

**February 3, 2009**  
**Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church**  
**7:00 PM in the Chapel**  
**Next meeting: March 24, 2009**

**Vestry members present:**

Jessica Anderson, Elizabeth Boileau, Brad Erickson, Paul Fromberg, AnnaMarie Hoos,  
David Kincaid, Rick Storrs      Absent: Susan Abernethy  
Leesy Taggart, Treasurer, was also present

**INVOCATION**

**I.      OLD BUSINESS, APPROVAL of December 23, 2009 MINUTES**

December 23, 2009 minutes were approved.

**II.     FINANCE REPORT**

The good news is during last two weeks in December there was an enormous amount of giving and the church ended the year with a surplus in the Operating Fund. Simultaneously at year's end the Building Fund has nothing in it for major repairs or any capital expenditures. However, our biggest outlay since we opened the doors, the Icon Project is now finished and numerous projects have been completed. We will need to fundraise for working funds for the Building Fund. Staff continues to hold expenses down. We have designed programs to attract people and we need to design requests for money.

Leesy praised Alissa Worthington who contacts 10% of our membership every month with the Stewardship Packet to review their pledge and return their pledge card to the Treasurer. People who can are increasing their pledge and there are some who because of the contact have made a pledge. However, weekly there is someone who needs to make a change in his or her pledge and speaks to Leesy about it. It seems to Leesy that people who are involved and engaged are contributing and not just dollars. The people who have only one point of contact, just attending a liturgy, are not giving as heavily.

**III.    CONVENOR REPORT**

FRONT DOORS: Scott King has spoken to the artist Shane Eagleton, who is presently in Santa Rosa. The artist has suggested that he create new door carvings depicting the spirit of Saint Gregory's church. The church would need to fundraise for this. Paul has looked at the doors with the artist, who was surprised by the damage and thought he might be able to repair the damage. The church would need to fundraise for these repairs also. There was a suggestion from Vestry that Scott, Paul and Shane talk jointly about the doors and that there be a bidding process if there is to be door replacement. In addition to needing to be refinished, damages on the doors include chisel marks and cracking down a panel.

**IV.    CLERGY REPORT**

ETHIOPIA: Paul distributed mementos of his trip to Ethiopia to Vestry members and told us about some of the moving, quixotic, engaging moments of his trip with AnnaMarie and Rick adding their impressions. For Paul the pilgrimage was a powerful experience, one he will think about for a long time.

Daniel Simons has written a blog and there will be a Nyssen News article about the trip.

VESTRY RETREAT: To be held February 27-28 with the place still to be determined, two choices are CDSP and St. Dorothy's Retreat.

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP: Paul has been working with a small group on a daily office book

EASTER: There will be some changes to the liturgies and processions. Additionally, Easter will have many czars and czarinas-czarlets partnering for each event-one for liturgy, one for logistics.

Some jobs will be Meta, such as fundraising, and some duties will go to the office, the result will be that no single job will be bigger than a liturgy. Another idea is to send out pairs in the neighborhood to get the word out about the Easter liturgy.

PREACHING: Paul will be the main preacher at St. Gregory's. Assistant clergy and staff will continue to preach. There will be a Rota developed to cover absences; on that Rota will be assistant clergy, founders, staff and guest preachers. The status of assistant clergy will not change they will be asked to continue to also contribute to the life of St. Gregory's by writing or teaching. Paul speaking as a liturgist says that the model of one clergy presiding and one preaching doesn't fit well here.

EVENING LITURGY: While in Ethiopia Paul spoke to AnnaMarie about evening liturgy, the conversation will continue.

GROUNDING GROUP: Paul has invited eight to ten members of the church to be part of a group to do work on behalf of area ministries. Members of the group will be taking four classes at CDSP to seat the idea of area ministry.

CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY: There has been no word from Bishop's office regarding scheduling.

LENT: During the period of Lent there is a special daily lectionary, writers have been asked to contribute to daily meditations on the website. There will be several Ash Wednesdays services, one at St Gregory's, one at San Francisco General Hospital and at both BART stations, one in the morning and evening. The services are in collaboration with Church of the Advent and SFGH.

## **V. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

On January 4 the Rector hosted the first luncheon at his home for new members and their sponsors and a few lay leaders to celebrate new members. Three additional luncheons will be held over the course of the year to welcome members who have joined since the previous luncheon.

Paul spoke of the special bond created by becoming a member and also the responsibilities of membership at St. Gregory's. He encouraged sponsors to maintain close contact with the people whom they have sponsored, and invited the members to become sponsors themselves of new people. Among several examples of what is happening at St. Gregory's, and what the Vestry is thinking, he spoke about the new venture into shared area ministry with three other Episcopal parishes in our region of the city. He invited all of us at the luncheon to become involved in long-established or new

forms of service within St Gregory's or to begin our own ministries, wherever our interests lead us.

It was a happy occasion that deserves to be remembered and repeated. Many thanks to Paul and Grant for opening their home for this gathering.

## **VI. COMMUNICATION REPORT**

AnnaMarie had nothing new to report. She will complete her Vestry term in May. Vestry positions and elections will be a discussion topic during the retreat.

## **VII. LEARNING & SERVICE**

Rick reported that Girl's Hope/Boy's Hope will be one of our service ministries. Paul has spoke to staff there about adolescent spirituality and thinks the organization is a good fit.

Rick talked about the culture of service, celebrating the folks who do the work of service to others. A suggestion for rethinking the Outreach Table was raised; to have concrete information for individuals about how to get involved in the Food Pantry or other ministry.

Another thought was to further explore the idea of the baptismal covenant; what is meant to be part of the body of Christ and not just a member of the congregation but being part of Christ and out in the world.

During Lent last year there was an effort to highlight the service ministries, there is \$200 for outreach at Lent that could be used. Paul will be working Rick to develop a plan.

**CALLED TO RIGHT RELATIONSHIP:** David Kincaid said that about three weeks ago a number of folks had not used the screening. Then there was a spurt of folks that completed the screening process after reminders had been sent. The period to receive free screenings ends on February 28. It is possible we could get an extension from the Diocese.

The entry codes have been purged so that there are no unauthorized entries. Discussion followed about future policy: do we ask volunteers to pay for the screening (\$25) after they take the training, submit their written application, have their references checked and show up for an interview?

Then there was a discussion about the training and how an overview of the training might be valuable.

Of the remaining folks that haven't done the screening process it was decided that it was up to the ordained leadership to make further decisions about follow-up and policy.

## **VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

**OUR NEXT MEETING:** We will be meeting as a Vestry during the retreat. Because the meeting will not be at St. Gregory's it will not be a public meeting and should be removed from the calendar. The next public Vestry meeting will be March 24, 2009.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**\*\* meeting adjourned \*\***