

Catching Divine Dreams
August 20, 2009
Fr. Dave Elsensohn

Over the past 15 years St. Peter's has engaged in two separate processes of collecting the various dreams that God has inspired for our congregation. Our Biblical ancestors were familiar with divine dreams. Joseph knew that God had spoken to him in a dream about a coat of many colors. Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth, followed the advice of an angel who came to him in a dream (twice). Paul of Tarsus answered the call of an angel who beckoned him in a dream to come to Europe to proclaim the Gospel. God has continually drawn his people to the fullness of their mission and potential through dreams. God continues to do so at St. Peter's. It is once again time to open our hearts to share the dreams God has sent to St. Peter's by-the-Sea.

Your Vestry and I are initiating a Dream Catching process that will begin as a part of the upcoming Stewardship campaign and culminate with the sharing forth of a dream vision for our parish this coming Easter, April 4, 2010.

This process of collecting the wishes and dreams that God has sent to you will be facilitated by a Dream Catcher's committee made up of 9 lay members of our congregation. We encourage all who might be interested in serving on this committee to contact Fr. Dave, or a member of the Vestry. The Dreamers will be constituted at the September 16 meeting of the Vestry. I hope to commission the Dream Catcher's for their ministry on Sunday, September 29th; the Sunday before the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels.

The following is an outline of a draft plan for such an effort. The details of this plan will be developed by the members of the Dream Catcher's.

What:

1. Present an outline to the vestry and ask for their support.
2. Call together a Dream Catcher team.
3. Begin soliciting "Dreams" through Endowment visits.
Bd.
4. Solicit "Dreams" during the Stewardship Campaign.
Catchers
5. Collate and organize the "Dreams" in a SWEEPS format.
Catchers
(Stewardship, Worship, Education, Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Service)
6. Host a "Dreams" gathering at the 2010 Annual Meeting.
Catchers
7. Evaluate and consolidate the results of the above process.
8. Synthesize and organize these results in 2, 5, 10, 20 year groupings.
Catchers
9. Cast the short and mid term "Dreams" as program and budget items.
Catchers

Who:

- Fr. Dave
Fr. Dave & Vestry
Endowment

Dream

Dream

Dream

Dream Catchers
Dream

Dream

- | | |
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| 10. Cast the long term "Dreams" as endowment ideas. | Dream Catchers |
| 11. Call together a prioritizing session for Shrove Tuesday. | Dream Catchers |
| 12. Present the synthesized and prioritized "Dreams" on Easter Sunday. | Dream Catchers |
| 13. Implementation stage. | Laity & Clergy |
| 14. Monitor and evaluate progress | Rector & Vestry |

Ideal Membership of the Dream Catchers:

8:00am Service	(1 member)
9:15am Service	(2 members)
11:00am Service	(1 member)
5:30pm Wednesday Service	(1 member)
Wednesday School	(2 members)
Endowment Board	(1 member)
Fr. Dave	

It is my "Dream" that God's developing call to our congregation will emerge more fully through this time of sharing and listening.

The wisdom of many is that congregations need to engage in an activity like this at least every seven years. We will be right on time.

Fr. Dave