

May 27, 2008
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:30 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: June 24, 2008

Vestry members present:

Jessica Anderson, Susan Abernethy, Elizabeth Boileau, Brad Erickson, Paul Fromberg, AnneMarie Hoos, David Kincaid, Rick Storrs

Guests:

Hillie Cousart, Randy Bowman for the Profile Team

Invocation

Welcome to new Vestry members, Susan Abernethy, Elizabeth Boileau and David Kincaid

I. APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2008 MINUTES

April 15, 2008 minutes approved.

II. TRANSITION PLANNING

Jessica and Brad's meeting with Michael Barlowe this month included talking about the new Vestry. Also discussed was the 'year away' for Rick Fabian and Donald Schell. Starting in July Rick and Donald would be attending church for special occasions i.e. weddings, baptisms, funerals or showing the church to visitors as part of All Saints Company activities. After the new Rector starts, both Rick and Donald would be returning as congregants. Rick and Donald expressed a desire to continue in the life of Saint Gregory's, Rick as a teacher and Donald as a celebrant. In July Brad and Jessica will be meeting with Bishop Marc and Michael Barlowe about the transition. There will be information about the meeting in the Nyssa News.

Hillie and Randy reported about the Profile Team's progress. At this point the document is about 28 pages. Some of the present draft needs to be revised by Diane Landau, the editor. What still needs to be written is the summary including the responsibilities and goals of the church for the next few years. With the writing of the summary and editing of certain sections there should be a draft to the Vestry by June 24. Jessica pointed out that since the Profile Team is a committee of the Vestry the Vestry could be a resource for writers of the draft. Several members of the Vestry indicated their willingness to participate. Brad and Jessica agreed on a proposal that the Vestry meet with the Profile Team on June 8 to discuss the summary, the Rector's role and church goals.

The group opened discussions of the calling of the Discernment Team. General agreement was that the gift of listening was very important for team members and the talent of analysis and evaluation. There was discussion of how many individuals would be appropriate for an effective team. Hillie remarked that there should be sufficient time for the Discernment Team to form as an effective working group prior to beginning work.

Brad raised the concern of canvassing all the members, what form would the canvassing take and how to make sure each member had an opportunity to speak. Would each member of the Discernment Team have a specific list of members to contact? The role of the Profile Team was emphasized-their description of the Rector's role is the survey instrument-does Paul's ministry match? The Discernment Team could tabulate the responses by the congregation. Jessica pointed out that Episcopal priests come out of seminary able to articulate what they are called to do. Similarly, we as a community need to know what we are called to do. The discussion of the process of discernment by the community was wide ranging. Also, the Vestry acknowledged the unusual circumstance of having Paul as a candidate and Interim Rector. It was determined that the process of deciding the composition of the Discernment Team would take place via email.

Changes to the timeline include a meeting on June 8 of the Profile Team with Vestry and the Profile Team's draft completion and distribution to the Vestry for review on June 24.

Paul Fromberg joined the Vestry meeting at this point

III. VESTRY RETREAT PLANNING

A retreat is planned so that the Vestry can kick-start the process of newer and older Vestry members working together over the next three years. Susan Abernethy has graciously offered her home for the retreat. Jessica will calendar the retreat based on the availability of Vestry members.

IV. FACILITIES UPDATES (Sprinklers, Roof, Bid Policy, Title, Artwork)

The sprinkler system in the administration building have been replaced, then inspected and certified by the Fire Marshal. The sprinklers in the Rotunda still have to be redone. Jessica reported that the job of replacing the sprinklers will be less conspicuous than initially thought and 2 bids/estimates for the job are planned.

The roof of the administration building needs replacement immediately. There has been one bid for \$3300. Another bid will be obtained.

Leesy Taggart forwarded a suggestion that the Vestry adopt a policy that projects over a certain dollar amount should require at least two bids, discussion followed.

It was Proposed, Seconded and Approved that: There should be Two (2) bids or estimates for any one-time expense over Twenty-five Hundred Dollars (\$2500).

The title of the church building will pass to St. Gregory's from the Diocese. This was a bit of administrative paperwork that should have been done when St. Gregory became a parish 13 years ago. This administrative oversight only came to light recently. The cost of the title transfer will be \$1000.

Jessica Anderson was authorized by the Vestry to use whatever funds necessary to transfer the building title, the funds to be borne out of the Building Fund.

Jessica has a lead on Shane Eagleton, the artist who carved the front doors of the church, in Hawaii. She has not been able to speak to him as yet. Rick stated that the doors have been installed inside out, the carved portion is facing the right way however the frame holding the carvings are backwards.

The Dragon Gates, the set of gates that replaced the first stolen set have been repaired since *their* theft. Jerry Coe, the sculptor, has stored the gates at his studio since their repair. He has had inquiries about them during that time, he thinks that he could sell them for the church. On June 3 he will be at a show and could possibly sell the gates there. He would charge a 20% fee for the sale which is in the usual fee range. The Dragon Gates should be appraised before the sale. Jessica said she would contact Paul Mahder to see if he knows of an appraiser (for a fee). It was generally agreed that the Dragon Gates were unable to be reinstalled on the property safely and securely.

It was Proposed, Seconded and Approved that the Dragon Gates be sold.

Further discussion was about the proceeds being used for something of lasting value and significance for the church.

V. FINANCE REPORT

Leesy Taggart, the Treasurer, was unable to attend this meeting in person but forwarded the latest financial report to the group by email. David Kincaid said that he is learning his position, recognizing the great amount of work that Leesy does as Treasurer. He has been meeting with Leesy, Paul, Barb Nichol and others to get up to speed.

VI. FALL FUNDRAISER

This fall the church celebrates it's 30th anniversary and 13th year in this building. It's a good reason to have a fundraiser. Several individuals were considered to head up the Fall Fundraiser Committee. The committee will be formed to set the date then raise funds for both operating funds and building funds.

VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Membership

Susan is the new Membership Commissioner. She will be forming a committee. Her initial questions concerned the work of the committee and how the committee did the work.

Learning and Service

Rick Storrs had nothing new to report.

Communications

AnneMarie Hoos reported that she was in conversation with Betsey Porter concerning the upcoming Icon exhibit.

VIII. CLERGY REPORT

Addie Kugler has given a months notice regarding her employment. She will be happy to train her replacement so there will be a salary overlap of 1-3 weeks. The position is 35 hours a week and pays about \$30,000 with medical benefits.

Clergy is looking for someone in the congregation to be a liaison with CARD (Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disaster). CARD is congregation-based to serve special needs or vulnerable populations in neighborhoods.

There will be another upgrade in the Church Office technology. This upgrade is to bring all the church computers to the same level in order so that back up can be run simultaneously and similarly for all computers. The Church Administrator will receive a new computer and any 'leftover' computer will be able to be used by the Church Treasurer. The money spent for this will come from the Capital Fund. Also, eventually it will be necessary for the church to purchase a server; currently the church shares a server with All Saints Company.

We have retained a new cleaning service. Unhappiness with our former cleaning service initiated a round of inquiries of SOMA churches. Surprise! only one was happy with their cleaning service. We have negotiated with the recommended service.

On June 22 the SOMA Churches (St. Aiden's, Holy Innocents, St. Johns, Church of the Advent Franciscan Fathers and Church without a Home) will be holding a collective Square Dance. This activity will be similar to the Pentecostal Fish Fry; all congregations are invited to participate and share their experiences of worship and community and have fun.

Why do all these churches want to do activities together? Presently there are several activities our church does that some of these other churches also do, i.e. food pantries, El Salvador Mission, youth programs. It could be that by combining activities with another church the wider participation will result in greater success.

Paul was in the basement of the Cathedral last week at a workshop. During which he was struck by the vision of the "rational sense of the mutual ministry report". As a church community we are charged with doing a mutual ministry report every year. The last one we did was in 2004. Discussion followed that the Discernment Process that we are entering could be the ministry review.

With a recognition of jobs well done the...

**** meeting adjourned ****
Next meeting June 24, 2008