

Annual State of the Mission Report  
The Rev. Jason T. Roberts  
February 6, 2011  
Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

Last year, at this meeting, I stood before you, 5 months into my tenure and announced that we had just entered into a contract and feasibility period for almost 11 acres on Bandera Road. I then announced that the Bishop had asked us to begin a conversation with the congregation of St. Michael's Episcopal Church about joining in common mission. I talked about how the Bishop's Committee was beginning a conversation about who we are and how we are out in the world. And I gave thanks for all the ministries, their leaders, and the staff here at Church of the Holy Spirit.

Well, here we are 1 year later. This almost 11 acres on Bandera Road is now well known to a lot of people and the Masterplan for the new Sacred Space has been approved by the Diocese, your Bishop's Committee, and now reviewed by you. And we, together with the congregation of St. Michael's, have now joined in common mission so that there is no longer two but one.

**Jesus said, 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

**John 17:20-21**

What has happened in the past year (with the purchasing of land, the joining together in common mission with another congregation, and the development of a masterplan) most members of congregation will go a lifetime and never experience. However, we, together as one Body, have experienced and survived all of them – and in one year's time! Thanks be to God!

This past weekend, your Bishop's Committee and I were on retreat continuing the work begun last year with developing a new way of thinking about how we are as a church. We did this work around a statement that I gleaned from some previous conversations. And we will soon have a new mission statement and possibly even a vision statement for the forward movement of this congregation. All the work that we are doing is to set the groundwork and establish a broad enough framework so that there is plenty of room to grow into the vision that is cast.

I will not overwhelm you with the nitty gritty of our conversations but know that you can have great confidence in your Bishop's Committee as together we listen to the Holy Spirit's hope for us as one of Christ's churches in San Antonio.

So, what is next you may ask?

Well, I have proclaimed (as a personal goal) this year, 2011, as the year of structure. As we prepare to move into a New Sacred Space we must already be ready to invite, welcome, and involve all those who God sends through our doors. Over this next year we will begin to form many different ministry teams that will serve our church and the world as we begin more and more to look outward from within our personal and church walls.

Already, in the past year we have formed the Sacred Space Team, the Music and Liturgy Team, a Capital Campaign Team, the Youth Ministry Team (Gather) to support the new initiatives in youth ministry that you funded with your 2011 pledge. Soon we will form an Outreach Team that will communicate and coordinate how and when we serve the community around us. It is my hope that we will also add to our ranks a Pastoral Care Team – focusing on how we care for one another in times of joy and sorrow, and a Stewardship Team - focusing on Year Round Stewardship. This list does not even include the ministries and teams that are already up and running or the ministry teams that you will feel called to bring forward, raise up, and lead!

Now here is the part that I ask you to offer your support. Within the list that I just mentioned, some of you got excited and thought (finally). Others of you got a bit frustrated that something that you are passionate about was not mentioned. And still others of you are thinking about what you need to get at HEB on the way home. For those of you who got excited or frustrated, you have just experienced what it means to be called. For those of you who are thinking about HEB and your next activity, you have experienced what it means to be called to participate in supporting the calling of others.

No matter where you fall (because there are others right now who are thinking, well, I am not any of those, what I am suppose to do) – God is calling you to be a light in this world and to share the passion that is within you with this congregation, with San Antonio and with God's world. So rather than sit there and debate with yourself about how much time you do or do not have – step forward and let your light shine for all to see.

As this morning's Gospel reading from Matthew had Jesus saying,

**You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**