

March 23, 2010
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 in Godly Play Room
Next meeting: April 27, 2010

Vestry members present:

Susan Abernethy, Jessica Anderson, Elizabeth Boileau, Dan Crisafulli, Cheryl Hendrickson, Brian Protheroe, Rick Storrs, Susan Sutton

Absent: Paul Fromberg

Others Present: Leesy Taggart, Treasurer, Tonia Macneil

Invocation

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 26, 2010 Vestry Minutes were approved as amended.

II. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL REPORT

The Annual Parochial Report was compiled by Paul Fromberg, who completed the page titled Membership, Attendance and Services of the Reporting Congregation and Leesy Taggart who completed the page titled Stewardship and Financial Information of the Reporting Congregation. Paul and Leesy cross checked each other's work and the report was completed timely.

Leesy Taggart explained some of the nomenclature of the report and the significance of the numbers. She also said one action she would be taking this year is collecting more signed pledge cards.

Moved, Seconded and Approved: The Vestry approves the Annual Parochial Report.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dan Crisafulli reported that entering 2010 all expenses were paid and the church presently is broadly on track with the budget. Rain may be the factor that contributed to slightly lower attendance in February which was reflected in a lower dollar amount in members and visitor gifts.

Leesy Taggart reported concerning Stewardship; she stated that presently gifts amounts are slightly behind budget which is not as significant as gifts being slightly behind last year's gift amounts. However, a two month report is not a good predictor for a trend-line. Prior to the meeting Leesy circulated to the Vestry a report about pledging at St. Gregory. She went over

the report which showed the range of giving and giving or non-giving by members, historically and presently. She is contacting members who have not come to church in a over a year and not made a gift in a during that time or more. She reported on the 2010 stewardship campaign so far this year and on gifts made for specific reasons in the church.

IV. CONVENOR'S REPORT

Jessica Anderson introduced Tonia Macneil, representing the Kitchen Committee who met with her and Cheryl Hendrickson about Kitchen clean-up and big event clean-up, Easter or other liturgies.

Tonia spoke about clean-up, specifically clean-up after Sunday services which extends quite late because of the need to load/empty the dishwashers. A recommendation would be to get an industrial dishwasher, i.e. above-counter dishwasher, similar to ones in restaurants, that wash racks of dishes in under 10 minutes. Research is needed for plumbing, space needed and dishwasher models. This matter was referred to Susan Sutton. Compostable or recyclable products like plates, glasses, and utensils are a solution to reducing the volume of work in the kitchen. Another solution would be hiring someone to do the work in the kitchen. Additional suggestions to reduce kitchen work included the way food is brought into the kitchen for 10:45 Service Coffee Hour, having it prepared and plated and in by 10:15 and have no food after the 8:30 service, just tea and coffee. Recruiting for cleaning up after the 10:45 Coffee Hour could happen by shaking a rattle at 12:45 and encouraging folks to continue their conversations while bussing their cups and various food platters into the kitchen.

Recruiting for kitchen work has been difficult however people still work in the kitchen. Tonia made the suggestion to aid recruitment that the Vestry sponsor a "Service Sunday" after church and have those members of the Gardener's Group, Choir, Kitchen Crew and other groups do presentations about what they do at church. She reminded us that at St Gregory's there may be many as 50% visitors at Coffee Hour and with that came the responsibilities for all of us to be good hosts. Other concerns she raised was supplies and maintaining the Rota fairly. Tonia complimented Cheryl and Jessica for opening the conversation up about working in the kitchen and stated the Kitchen Crew will go on to educate the community about what is needed immediately regarding food preparation and clean-up.

Cheryl Hendrickson added the church does not do well after big events. So, for Holy Week she was suggesting instituting some changes. For Palm Sunday (as much as it was practical) and Maundy Tuesday clean-up would take place in the Rotunda with folks taking home cases of used glasses and bags of table linens to wash. Soapy water would be available to wash empty serving dishes. Leftover prepared food still in dishes would be being wrapped and sent home or bagged and given away. These activities would take place at stations around the room as other people swept or folded tables with a tiny crew in the kitchen to do what might be necessary to clean up there. These changes would be in place at the end of Easter Vigil as well.

Jessica asked that the Vestry discuss the possibility of meeting nine months out of the year. Her suggestion was that the Vestry omit meeting during the months of July and August of this year. This schedule would accommodate that in February this year the Vestry had no meeting but had a retreat. Discussion followed regarding the necessity of meeting after a financial quarter or omitting meeting two months in a row and that this decision would be for this year only. It was agreed that the Vestry would not meet the months of June 2010 and August 2010.

Cheryl spoke about the possibility of hiring a Youth and Family Minister (YFM). She stated the projection is that for the year 2010 that the amount for six months employment is about \$20,000 and in 2011 the amount would be about \$40,000 for the year. Rick Storrs brought up that a lot of people don't know that a decision is being considered for hiring a YFM and more people should be made aware. Dan suggested that parents might want to weigh in on a job description and also the vision of what the program might be so that more parents might be attracted to Saint Gregory's. There was general acknowledgement that the YFM would not just be concerned about what the kids were doing on Sunday but speaking with and helping parents and adults about the formation of spiritual practice outside of church.

Cheryl spoke about a project of collecting the oral histories of residents living in Potrero Terrace and Potrero Annex. This is a project being coordinated with Laura Berkman of Bridge Housing. As the proposed redevelopment of these two communities moves forward it is important that the resident's stories are collected before the residents are relocated to other housing. This project proposes the recordings be done by the youth in our Quest group and the members of the Grounding group. Megan Yip will be holding a seminar for residents because family relocation can be very challenging.

V. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Susan Abernethy reported that two new members joined
Sandy Olson – sponsor Sara Miles
Mike Aquino – sponsor Rick Storrs.

On March 14 a meeting was held to discuss the formation of five small groups. Discussed was a 20-30's group suggested by Reagan Humber to be called Intervention, Centering Prayer was suggested by Paul Robinson, Laura Manion suggested a third group to meet with Rick Fabian to study the foundational texts of St. Gregory's, Needle Arts was suggested by Lynn Park to be held on one Sunday a month after church and Tonia Macneil suggested a group to discuss retirement. Susan passed out fliers concerning some of the proposed groups.

VI. SACRED SPACE REPORT

Susan reported about her committee, Engineers of Beauty on NING with 17 members. Janet Lohr is contributing to developing some take-away or downloadable material on the garden plantings in front of the buildings. Nick O'Riordan has located and reviewed the building plans with particular attention to piping. Additional work will be needed to determine how accurate they are in comparison to what actually exists. Another concern is diverting the

storm runoff from the building to the garden. Mike Dahlin volunteered to attend NERT, Neighborhood Emergency Response Training and report back to the group.

Brian Protheroe raised the question about space use by Vestry members or the public either for reflection or a quiet space to work in. The question led to the necessary online training for youth protection before a code was issued to anyone opening or closing the church. There was general agreement that Vestry members should have codes.

Discussion of the space at St. Gregory's included the Stations of the Cross liturgy held on Fridays during Lent. For the service Susan did the rich art work which was posted in and outside the building, even on the corner of DeHaro and Mariposa.

Cheryl to ask Mike Dahlin to do a cost analysis for the use of compostable utensils, plates and cups for possibly a year versus the installation of a dishwasher and which is greener?

VII. STRATEGIC PRESENCE REPORT

Brian reported he had a presentation prepared for the introduction and instruction of using NING, the church social networking site with Maddy Taggart and Lynn Park to help out with questions. He will obtaining a date from Paul Fromberg for a Sunday presentation.

Brian stated after Easter he is planning to meet with Sara Miles and Paul about all communications including emails, Nyssen News and social networking.

VIII. LIFELONG LEARNING

Rick Storrs met a professional leadership trainer who trains individuals in executive leadership skills. The trainer was encouraged to do charitable/pro bono work in the course of his business and asked Rick what he might do for us. We are not looking for this kind of training but the query set Rick to thinking about those individuals we have identified as leaders in the community. What are we doing with people with their innate skills and how do we help them, possibly with recruiting, volunteer management, project management and volunteer acknowledgement?

Closing Prayer

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ***