

REVITALIZE OHIO UPDATE

OCTOBER 2016

Your Revitalize Ohio Team continues to meet on the third Tuesday of every month. I was out of town and not able to attend the September 20th meeting, but after discussion with Bruce Hixon I can share some updates from the September's meeting and others.

Parish Survey Update: As you know by now, 87 people participated in the St. Mark's survey. The results are back and available on the church web site and there are copies on the shelf by the bulletin board. The vestry and the Revitalize team will need to discern next steps for using the survey results.

Collaboration and shared staffing: Your St. Mark's team was open and interested in the other churches thoughts and ideas about collaboration and sharing of staff, programs, and activities. The idea was to meet with Rector, Senior Wardens, and Treasurer of each church. We had open discussion with St. Paul's and St. Timothy's Massillon, both were open to activity sharing but not staff sharing at this time. We are waiting to here back from NewLife.

Invite-able Events: The first Revitalize Ohio meeting with the other area Episcopal Churches focused on Invite-able Events as a tool to improve community awareness of our churches. Your team is still working on just what that means for St. Mark's and how we should be using them. St. Mark's invited the area churches to participate in the Stark County Fair Booth with St. Timothy Massillon and Trinity Alliance participating. The St. Mark's Growth Committee lead an effort to include the area churches in St. Mark's final Wednesday Evening Prayer service and Pot Luck Dinner. Trinity Alliance and New Life Uniontown along with a multitude of St. Mark's parishioners had a great evening. Going forward at our October 18th. meeting, John Carson and his wife are going to help us work through what are and how to use Invite-able Events.

The theme of the second Revitalize Ohio meeting was on spiritual practice, communal prayer, worship in the Episcopal church. Several members of the Revitalize Team are on the Worship Committee and hope to discuss these ideas with the Committee at their next meeting November 1st.

The next area revitalization meeting is October 8th in Elyria and is combined with the Lay & Clergy Leadership Conference.

Charlie Kiesling