

St. Anthony's Parish

Berwick

March 28, 2018

The Role of the Smaller Community

- Welcoming & inclusive. Examples are World Class hospitality, men's choir, ALPHA, Social Outreach (Food Bank, Christmas Baskets, Bundles for Babies, Emergency funding) Dinner Theatre, Women's prayer breakfast, Men's prayer breakfast, Visiting the sick & shut-ins, Open Arms.
- How do we currently live the mission? What do we bring to the larger community? What characteristic do we want to bring to the larger community?
- St. Anthony's has: vibrant community, well involved, financially stable, lots of volunteers, lots of talent, a spirit of fun & humour, hospitality, love to work on a together, community outreach, organizational skills, strong sense of belonging, living our faith, strong community spirit.
- Someone in "authority" needs to stand up and take ownership of what exactly will happen and quit dragging this process out. We think they already know but won't speak "clearly".
- The committee that built the Church should be the one to vote on closing it.
- To keep the ministries we developed in the past, such as Open Arms, etc. in this Community
- To use this facility for retreats, etc.
- To continue to support our community at St. Anthony's
- Talents and ideas to carry on from St. Anthony's: sense of family & belonging, great enthusiasm, willing to help each other, Open Arms, Hospitality.
- Not in Kentville! Build a new building to accommodate several parishes.
- We will be diluted if we are separated. Or will we take our talents and share them with other parishioners, making the whole stronger than the parts?
- Do not be protectionist – be willing to be "inclusive".
- Character: welcoming, caring, giving, vibrant, being consistent.
- If we lose the above, our church will lose its character
- St. Anthony's can offer: Dinner Theatre, outreach programs (Open Arms, Food Bank), great functional infrastructure (2 halls, AV system), easy access, consistent attendance at church, Church unity.
- We should be the base of the regional Parish!
- Berwick is central to the entire catchment of churches.
- We are a welcoming, inclusive, supportive community of believers. Outreach (Open Arms, Canadian immigrants, migrants, support to Valley Pregnancy, Christmas Hampers, Bundles for Babies.

- How can the distinct character of our church be honoured and celebrated as part of a larger structure?
- Hospitality is needed. Include others areas into (the) hospitable things we do.
- Communal celebrations.
- We feel other church communities respect our Parish community. We are very welcoming, embrace newcomers, support all church functions, fundraise, etc., our community likes to lead by example, we have a healthy Outreach community-drive.
- Beyond our shared faith we build personal relationships, we are family (and this is what we don't want to lose. Our values are the same.
- Currently live our mission, faithful praying of our mission statement, strong youth movement with Christine, Men's group, Dinner Theatre.
- We are a friendly, welcoming & hospitable church and we hope to carry this to our larger Parish.
- Berwick church is such a haven for anyone in need, can this continue in a larger Parish?
- One central church? Berwick is probably the centre.
- Discuss how changes *should* occur, not *will* they occur
- Welcoming ministry. All can easily continue in a new regional parish.