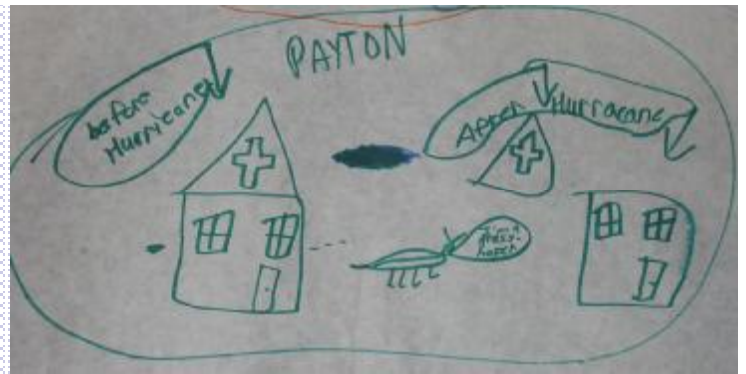
“I wish our church will be stronger!”

“I wish our church will be stronger and better. Also the people will be happy. No gym!!”

““Just like the other church.!”

“Chairs”

“Air Conditioning!”



Section 2

Themes from Congregational Interviews

Themes from the Congregational Interviews

Notes from November 16, 2006 Mission and Ministry Subcommittee Mtg.

Present: Ann Hagood, Doug MacCullagh, Kyle Killeen, Kathy Davis, Nancy Gurneck, David Knight, and Bill Livingston (facilitated)

On Sunday, Nov. 12, the committee met, reread the congregational interviews, and tallied the responses. Those tallies and responses will be part of the draft vision report to be presented to the congregation on Dec. 3.

Working from these tallies and based on what we heard/read during the interviews, we drew out the following themes and wrote a draft mission statement.

What are our core values?

Why do we do what we do?

What do we stand for?

What are we all about?

What is our uniqueness as a community?

What is it that we offer that is unique?

Sacramental liturgy

Family/community

Place of healing

Accepting

Children

Spirituality – formation

Freedom

Serving the broader community

Joyfulness

Diocese connection

Uniqueness

Themes from Congregational Interviews, cont.

What special gifts do we offer?

As a community as a whole?

Among our members?

Among our clergy?

Sacramental liturgy

Our love

Being welcoming > singles, couples, families

Being inclusive

Safety

Youth ministry

Member's gifts used – opportunities for members to serve

Being unique

Survivors

What gives us the greatest joy?

What are we doing that gives us the greatest joy?

What could we be doing that we aren't that would give us the greatest joy?

What should we be doing that we aren't that could give us the greatest joy?

Sacramental liturgy

Children

Nurturing our clergy

Fellowship – laugh, enjoy one another

Welcoming newcomers

Working with others in the broader community

Serving the broader community

Wednesday evening service -> liturgy, meals, families, joyful worship

Themes from Congregational Interviews, cont.

What needs are we meeting? What needs are we not meeting but could/should be meeting?

Of our community as a whole?

Of our members?

Of our broader community?

Sacramental liturgy

Fellowship/Community

Accepting/Openness

Diversity – age, gender orientation

Safety seeking the Holy Spirit

Children/youth

Servant ministry

What is unique about this time?

What is God calling us to at this specific time and place?

Katrina

No Building

Uncertainty, unknowns

Loss

Opportunity for redemption

Telling the story

Fear of making a mistake – of not even knowing when/if it is a mistake

Much to do – low energy

What is God calling us to do now?

Partnerships

Lots of \$

Themes from Congregational Interviews, cont.

What are the needs at this time?

Sacraments – spiritually feeding our members

Sense of Place – Continuity

Being a member of the community

Place of stability and support

Serving children

Accessibility

Affordable Day Care

Affordable Housing

Hispanic community

Section 3

Mission Statement

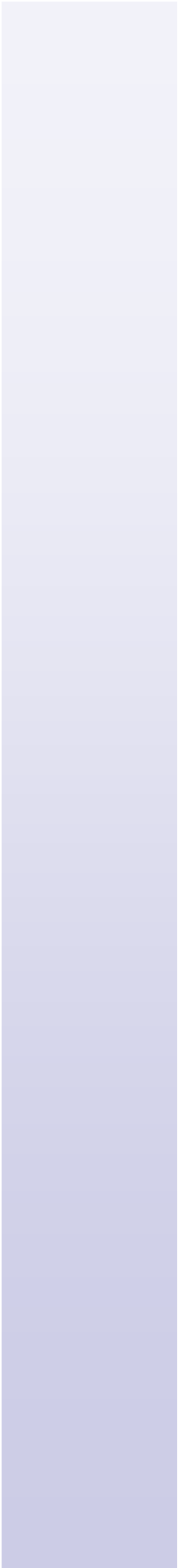
Adopted by the Vestry on 12-12-2006

Mission Statement

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

A sacramental community inviting and welcoming all
to grow in Christ's love through fellowship and service.

Adopted by the Vestry December 12, 2006



Section 4

Future Work:

Developing the Vision

Future Work – Developing the Vision

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

*A sacramental community inviting and welcoming all
To grow in Christ's love through fellowship and service.*

The Mission and Ministry portion of this report was presented to the congregation at a dinner meeting on Sunday, December 3rd. The response to the interview summaries, themes, and the draft mission statement was overwhelmingly positive. One concern voiced during the meeting was that support for children, youth, and families was not spelled out in the draft mission statement even though it showed up over and over again as a core value and wish during the congregational interviews. This concern was also raised during the Mission and Ministry subcommittee meeting when the draft mission statement was written.

The response to the concern by those at the meeting was a preference for keeping the draft statement as is. One reason given was that highlighting a specific group automatically excludes others. People at the meeting seemed to like the phrase “inviting and welcoming all” –speaking to St. Patrick’s as an accepting, welcoming, and inclusive church.

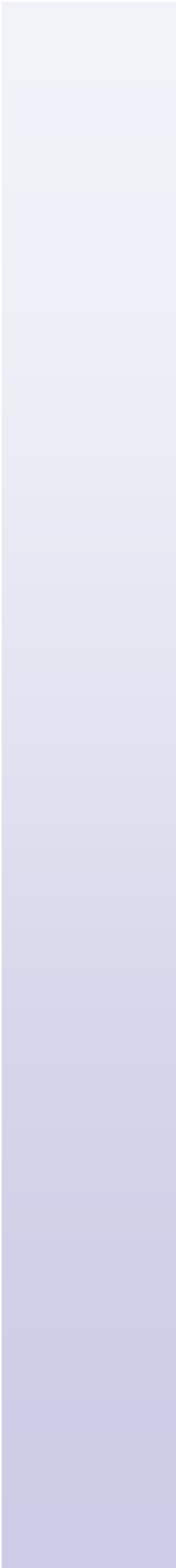
The Mission and Ministry Subcommittee agrees that “inviting and welcoming all” is true to who we are; however, from an energy, program, and budget perspective we also believe we cannot be “all things to all people.” It is clear from the interviews that the congregation feels called to serve children and youth both within our church and out in the larger community *specifically*. Children, youth, and their families are viewed as living under stress (at best) and vulnerable to (or already in) crisis.

The Mission and Ministry Subcommittee wrote the draft mission statement “slogan-length” to try to capture who we are in a way that was easy to remember. Our understanding is that the work represented in this report and this mission statement offer a skeleton that will gain “meat” in further work by the vestry and congregation beginning next year (2007). It is our hope that this next level will include a one-page summary of “visions” that can easily be referred to for planning and budgetary purposes and that our call to ministry to children, youth, and their families will be appropriately reflected there.

Future Work, cont.

Another concern discussed was the use of “church language” in the mission statement. Again, people felt that the use of the word “sacramental” – the only specific “church language” in the statement was fundamental to who we are and offered a way to open conversation with others who might wonder what being a “sacramental community” means.

We are excited by what we have heard during the congregational interviews and in the meetings and look forward to seeing the vision for St. Patrick’s take form in the coming year.



Section 5

Data Gathering Subcommittee Report

Tom Crew, Chair

Tyrus Cohan

Danny Meadors

The Rev. Lynne Hough

Scope

The scope of this the Data Gathering Sub-Committee was to collect and organize relevant data about the congregation and the community served by St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. These facts are then used to project trends to better anticipate the church's requirements for use in new church design and construction. Traditionally such a study would establish patterns in attendance, finance, and programmatic growth. Yet, the circumstances following the destruction of St Patrick's and their prolonged impact on its congregation make such projections problematic. To help mitigate this issue, this report includes either the source documents and/or the referencing for the data used, for further study by the prudent reader. As per the guidance of the master document *Helping Build the Church and Helping the Church Build*, other than obvious statistical inferences, no personal opinions are included in this report.

Population Pre- and Post-Katrina

Approximately 45% of St. Patrick's pre-Katrina active members lived outside of Long Beach, Mississippi in all three of Mississippi's coastal counties: Harrison, Hancock and Jackson. This same region contains ten Episcopal churches of which six were destroyed. Over a year after Hurricane Katrina the regions transportation infrastructure remains compromised by the loss of the U.S. Highway 90 bridges at Bay St. Louis and Ocean Springs.⁴

No precise population numbers exist for the impact of Hurricane Katrina within the City of Long Beach. Yet, the city's best estimate is that approximately 700 homes (~3-4 people per house) and 1000 apartments (~2 people per apartment) were lost. So between 4100 and 4800 people were left homeless. Based on the 2000 Census of 17,320 roughly 25% of the population had a catastrophic loss of housing. This does not include those who suffered damage significant enough to make their homes uninhabitable. As a secondary indicator, the metered water usage for Long Beach dropped 22% or roughly equivalent to the housing loss.⁵

The enrollment for the Long Beach Public Schools dropped from ~3200 before the storm to 2850 at the start of the 2006-2007 school year. This represents an 11% permanent loss in students. When compared to the housing loss and water consumption statistics it can be inferred that families with school aged children were about twice as likely to stick it out as the rest of the population.⁶

⁴Active Membership Directory and post-Katrina communications with parishioners.

⁵Personal communication with City of Long Beach Public Works personnel.

⁶Personal communication with Long Beach Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Carolyn Hamilton

St. Patrick's Membership Pre- and Post-Katrina

Around 33% of the active members of St. Patrick's lost their homes. This is a higher percentage than that for the surrounding community and is likely attributable to the beach front location of the church and the logical proximity of many of its members.⁷

The church's 2005 worship attendance records for the eight months prior to the storm were lost. Based on the 2004 numbers and estimates from reliable sources, the total pre-Katrina attendance for all three services combined was ~140 worshippers. Attendance numbers after the storm for the single weekly service held at the Coast Episcopal School gymnasium are skewed by presence of the Camp Coast Care volunteers. A best-guess attendance estimate is that on average 50 St. Patrick's members attended services at the gymnasium with that number growing to roughly 65 since moving the service to Saturday night at Grace Lutheran.

St. Patrick's pre-Katrina growth trends (1997-2005) show an average annual growth of 5% for membership and 8% for revenue. During this time the church achieved parish status and saw a significant growth in its programs and outreach. In a traditional study such statistics would be used to project future growth and revenue. However, their usage for such projections in a post-Katrina community is difficult to assess. The best case scenarios are: 1) That St. Patrick's recovery would parallel that of its surrounding community, or 2) The church's recovery would outpace that of the community it serves. Yet, it is impossible to determine how long either scenario would take the church to recover to its pre-Katrina levels in attendance and revenue.⁸

The distribution of youth (under age 18) in Long Beach and at St. Patrick's (pre-Katrina) are roughly equivalent at ~27%. This suggests a well-balanced church population in which attendance mirrors the community it represents with the exception of racial/ethnic composition.⁹

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church suffered greater levels of loss and disruption than the community it serves. The wide dispersion of members across coastal Mississippi infers that many of St. Patrick's faithful chose to worship in Long Beach as opposed to Episcopal churches closer to their homes. The two key questions arising from this study are: 1) What was it that drew people from outside of Long Beach to worship at St. Patrick's? and 2) How do we preserve or recreate that drawing power? Hopefully the answers to these questions can be related to the most optimistic information found during this study--that shows that the City of Long Beach's population has a high receptivity to faith issues and a strong desire to seek traditional spiritual development.¹⁰

⁷Active membership roster and post-Katrina communications.

⁸St Patrick's Episcopal Church Parochial Records 1997-2005, minus 2004.

⁹St Patrick's Episcopal Church Parochial Records 2005; 2000 U.S. Census Records.

¹⁰PERCEPT Report for Zip Code 39560

Long Beach, Mississippi Demographics¹⁰

1) Population

- a) City of Long Beach: 17,320 2000 Census
- b) 39560 Zip Code: 19, 158 2005 estimate

2) Households

- a) Total Units: 7,203
- b) Households: 6,560
- c) Families: 4,696
- d) Households with children under 18: 36.2%

Married couples 53.8%

Female Head of Household 13.5%

Non Families 28.4%

Individual households 22.9%

Average household size is 2.6 and average family size is 3.1

3) Race:

- a) White 87.4%
- b) African-American 7.3%
- c) Hispanic 2.3%
- e) Asian 2.6%
- f) Native-American 0.4%

4) Age Distribution:

- a) Under 18 27.1%
- b) 18 to 24 9.1%
- c) 25 to 44 29.8%
- d) 45 to 64 22.8%
- e) Over 65 11.2%
- f) Median Age: 36

¹⁰ All demographic data obtained from 2000 Census with the exception of 2005 population estimate which comes from PERCEPT "39560" 40

Long Beach, Mississippi Demographics, cont.

5) Income

a) Per capita	\$19,035
b) Median household	\$43,239
c) Median male	\$35,909
d) Median female	\$24,119

6) Living in Poverty

a) Total	9.0%
b) Families	7.7%
c) Children	15.2%
d) Over 65	3.7%

7) Household Structure

a) Homes with children	36.2%
b) Married-traditional	53.8%
c) Female head of household	13.5%
d) Individual	22.9%
e) Over 65 and alone	7.7%

Katrina Housing Impact¹¹

Total number of homes in coastal Mississippi counties: 171,000

Number of homes destroyed: 65,000 (38%)

Number of homes suffering major damage: 38,000 (22%)

Number of homes damaged: 51,000 (30%)

Number of homes affected: 1,300 (1%)

Number of homes unaffected: 16,000 (9%)

¹¹Statistics from American Red Cross. Put simply, roughly 90% of the homes in Mississippi's coastal counties were damaged or destroyed.

Long Beach, Mississippi Demographics, cont.

Respectfully Submitted,

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church,
Data Gathering Sub-Committee

Thomas Crew
Danny Meadors
Tyrus Cohan
Rev. Lynne Hough

Section 6

Parochial Data:

Participation and Giving Trends: Diocese of Mississippi (Bar Graph)

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/TrendsMS.pdf>

Participation and Giving Trends: St. Patrick's Episcopal Church (Bar Graph)

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/TrendsStPatricks.pdf>

Participation and Giving Trends: Trinity Church, Pass Christian (Bar Graph)

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/TrendsTrinity.pdf>

Participation and Giving Trends: St. Peter's By-the-Sea (Bar Graph)

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/TrendsStPeters.pdf>

Parochial Reports (Summary 1997-2005): St. Patrick's Episcopal Church (Table)

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/StPatricksParochialRpts.pdf>

Section 7

U.S. 2000 Census Maps

Long Beach Census Data Map
(By Population and Race)

http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/longbeach_race.pdf

Long Beach Census Data Map

http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/longbeach_census.pdf

Section 8

PERCEPT:

Standardized analytical studies performed by zip code based on U.S. Census (2000) data. Examines demographics, diversity, community issues and faith preferences. These studies are also extremely useful for comparisons with neighboring communities.

Zip Code 39560 (Long Beach)

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/z39560.pdf>

Zip Code 39571 (Pass Christian)

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/z39571.pdf>

Zip Code 39501 (Gulfport)

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/z39501.pdf>

Section 9

Historical Reports

Knowing Your Church, Nov. 2000

by Danny Meadors and Doug MacCullagh

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/KnowingYourChurch2000.pdf>

Master Plan (Draft), May 22, 2002

by Mark Lishen, Chair, and The Long Range Planning Committee

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/DraftMasterPlan2002.pdf>

St. Patrick's Parish Profile, 2003

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/StPatricksProfile.pdf>

St. Patrick's Annual Report for 2004,

presented at the Annual Meeting, January 2005

<http://www.stpatricks.dioms.org/vision/AnnualReport2004.pdf>

Data Gathering Subcommittee

Tom Crew, Chair

Danny Meadors

The Rev. Lynne Hough

Tyrus Cohan

Mission and Ministry Subcommittee

Kathy Davis, Chair

Will Galbraith

Nancy Gurneck

Ann Hagood

Kyle Killeen

Doug MacCullagh

The Site Selection Subcommittee

Dunny Green, Chair

Bruce Davis

Mark Lishen

The Planning Committee

Aletha Burge, Chair

Catherine Biggs

Nancy Gurneck

Hugh Jones

Steve Taylor

Linda McCulloch, Sr. Warden (Ex Officio)

Lisa Crain, Jr. Warden (Ex Officio)

The Rev. David Knight, Rector

The Rev. Bill Livingston, Canon Pastor-Missioner



Mission Statement

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

*A sacramental community
inviting and welcoming all
to grow in Christ's love
through fellowship and service.*

Adopted 12/12/2006



The Diocese of Mississippi
One Church in Mission:
Inviting, Transforming, Reconciling

www.dioms.org