

**SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM  
Parent and Parishioner Survey:  
Values, Purpose and Goals for Christian Education at St. Mary's**

*There were 7 respondents to the survey below, which was given at the Christian Education meeting held on July 29, 2009. While these results are not necessarily representative of the parish as a whole, they are a good sampling from the parents who were available and chose to attend this meeting.*

*Not all respondents chose to prioritize all items. The narrative comments are recorded as close to verbatim as space would allow.*

Please help us prioritize the values and goals you wish for Christian Ed at St. Mary's by checking the appropriate box next to each purpose statement.:

	Highest Priority	Somewhat important	Less a priority
Knowing the major stories of the Bible (and being able to put these stories together in a simple timeline)	4	2	0
Committing Bible verses to memory	0	1	6
Understand how Christianity compares to other world religions	2	3	2
Helping those in need as an act of following Jesus	5	1	0
Understanding Baptism and the baptismal covenant	1	5	1
Understanding and memorizing common parts of BCP worship such as the Lord's Prayer and the Nicene Creed	0	5	2
Helping young people have personal relationship with Jesus	4	1	1
Participating in weekly worship	5	2	0
Understanding the church year and our rhythm of worship	2	4	1
Living out Christian faith in daily life at school and home	5	2	0
Learning & practicing spiritual disciplines	1	4	2
Ability to briefly outline God's plan of salvation for the world	0	2	4
Knowing the books of the Bible	2	0	5
Sharing Christian faith with others	0	4	3
Understanding the parts and meaning of the Eucharist	3	4	0
Knowledge of the character of God	4	3	0
Practicing stewardship of time, talent and treasure	4	3	0
Understanding how to use the Book of Common Prayer	2	2	3
Teaching and Practicing Peace and Justice in the world	2	4	0
Learning to pray - and doing it together	1	5	1
Knowing the life and teachings of Jesus	4	3	0
Learning morals and ethics for life	5	0	2

**What do you hope our Christian Education Offerings can achieve? Please fill in the following boxes with any thoughts that you may have for our children at St. Mary's.**

5 Things I want a child to **know** about God and faith in this church:

1. Forgiveness and Loving; Love your neighbor as yourself; the Lord's Prayer; the Nicene Creed; Helping others on a regular basis as a way of life (i.e. not just at holidays); being good to other people is critical; we see God in other people and our universe

2. We get guidance to live by 2 simple premises-love God & love others; Good will and good actions can make the world a better place; The Episcopal Church and its traditions (past and present); The Lord's Prayer; the Nicene Creed; Jesus died for your sins – what does this mean in our lives; The importance of charity;

3. The history of the church and God; The life of Jesus' disciples and discipleship; The life and teachings of Jesus; Traditional hymns; Some basic Christian Hymns, Basics of the book of Common Prayer

4. Friendship and Community with others in the parish; The omnipresence of God's love; The Episcopal church as a part of the whole religious world; The story of the desert people/Hebrew nation –from Genesis onward – historic and spiritual

5. What changed about God's nature as a result of Jesus' arrival on earth; The basics of the church calendar and its meaning; The Episcopal liturgy

5 Things I want a child to **feel** about God and faith in this church:

1. Feel that God loves us and gives us examples to teach us to that end; Feel welcomed by the church community like a home away from home; Feel love for one another and support for one's friends; Feel comfortable and welcome; Feel that God will love them no matter what; Feel that God is listening to them;

2. Feel that God is strength; Feel that they can have a personal relationship with God; Feel engaged and interested; Feel a part of community; Feel engaged in the church service; Feel that church is an affirming, supportive place that encourages right behavior and generosity of spirit and provides a framework for living

3. Feel a sense of God and loved by God; Feel respect; Feel proud to be a Christian; Feel God put Christ here to feel what we feel; Feel that God is peace; Feel better about their place in the world; Feel secure and loved

4. Feel like St. Mary's is a good place to go on Sunday morning!; Feel that while we choose to worship a Christian God, others are valued in defining God differently; Feel centered after a service; Feel an invitation to participate;

5. Feel a sense of Christian commitment in life; feel reverence for the holy and sacred; Feel that the church is a constant in a changing world; Feel that the mystery of God means all things are possible;

5 Things I want a child to **do** because of their faith in God and participation in this church:

1. Give more of themselves to those in need; Pray; Pray; help others in daily life

2. Mention God and prayer in daily life- make the connection in daily life; Know right and wrong; look for people who are not being cared for and care for them; be kind to others; Reach out to those in need; develop comfort through the habits of the service

3. Develop habits of giving and being compassionate beyond the church; participate in the church service; Ask what Jesus would do; Be kind to others
4. Take care of yourself – you are God’s child and he has given you the precious gift of yourself
5. Look forward to coming to church; respect all religion in a secular world; honor your family, care for them, make efforts for them

Please feel free to add any other comments that might be helpful as we move forward:

Sacramental preparation for the Eucharist is needed at St. Mary’s.