

September 29, 2009
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 PM in Fabian Lounge
Next meeting: October 27, 2009

Vestry members present:

Susan Abernethy, Elizabeth Boileau, Brad Erickson, Paul Fromberg, Rick Storrs

Absent: Jessica Anderson, AnnaMarie Hoos,

Guest: Dan Crisafulli,

Attachments:

Year to Date 8/09 Financials

Invocation

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 25, 2009 minutes were approved.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT

Leesy Taggart, the Treasurer reported that the good news is that things are cruising along. Giving, both from regulars and visitors, is still up over last year at this time. Space rental is a little closer on a percentage basis. If we were at last year's YTD fundraising level, we'd be spot on. The expense side is running right on budget -- I'll admit I'm spooked that spending is almost EXACTLY the same in aggregate as last year this time. We'll call that 'well controlled', and sit in wonder.

We haven't run out of money yet, and bills are paid current, but I expect that we will be 'borrowing' against reserves by the end of this month. Because we started the year with more in the bank, our funds have lasted longer through the year.

Program expenses for pastoral care -- principally reimbursing Sara's phone for church calls -- are overstated. Sara uses her phone for both pastoral and general church calling, the latter being general expense that would fit in 'supplies & incidentals' with other staff expense. (We reconfigured phones during the year and eliminated Sara's landline, which never worked effectively.)

Most likely at year-end, I'll collapse pastoral care into the general expense line and leave only education as a separate 'program cost.' As part of the budget cycle this year, we should talk about whether isolating program costs really does make sense for us. I continue to believe it does, but doing it is a challenge.

We should be at the stage of very specific fundraising goals and planning at this point -- we definitely are relying on that to get through this year, and start 2010 in good enough shape that this time next year we are still paying the bills.

Paul Fromberg introduced the Fall Fundraising letter at this point and there was some editing and timing discussion about the letter that will go out in the next three to four weeks to the entire membership.

Fall fundraising efforts will include wreath sales this year coordinated by Katherine Krebs. One of the Conveners will speak with Katherine about the Christmas Faire as well. Some suggestions were made about individuals to coordinate the Faire in December.

III. CONVENOR'S REPORT

Jessica Anderson is going to school at SF State, her classes are primarily in the evening and on Sunday mornings, however when she is not studying during the day she will be able to make calls and make appointments to talk to people. Brad will be chairing the Vestry meetings through the end of the year.

There is still some discussion as whether the person thought to be ideal for the Physical Presence Commissioner has agreed to take the position. This commissioner looks after the building and items within it.

Brian Protheroe has expressed an interest in the Strategic Presence Commissioner position, formerly the Communications position. He is familiar with social networking and presently is working in Human Resources.

Cheryl Hendrickson is also interested in being Co-Convenor, specifically the position that is outward looking, serving as liaison to organizations like the Diocese, schools, community groups or non-profits.

Dan Crisafulli was introduced to the Vestry; he lives on Potrero Hill, is a Vice President within the Skoll Foundation and would like to bring his experience to the Vestry.

Moved Seconded and Approved: Dan Crisafulli will fill David Kincaid's position as Finance Commissioner.

Before the Annual Meeting in January Dan will give his name to the Nominating Committee in order run for the office of Finance Commissioner.

Presently there are 70 people registered for the Retreat at Bishop's Ranch, this number is down from previous years. There is an outreach effort by Jessica, Susan Abernathy and Paul to bring the number up to the 85 which is the number the church told Bishop's Ranch to reserve. Friday night's welcoming and Saturday night's social hour will be largely BYOB with some wine provided by the church. David Kincaid is doing registration and Linda James is doing room assignments and the schedule with Jessica. Brad Erickson will be the MC. Bishop's Ranch may be able to provide ice, glasses and napkins for the social hour.

A workshop on Area Ministries was held at Bishop Swing Community House and attended by Paul Fromberg, Brad Erickson, Cheryl Hendrickson and Reagan Humber along with staff and members of Sojourn Chaplaincy, Community of Saint Francis, St Aidans, El Buen Samaritano, St. John's and Holy Innocents. Anna Eng of the Industrial Areas Foundation led the workshop which focused on going out into communities that parishes were located in and opening up conversations about what was needed or wanted in a community rather than picking a project that may have a lot of popularity somewhere else and imposing it. Paul elaborated on this description by comparing the mission to a circle; we have individual conversations within our community or with our neighbors that go to action, that go to reflection, that go to further, deeper conversations with our neighbors.

IV. CLERGY REPORT

Paul asked the Vestry to pray for Bishop Marc Andrus as he recovers from surgery.

Paul said that he perceives that the revised Sunday morning schedule is going well. He has thought at times though it was like putting the wings on the airplane while learning to fly. He has particularly enjoyed taking part in the children's liturgy. The adult forum has provided him a teaching outlet especially with the presence of really fine coffee on Sunday mornings.

Sunday attendance has been steadily increasing. Since January 2009 the church has been experiencing growth requiring more chairs in the seated worship area.

The September Book Sale increased the Rector's Discretionary Fund by \$750.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

Susan Abernethy announced that new members and their sponsors since the last meeting are Laura Manion, her sponsor is Cheryl Hendrickson.

Paul Fromberg and Sara Miles have proposed some clarification for being a Member of Saint Gregory and a Friend of Saint Gregory. They will introduce those proposals at the Membership Committee Meeting on Oct 18. The clarification is proposed in order to recognize the realities of regular churchgoers who pledge and who are not members, long distance members, friends, long distance friends or members who have moved away and no longer pledge and specifically folks nationwide who have heard Paul and Sara speak but not experienced our church liturgy or the Food Pantry. Based on discussion of the proposals the Membership Committee will make its recommendations to the Vestry, then the proposal will go the Annual Meeting.

The Membership Committee has committed itself to a more robust sponsorship program so that a sponsor of a new member provides more follow through in the ensuing initial year of membership. This program will be successful because Paul and Sara will be looking for specific matches of sponsor with new member based on similar interests and paths.

LIFELONG LEARNING REPORT

Rick Storrs stated the Sunday adult forum has been well attended with the extended coffee hour being a hit. A brief discussion of adult forum topics included Area Ministries with suggestions of interfaith worship, Christian worship in other countries or a specific program centered around Lent for instance. Presently there is no proposal to hire anyone to run the adult forum. Paul will be recruiting within the church to present at the adult forum.

Then the discussion turned to the program offerings this year at the Retreat and whether the program was serving the purpose of the church's retreat. Since our program is composed of folks who are volunteering to share their interests there will be a number of making music or crafts that serve to bring people together-a good purpose for a retreat.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

The drain in the asphalt area in the back continues to fill up with debris, primarily from the lack of a retaining wall on the slope across from the drain. A plumber is expected on Tuesday, October 14, to clear the drain so there will not be flooding in the play yard.

Bishop Charleston has introduced the Genesis Covenant that is designed to reduce the carbon footprints of churches. Paul and others will be aligning St. Gregory's Church with water and electricity usage principles to save energy.

CLOSING PRAYER

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ****