

April 27, 2010
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 in the Chapel
Next meeting: May 25, 2010

Vestry members present:

Susan Abernethy, Jessica Anderson, Elizabeth Boileau, Paul Fromberg, Cheryl Hendrickson, Susan Sutton

Absent: Dan Chrisafulli, Brian Protheroe, Rick Storrs

Others Present: Leesy Taggart, Treasurer,

Invocation

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 23 2010 Vestry Minutes were approved.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT

Leesy Taggart reported about the financial picture through April 25, approximately a third of the year, including all the deposits and bills presented for the month. Compared to last year at this time Member and Friend giving is running 12% ahead. Visitor gifts are running a little behind compared to last year and space rental has been lagging but is beginning to pick back up. The newly added staff expenses this are on budget. Total revenue is up about 11% and expenses down about 3% compared to last year, leaving our cash flow for the year about \$16K better than this time last year .

Questions were asked by Vestry members to better understand the financial report and cash flow. Anticipated income and expenses were discussed; the preschool will be no longer renting after in July and funding for Jesse's conducting of the art program during the 10:45 service through June 2010. After the La Scuola Piccola leaves there will be necessary repair and refurbishing. These expenses will be partially covered by retaining the preschool's security deposit, and there are sufficient funds in the building fund. There are currently no plans to rent the space in the administration building.

Annualized pledge commitments have increased by \$1000 a month since the beginning of the year. About 25% of the increase comes from new pledges this year, the rest from increased pledges. This increase is net of reductions from people moving away or needing to reduce pledges for financial reasons. Several members have said they increased their pledges specifically because of vestry's decision to provide medical and retirement benefits to staff,

and in support of hiring a Youth & Family Minister. The monthly letter appeal and special prayers acknowledging stewardship and gifts (Max Elliott was particularly eloquent) has served to keep the campaign in front of the community.

Discussion continued about the YFM position, for 2010 there is \$20,000 budgeted for salary and benefits, for 2011 this yearly expense will be about \$40,000. Paul Fromberg announced the church had received a substantial gift which can be directed to hiring for the YFM position. Susan Abernethy raised the query about funding assurance for 2011. Paul responded that he was positive about finding funding for the position in 2011 and felt that moving forward (hiring a YFM) would be more beneficial to the community than a risk of not having a focus on Youth and Families with a half time position. Paul will be creating a group of parents and professional teachers to support him in developing a job description and with the search itself. The search will begin immediately with hopes of hiring someone by July, 2010 for development of enhanced programs in the fall. We will be looking locally for a YFM minister.

Leesy in response to Cheryl Hendrickson's question about the rate of the present increase covering the YFM position pointed out how the cost of things don't stay the same. The Diocese may announce the Cost of Living Increase (COLA) for Rectors which will increase pension costs and mandated withholding expenses, additionally the Diocese will be reinstating the Diocesan Assessment (a portion of the gifts we receive we give to the Diocese) which has been reduced for this year. She went on to explain though when we have had the YFM position filled the families with children component within the congregation has grown and the entire congregation as another set has grown. Recently there has been more involved high school and middle school youth and more children attending in conjunction with participation in the liturgy. Additionally, there are more 20-somethings, some with small children or expecting attending services. The Vestry and Paul spoke about confidence in the community for funding the position and there was enthusiastic encouragement for fundraising by our Rector for the position.

Moved, Seconded and Approved: Funds allocated in the 2010 budget be released to hire a Youth and Family Minister.

III. CLERGY REPORT

Paul is forming a discernment team to develop and discuss the job description so that it can be released to a variety of sources. The pool of candidates will be interviewed individually by a small group probably composed of the Rector, a teacher and a parent. The position will be offered at the beginning of July with the hire being at the end of July. The newly hired Youth and Family Minister will be required to move quickly, Paul has a vision of a year of ministry around youth and family.

Paul thought that Holy Week and Easter was fresh and exciting this year. Attendance was up, particularly at Easter Vigil. Long time and new member volunteers were enthusiastic. Paul said next year there will be "Poobahs" for every event during Holy Week which will

provide better communication for all. He shared with the Vestry that our neighbor Anchor Steam Brewery had been sold to Griffon Ventures, an acquisition company. Paul will be away for a week at a conference for Gen-X Clergy, an aspect of the church going forward, never back.

IV. CONVENOR'S REPORT

Cheryl Hendrickson will be attending a meeting with the Oral History Project. They are discussing making a video with the residents of the subsidized housing on Potrero Hill that will be redeveloped by Bridge Housing. Many of the residents have lived in Potrero Terrace or Potrero Annex for a long time, a generation of memories can be captured. The church has been suggested as a place that the interviews could take place. Another suggested action around the relocation of residents is to hold a advocacy workshop to inform residents of their rights and inform them of relocation resources.

Jessica Anderson announced that the Wednesday Vespers will continue through May 19th, it is attended by a dedicated group.

V. SACRED SPACE REPORT

Susan Sutton distributed a report about our plumbing based on a walk through with a plumber, Lauren Haynes. There will be more information and work to do when the plumbing is assessed in the preschool area and when the decision is made about the dishwasher in the kitchen. Mike Dahlin will be making a report to the Vestry about 'Compostables vs. Dishwashers, Which is Greener?' possibly in May.

Susan Abernethy raised the concern that at 10:45 the women's bathroom is not always ready for an influx of visitors. Soap and paper supplies are often low. She wondered if the janitorial service had a checklist that included making sure the bathrooms were stocked as well as cleaned.

VI. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Membership Committee is working on a list of "Go-To" people so that members who are new to the church but want to get involve will know who to contact. Progress on making sure that each committee had a contact was discussed. The list will be with Sherri Wood in the office after distribution to the membership by email and a copy will be with new member material.

The Centering Prayer Workshop has had a lot of publicity and will have 6 follow-up sessions which may result in more people learning about our church.

The Salon, headed by Reagan Humber is meeting, Paul is meeting with Reagan to discuss the growing group.

VII. STRATEGIC PRESENCE REPORT

Paul spoke with Brian and reported that Brian will be doing a NING sign up session this summer for the community. There is interest in staffing a Pride Booth in June.

VIII. LIFELONG LEARNING

Paul reported for Rick Storrs that this Sunday is Quest Sunday, concluding Quest Weekend when the Questers, including their adult sponsors, will have been up at the Marin Headlands reflecting. During the service on Sunday the adult sponsors will introduce the Questers, the Questers will bless their parents who will in turn bless the Questers. This event will mark the Questers as adults within the community.

Closing Prayer

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ***