

Vital Ministry in Resort Areas Diocese of Colorado

Sharing Our Stories:

Vail – The rebirth of ministry in Vail began with six months of prayer for God to reveal God’s mission to the congregation. The Mission of knowing Jesus and making Jesus known became central to absolutely everything. They focused on a few things and did them very well and decided to serve the community rather than the church. Hospitality is key to their ministry. Offering the pastoral services to the community is part of their ministry. Expecting members to be involved in community activities and not just church activities is part of how they stay relevant and listen to the needs of the community. They are one church with three worship sites in Eagle County.

Roaring Fork Valley – The congregations in Aspen, Basalt, Glenwood, and New Castle are beginning to meet and discern how they might partner in mission together and even become one “super parish” with four worship sites sharing administrative, program, and clergy staff to enhance their ministry and resources. Hospitality and the shift to serving the stranger have enhanced their ministry.

Breckenridge and Dillon – These congregations are healing and beginning to discover their new vision with new clergy leadership.

Ouray – This congregation is beginning to see their ministry as all of Ouray County and asking the questions: Who are we? What do we do best?

Durango – St. Mark’s just celebrated its 125th anniversary and is beginning to see the seasonal shift in their demographics. This is a strong congregation with many outreach opportunities being pursued in the community.

Common Themes:

Most of these congregations are healthy and growing.

They are very intentional about welcoming the stranger and visitor.

They are intentional about evangelism in a competitive environment (with recreational activities) and even a religiously hostile environment.

They are intentional about reaching out into the community, participating in the community, listening to needs within the community, and finding ways to be relevant to the community with the Gospel.

They cultivate Christian Hospitality.

They have readjusted to accommodate and honor seasonal members through Annual Meetings, pledges, vestry representations, ministry leadership, etc.

They are offering a variety of worship times, sites, and expressions.