

May 26, 2009
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: June 23, 2009

Vestry members present:

Jessica Anderson, Elizabeth Boileau Brad Erickson, AnnaMarie Hoos, David Kincaid, Susan Abernethy, Paul Fromberg.

Absent: Rick Storrs

Also Attending: Leesy Taggart, Treasurer

Attachments:

Year to Date 3/09 Financials

Invocation

I. APPROVAL OF April, 2009 MINUTES

April 2009 minutes approved.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT

See YTD financials attached.

The first item of the Treasurer's report was the observation that rental income is down 18% from last year. Excluding preschool rental, it's down 35%. There are several reasons for this, the income for rental space is realized over uneven intervals, marketing the space by staff has been inconsistent because of staff changes, space use overall is down because of the economy, and lastly our rates are higher than last year which may discourage some of our past space users. Our space is attractive, however it lacks some amenities, i.e. a sound system, a lighting system and a grand piano, that would make it more desirable for users. The Treasurer will continue to monitor the income from rentals and make a recommendation if necessary.

Two staff items concerning our present budget: Sherri bills the church for her time when marketing space and is paid a percentage of the space fee. Sherri is approaching her one-year anniversary of employment and will be eligible for enrollment in the pension plan.

The church is presently on budget, however the treasurer cautioned that we are presently entering summer, the "giving desert", the period when giving dries up. The summer brings visitors but also changes in parishioners' attendance. Since the bills continue to come in despite the change in income it was suggested that we have some flexibility regarding fund use.

MOVED, SECONDED & APPROVED: The Treasurer is authorized to use the Designated Capital Projects Vestry Fund of \$30,000 for an unspecified amount of time to ensure that St Gregory's meets its financial obligations and will restore the fund amount in full.

The Designated Capital Projects Vestry Fund will be renamed the Emergency Reserve Fund reflecting its true purpose.

Status of pledging at St. Gregory: new members are pledging, existing pledges have changed some, with some increased, some decreased, some cancellations but little net change.

Alissa has produced a new stewardship letter and will be sending it out in June to all who have not received a letter since December.

Fundraising Goals: for the Operating Fund, \$20,000 and \$20,000 for the Building Fund.

Emerging from a discussion about Fundraising was developing a comprehensive list of specific improvements for a targeted campaign of individual asks. The Vestry will serve as a committee of the whole for this period of Fundraising.

III. FACILITIES REPORT

Jessica reported that:

1. There is nothing new concerning the building sprinkler installation.
2. The mechanism on the doors that prevent them from slamming is worn and is requiring replacement. There are twelve doors and the mechanism is \$300 for each door.
3. The doors and thee decorative panels are still a concern but not critical.
4. Grace Cathedral has changed building insurance providers from Church Insurance to Wells Fargo and saved money. This is an action that St. Gregory might also pursue for substantial savings.

Paul has looked at the space use in the church and the admin building regarding the prime real estate concerns of Sunday School. He proposed moving Sherri's office to his office and her office then would serve as a Sunday School room. He is thinking of moving his office upstairs to the present chapel and Sara's office upstairs to the Fabian Lounge that will make it possible to keep the church open for more hours during the day. Leesy would be able to use Sara's office for Treasury. The Italian preschool has effectively overwhelmed the nursery, which means that space will be part of the next rent negotiations with them. Paul will be bringing a plan to the next meeting.

Susan Sutton and Tim Smith have been approached to act as consultants to the Vestry regarding our physical space and its use and maintenance.

IV. CHAPTER PLANS

Chapter plans were discussed and there will be organized Friday night dinners. Plans still have to be made regarding nursery care and lunch plans. There is a planned program of revisioning St. Gregory. This will comprise a general conversation, a plenary session followed by another conversation. Conversation topics could emerge from the list made during the Discernment process.

The Membership Committee will be introducing a new sponsorship program with a 30-minute presentation by Joe C and Pietro C, followed by a 10-minute discussion in small groups led by members of the Membership Committee.

Leesy will be making a presentation around the Member's Agreement, particularly the part about doing God's work out in the world, sharing our lives and experience - which is a mirror of what we do when we share after the sermon. She would like to introduce an opportunity for members to share what they are doing in the wider community and for the community to pray for them.

Church finances will be part of Chapter - there will be a budget presentation, however no business meeting.

There was concern that there had been very little publicity for Chapter. Jessica will call all the church members about Chapter.

V. VESTRY WORK & STRUCTURE

Paul introduced proposed portfolios of Vestry members, goals and working groups. Portfolios named were Life Long Learning (from Learning and Service), Strategic Presence (from Communication), Physical Presence (a new position), Finance (present Treasury), and Secretary (present Secretary). Convenor positions would differ in that one Convenor would be monitoring/advocating for the church outside the walls of St. Gregory and the other a monitor/advocate inside the walls.

Discussion raised the question, where was Service? Service includes volunteering inside and outside the church. Some of the volunteer opportunities inside the church can be reassigned to one of the recalibrated portfolios, however the outreach effort for funds and volunteers on behalf the Ministry Partnerships is harder to assign. Recently there have been fewer presentations behalf of the Ministry Partnerships to the community resulting in fewer dollars for each. Rick Storrs, the Service and Learning Commissioner was not able to be at the Vestry meeting and participate in this discussion, however Vestry members know that he has given a lot of thought to what Service looks like at St. Gregory. Jessica Anderson volunteered to contact Rick about the discussion of Service. The idea of the recalibration of Vestry will be introduced at Chapter; there will be movement over the next 6 months with formal adoption in January 2010.

Paul observed that service at Saint Gregory is evolving and that service is moving from the idea of an act of charitable giving to actual community action. Some of the Saint Gregory community will be speaking with Anna Eng who works with Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) and has been part of the presentations with other diocesan members at CDSF about Area Ministries. One focus of her conversations with St. Gregory members will be about the South of Market cluster of churches.

MOVED, SECONDED AND APPROVED: Vestry structure to formally change January 2010 and the Vestry will move toward that goal over the next six months.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

Susan Abernethy stated the goal of the Membership Committee is to have more sponsors of new members. At the last committee meeting there was a discussion of the renewed sponsorship program drawn up by Joe C. The program will encourage members to get more involved so that staff and others can direct prospective members/visitors to speak with them. These members will be able to answer newcomer questions about St. Gregory and ensure that folks get a nametag, sign the guest book, get a button and feel as welcome the third time they come. Bruce Bramlett is unable to be the Welcoming Coordinator. The Vestry suggested that Sam Palmer and Lynn Park share the responsibility; with their complementary skill sets the position would be very ably filled.

Gary Landis is our newest member and his sponsor is Tom Benson.

COMMUNICATIONS

AnnaMarie Hoos announced she will contact Staci M. about increasing our online presence because Staci is very adept with her present posts online. Megan J. and Hallie are two other folks she will be speaking with who have experience and can help to increase our online presence through social networking.

VI. CLERGY REPORT

Paul announced that he had written an article for *Salon* and *Episcopal Café* in the wake of the California Supreme Court decision to uphold the November results of voter approval of Prop H which prevents marriage between same sex couples.

Paul attended Credo, a program underwritten by The Church Pension Group in May. Prior to going to Credo Paul and other individuals at the church completed a clergy vocational profile. This was an assessment that revealed many areas of agreement about how he perceives he is doing and others perceive he is doing. The Credo program encouraged him to set goals for himself and pursue health, relational, vocational and financial objectives. The Credo program also helped him look at the function and action of communication. Paul wants to create a consistent weekly form of communication with the parish.

Participation in 2003 in the Credo program propelled Paul to come St Gregory. Paul has welcomed this opportunity provided by Credo to examine and expand his vocation with us as Rector.

CLOSING PRAYER

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ****