

Better Shepherd Update – February 2007

Better Shepherd is the name of Good Shepherd's process for formulating, implementing, and continually updating the parish's annual and long-range plans. In each of the past two years, we conducted fall assemblies during which parishioners had the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about our parish. Our Education, Pastoral Care and Outreach, Liturgy, and Finance commissions used this input to help establish their goals, and develop programs that better respond to the needs of the parish. This year, our planning will focus on both the short-term and the long-term (3-5 years) future of Good Shepherd. Each commission will schedule a meeting (the Finance Commission will meet on February 8) to bring you up-to-date on their plans and programs, and listen to your ideas for the future. Your input will help the commissions determine their direction for the next 1-2 years, so we encourage you to participate and share your ideas.

This month, we will engage the community in a 3-5 year planning process. We will conduct a parish-wide survey, and facilitate several focus group sessions both within and outside our parish community. Our goal will be to zero in on the internal and external factors that will have a direct impact on Good Shepherd in the next 3-5 years. This will help set the direction for our parish so we can better meet the needs of our parishioners, as well as, deal with the challenges we will face in the future. Once all the data has been collected, we will compile and analyze what we have learned, and begin the long-term planning process. We will share our findings and our progress during the fall Better Shepherd assembly.

Please check the weekly bulletin for updates on the Better Shepherd process, as well as information on how you can join a focus group or participate in the survey. Your prayers and participation are appreciated and will help Good Shepherd continue to be a vibrant faith community.

In His service,
The Better Shepherd Committee