

**October 27, 2009**  
**Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church**  
**7:00 PM in Fabian Lounge**  
**Next meeting: November 24, 2009**

**Vestry members present:**

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

**Absent:** Jessica Anderson, AnnaMarie Hoos,

**Attachments:**

Year to Date 9/09 Financials, précis of Bishop's Report and Diocesan Business; Resolutions and Election results

**Invocation**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The September 27, 2009 minutes were approved.

**II. CLERGY REPORT**

Paul reported about the Diocesan Convention. Bishop Marc Andrus was not in attendance because of complications from his recent surgery.

Reflecting the current financial times, there was mixed good news regarding church finances; the assessment (the dollars that the church of Saint Gregory pays to the Diocese) will be less for the church by about several thousand dollars for the year. There will be no recommended COLA (cost of living) increase for clergy salaries because there has been no inflation this past year. Additionally, Paul shared that he and his partner were reassessing their health coverage, possibly moving their health care choice to Kaiser Permanente. A précis was circulated of Bishop's Report and Diocesan Business.

Paul introduced a letter from *Integrity USA*, a caucus of GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) groups asking us to be a P3 congregation, Proud Parish Partner, or a welcoming, friendly congregation to all wanting to worship. Our church would be listed in a directory, there may be a live link on their website, we would receive a quarterly newsletter and be informed of worship resources, also there was a request for a donation.

Moved Seconded and Approved: That the church of Saint Gregory be listed as a community that is open and affirming for all. The Vestry did not approve monies for the suggested donation.

The October Parish Retreat was a great time, very rewarding for all. Paul specifically enjoyed doing a workshop.

Paul reported on the progress of the fall fundraising effort. It was reiterated that the first \$20,000 would be directed to the Operating Fund and the second \$20,000 would be directed to the "Building Fund".

Paul excused himself at this point because he was feeling not healthy.

### **III. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Susan Abernethy gave a report on the last meeting of the Membership Committee when Paul Fromberg and Sara Miles made a presentation about changing the classification of "Members" and "Friends" at Saint Gregory. In the past, regular worshippers at Saint Gregory's either became "Members" agreeing to give money and time to the work of the church or they were known as "Friends". The church has outgrown this simple classification and Paul and Sara wanted some clarity regarding the many folks who worship here; musicians, seminarians, other clergy, folks who give money regularly and who hadn't become members for a variety of reasons, members who have moved, still in the greater Bay Area, and some far away.

Proposed were the categories of Member, Alumni, and Associate. The term "Member" would continue to apply to those members presently living in the greater Bay Area. The term "Alumni" would apply to members that live outside the greater Bay Area and are not able to attend St. Gregory on a regular basis and who continue to pledge. The term "Associate" would be for non-members who are interested in staying abreast of St. Gregory's liturgy and work but who not interested in becoming a member. The term "Friend" would be continued to be used however in the wider sense of us all being striving to be a Friend of God and to each other. Regarding the pledge of time by a member, for clarification the brochure about joining the church would give examples of the commitment of time by members. Discussion followed about the 'names' chosen for the various groups of SGN participants. We approved of the concept, but not the suggested titles. There was discussion about how these changes would be disseminated to the church members and friends with a suggestion of a letter or email written by a member of the committee with Sara and Paul and a suggestion of a meeting prior to the Business Meeting on Jan 24, 2010. Moved, Seconded and Approved: The Vestry welcomes the proposal presented to the Membership Committee and encourages further work by the Membership Committee on the proposal for the next Vestry meeting.

#### **LIFELONG LEARNING REPORT**

Rick Storrs reported about the Parish Retreat in October. The church reserved 85 spaces with Bishop's Ranch for the weekend and we had 68 registered and paying fully. As a result the cost of the Retreat with the deposit was not covered. However, all the income has not been received, specifically from the church for attending staff and from the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The church will be able to avoid a shortfall next year (this being our first Retreat shortfall) by providing leadership for Retreat registration. The plan advanced is that next year, after Holy Week, a meeting will occur that will create the campaign, using promotional materials, for the Parish Retreat registration. An aspect of this will be asking for a deposit for the reservation so

that people are invested in coming six months later. Also, because we haven't raised Parish Retreat rates next year the Retreat registration costs will reflect the present charges by Bishop's Ranch with an percentage added on to cover scholarships. There may be fee accommodations for families because family attendance was down this year. Further, we will see if we can't provide a tiered plan based on single night stays or a modified meal plan.

On the positive side of the Retreat experience 10 new members attended, there were lots of pictures of folks enjoying themselves, the workshops were well received, Sherri Wood's Mantra trailer was a highlight, as well as the Madrigal singing and the costumed social hour.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

AnnaMarie Hoos had a brief report read out about Communications.

She has begun work on recruiting new Deanery representatives. The Deanery meets quarterly and attends the Diocesan Convention and carry out the Legislative work of the Diocese. Possibly stepping down are Tom Devine, Cheryl Hendrickson and Tim Smith, possibly interested in stepping up are Reagan Humber and Idonnah Hipolito, possible alternates are Anna Marie and Vik Slen. AnnaMarie would be welcome any recruiting suggestions.

## **IV. CONVENOR'S REPORT**

Brad Erickson chaired the "Meet the Vestry" at the Parish Retreat and discussed the conversation with Jessica Anderson and Paul. The conversation revealed that the community wanted more information and opportunities to give feedback about recent changes throughout Saint Gregory's. He is framing a possible meeting to discuss the changes that have happened in the past year for the Parish on Saturday, Jan. 23 before the Parish Business Meeting on Sunday. The meeting would include an opportunity for the community to meet the Vestry slate and end possibly with a Feast of Friends (soup and bread) on Saturday evening. A discussion followed about what Chapter has been in the past for the community of St. Gregory, where the business and operating work got done by members for the church and an opportunity for a retreat as a community. Now Chapter functions differently because of the function of Vestry and the Parish Retreat is open to all, not just members of St. Gregory's.

An alternative to a meeting on Saturday is on Sunday the 24th to start at 2 o'clock, have the vestry election, have a time for physical movement possibly led by Carla DeSola, bring in a facilitator for Mutual Ministry Review, and then have supper. A Save the Date postcard needs to go out shortly to inform the community of the activities of that weekend.

Several individuals have indicated that they are considering being on the Vestry; Brian Protheroe for the position of Strategic Presence (Communication), Cheryl Hendrickson for Co-Convenor and a candidate for Sacred Space and Physical Presence.

## **V. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Dan Crisafulli gave the Financial report; the church is doing better when compared to last year. Our Revenue at nine months is at 66% of the total, and Outgo is down by \$2000. Visitor gifts and the number of visitors are rising, with general gifts by Members and Friends up by 7%. Overall, the based on the numbers we are a healthy congregation.

We still have a concern with large gifts received in the last one or two weeks of the year because that makes final budget planning occur during very short time. Dan stated that for next year raising staff salaries is the priority when building the church budget. Building our budget in the past has been based on last year's experience and adjusting for current conditions. St. Gregory on average gives 20% less than compared to other churches within the Diocese. If a stewardship campaign could address church giving in terms of what the church could do if we raised the percentage of giving then our budget concerns would be addressed. Presently we have a rolling campaign of stewardship, for budget planning it may be better to have a scheduled campaign earlier in our financial year that would allow for timely budget planning for the next year. We may have to take a look the way we are doing activities around stewardship, pledging, fundraising and budget dissemination to see if the activities and their timing still serve us as a community. Dan would welcome any suggestions about who might lead a stewardship campaign. Dan also reminded us that we are a church that is reinventing church and that is a matter of interest to many, not only as a model but also as a recipient. It may be of such interest that we could find funding for our music program or children's program.

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

With a recognition of jobs well done the

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