

August 25, 2009
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: September 22, 2009

Vestry members present:

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

Absent: Susan Abernethy, Rick Storrs

Attachments:

Year to Date 7/09 Financials

Invocation

I. APPROVAL OF April, 2009 MINUTES

June 23, 2009 and July 28, 2009 minutes approved. A deep bow from me to those who wrote the minutes for those Vestry meetings.

II. CONVENOR'S REPORT

The term of our present Communications Commissioner, AnnaMarie Hoos and Brad Erickson, a Co-Convenor are due to expire. A Nominating Committee will be formed to put forward a slate of candidates for the vacancies anticipated on the Vestry. There will be a discussion of possible candidates for a slate at the next Vestry meeting. Additionally, our present Finance Chair, David Kincaid has made the decision to step down, requiring an appointment to the position of Finance Chair. Susan Sutton has agreed that she would like to serve as our Building and Grounds Commissioner.

A Book Sale organized by Judith Tucker is planned for September 13th. Donated books will be dropped off on September 12th to be sorted. After church on Sunday books will be sold for 75¢ a pound with any leftover books going to SF Public Library. Proceeds from the Book Sale will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

III. CLERGY REPORT

Paul outlined the new Sunday schedule and is lining up support by asking for food, better coffee service and depending on Deacon assistance and support. He is specifically looking for leadership from folks from cheerleaders to guides as we go through the transition of adding education to the middle of our Sunday lineup.

Godly Play, a Montessori based program, will be the foundation for Youth Sunday School. The materials, hundreds of dollars worth, is on loan from the Diocese. In preparation for the program

a new floor has been installed in the space of the former church administrative office. Sherri, our Administrator has moved her office to the Schell Library. Additionally, there was a Godly Play workshop which was well attended, and three of our members have stepped up to be teachers, Nina Milosevic, Amy Baker and Margaret Simpson, all saints. The workshop trainer, impressed by our level of commitment, liturgy, and all things St. Gregory, gifted us with her time and talent; we covered her airfare and hotel.

On September 27th, Bishop Stevens will visit St Gregory. Paul is speaking to members and friends about the decision of baptism and confirmation by the Bishop on that day. The Vestry will host Bishop Stevens for lunch at Pizza Nostra after the service.

Paul has met with La Piccola Scuola Italiana (LPSI) and given them an extensive memo regarding building use. Presently the school operates upstairs, above the Paul's office, the pitter, patter of little feet is not a minor matter. The proposed solution of dropping the ceiling and insulating the resulting space with extensive insulation is estimated to be \$2000 or more.

Further discussion ensued resulting in the following motion:

Moved, Seconded, Approved: St Gregory to contribute half the cost or up to \$1000 to soundproof Paul's office by LPSI.

Paul announced some salary goals for the Vestry to consider before the budget process begins next year.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

See YTD financials attached.

July was roughly breakeven, largely due to unexpected refunds/rebates on insurance and past pension expense.

On the revenue side, note that the positive trend on giving, both from visitors and members/friends, continues. Visitors have been particularly generous, supporting the contention that our invitation to 'first timers' to let the plate pass by is not hurting us. Essentially, if our fundraising were equal to last year at this time, we would be even with last year's income numbers.

On the expense side, we're well on budget in most categories.

On the other hand, August so far looks like a normal, dismal August, and fundraising between now and year end looks as important as ever.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

Susan Abernathy sent the following to Jessica for the Vestry minutes:

New members and their sponsors since the last meeting are:

Reagan Humber (sponsor: Tim Smith)

Nathan DeHart (sponsor: Paul Fromberg)

The next Rector's Quarterly Luncheon for new members and their sponsors will be September 20, 2009.

COMMUNICATIONS

NING, the social networking site for St Gregory members is up and running with many contributors. There is increasing use and participation by the members of St. Gregory. It is still open as to how Friends of St. Gregory will be involved. Users of the site should acquaint themselves with the site using Tips or NING help. Users of the site would be mindful that there are no private emails.

The Diocesan Convention is in October; Deanery representatives unable to attend will be represented by alternates.

The Vestry will make a presentation in the morning at the Retreat this year at Bishop's Ranch.

LEARNING & SERVICE

Rick Storrs asked that the following be read into the Vestry minutes:

For the record, I am very much of the opinion that "Service" deserves specific oversight by a Vestry Member. While the suggested "split" of Service between the Convenors is creative, I'm not enthused for the following reason: last spring's Super Ministry Sunday taught me that Service inside our walls (to our SGN community) is at heart no different than Service outside our walls (our dozen or so Community Service organizations). Both efforts need promotion and support. One person needs to coordinate our efforts at making Service a vital part of our lives together.

Service has lost all visibility in the liturgy (with the exception of Sara's sermons), which I believe sends the tacit message that it is not central to our community identity. I believe that we need to see, hear and experience Service activities at every gathering, not just at special or ad hoc occasions. Leesy has suggested a strategic re-think of how we *do* service as an organization; I support that effort. Certainly what we're (not) doing right now is not working.

Brad has suggested that our roster of "official" Service organizations has lost relevance, and that instead we should compile a roster of any and all service organizations supported by any and all of our Members (as I understood his suggestion). I am not in favor of this idea. I think it dilutes the spotlight (which has dimmed considerably, see above) and instead my mission has been to focus our efforts to improve impact. Working *together* builds community; advertising this and that outside activity by such and such a Member does little to bring us together in Service.

I wish I could be present to argue my position, because I feel strongly about these issues. I trust that God will be with you, as I believe (s) he feels strongly about these issues, too

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

The Vestry gives a great thank you to David Kincaid for serving on the Vestry. We value his perspective and wisdom, see him off with regret and wish him Godspeed to all his endeavors.

CLOSING PRAYER

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ****