

August 26, 2008
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: September 23, 2008

Vestry members present:

Jessica Anderson, Elizabeth Boileau, Brad Erickson, AnneMarie Hoos, David Kincaid, Rick Storrs

Leesy Taggart, Treasurer and Janet Lohr were also present

INVOCATION

I. APPROVAL OF July 22, 2008 MINUTES

July 22, 2008 minutes approved.

II. FINANCE REPORT

Leesy Taggart happily reported that end of July all bills were paid and we had a positive balance in the bank. In August that isn't the case however, we are prepared for that and have reserves to cover. We are still on track regarding our budget:

- rental income despite the fact that we have no Sunday concerts is still steady,
- unrestricted giving is up 3%,
- pledges haven't taken a big hit despite the economy
- supplies and incidentals expenses are down.

David talked about the budget process that has started. Last year Paul started to focus on key programs, examples would be Sunday School or music, noting specific expenses and within the broader supplies category noting additional expenses to get an idea of the true budget of the program. At this point program costs may or may not include personnel. David & Leesy agree that there will be increasing transparency to the process of the budget this year. Leesy wants to include the Building Fund as a line item in the budget this year. This would acknowledge our need to put money in a fund that could be used for building maintenance or replacement as it comes up or plan to schedule maintenance, like painting the building, because of the funds accumulated.

There are three milestones, totaling about \$24K remaining for the Dancing Saints icon project by Mark Dukes, iconographer;

- Finishing the background
- Re-applying haloes, adding new haloes, doing other painting
- Complete the punch-list; both Mark Dukes and Paul Fromberg will agree to a punch-list that will complete the icon project.

There is no firm completion date; Mark will be paid upon completion of the work as specified in the contract.

Mark has spoken of a future contract with the church, namely work to unify the entire icon project because the paint hues and style of painting have changed over the decade of work on the

icon. Leesy has told Mark Dukes that if he has a specific proposal that it would have to come before the Vestry. Presently there are no funds on hand for such work, so any future work the Vestry might commission would have to be paid for by separate fundraising.

III. NOVEMBER FUNDRAISER

The event that was planned for November 1st has been changed into a season of solicitation led by the Vestry culminating in a Community Luncheon on November 2nd. Brad Erickson opened the discussion by acknowledging that we as a church were already embarked on a major event, discernment and that asking the community to plan and organize an event in November might be too much.

Discussion included the background for the decision to have a fundraiser. The Vestry passed a budget that posited a fundraiser or fundraising in the fall. The Vestry knew that we have to fundraise in order to fulfill our vision of the church.

The Vestry has 100% participation in pledging and will begin the process of fundraising this fall by pledging initial Leadership gifts, then seek additional gifts from the community during September and October. The Vestry will work with Paul on this endeavor since he has experience asking the community for targeted gifts.

IV. BUILDING UPDATE

The \$1000 that was required to transfer to the title of the building between the St Gregory is only part of the cost. There is a tax levied by the city and county of San Francisco that is based on the assessed value of the property. The tax on this title transfer would be between \$10-15,000 according to Jim Forsyth, the Diocese Treasurer. Based on that we may delay the transfer however have the Diocese write a letter agreeing not to sell the building under any circumstances.

Another roofer is in the process of giving us a bid on the roof of the administration building.

There is general agreement that the new cleaners are doing a good job.

The church front door project is on hold until late September.

V. CLERGY REPORT (GIVEN BY BRAD/JESSICA)

Paul Fromberg is on Great Britain presently. He and Sara Miles are at the Greenbelt Festival, a yearly Christian gathering. They are there speaking to others who want to learn about our liturgy, food pantry and life as a church.

Sherri Wood is a pleasure to work with as a new staff member.

There are some problems as we complete the process of having a stand-alone server, however there are solutions being worked on by experts.

VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

AnneMarie Hoos as Communications Commissioner had nothing new to report.

Rick Storrs as Service and Learning Commissioner reported that on September 21 there would be a presentation by Ellen Schell on behalf of GAIA at an Awareness luncheon.

He is thinking of having a presentation each quarter for the many community service programs that St. Gregory's supports. Rick is also working on a policy statement that will help members and friends know about the how and why of selection of community service groups at St. Gregory's. Jessica asked if he would possible have a rotation of all the groups over an eight-week period.

Rick is also working on replacing the table that is presently holds information for the community service groups. Replacing the information table helped visitors to see how to get organized with a nametag and mailing list sign up. Replacing the table with a higher one will create a higher presentation presence. Also he thinking of replacing the current framed statements with too many words for easy reading with brochures that folks can take home.

Fall Retreat presently has 50 sign-ups; we need 85 to hold Bishop's Ranch exclusively for the weekend. Rick is going to do an email and targeted phone calls in addition to a sign-up table at church to get to 85 participants. Judith Tucker has volunteered to lead a class in Ukrainian Egg Decoration; perhaps there will be a scavenger hunt, a Theatre Games class and more.

Janet Lohr had a question about the placement of announcements in the service. She thought that announcements might be the purview of the Vestry and it was explained that Paul made decisions about all elements of the liturgy including announcements. It was suggested that she email Paul with her question/suggestion regarding announcements.

VII. CLOSING PRAYER

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ****