

November 25, 2008
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: December 23, 2008

Vestry members present:

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

Leesy Taggart, Treasurer, was also present

INVOCATION

I. OLD BUSINESS, APPROVAL of October 28, 2008 MINUTES

October 28, 2008 minutes were approved.

III. FINANCE REPORT

The first order of business, based on Building Fund expenditures and reduced fundraising, was a discussion of our mortgage payment. Moved, Seconded and Approved was the decision to suspend principal payments on the mortgage from the Building Fund for 90 days, paying interest payments only. Our loan documents require only the payment of interest monthly, and the church has been voluntarily paying down principal over the past several years.

David Kincaid presented for first review and discussion the salary portion of the 2009 budget. Discussion followed with the caveat that we did not know what the Rector's salary would be and what staffing would look like with the hiring of a permanent Rector.

Safe Church Initiative: David reviewed all the actions that have been taken so far in implementing the Diocesan program *Called to Right Relationship*. Some actions are tangible such as the locks on cabinets, a window in the door to Paul's office; others are not such as staff and volunteers taking an online course regarding youth protection and reporting of abuse. All the actions taken by staff, clergy and volunteers here at Saint Gregory's are ones that will improve safety for the community. Dave Cowen will write an article for *Nyssen News* about the diocesan program.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

AnnaMarie reported that the *Nyssen News* was published in its new electronic form. It was declared a really exciting and really good initial issue. AnnaMarie explained there was further work to do on formatting and use of pictures. Writing for the *Nyssen News* has a dual purpose, to serve the community of Saint Gregory and to provide information to visitors to Saint Gregory's. More presence of Saint Gregory online is anticipated in the coming months because of the recent research on how to raise the church's profile in the electronic landscape.

V. LEARNING & SERVICE REPORT

Rick Storrs reported about all the activity around the Christmas Faire and Gift Sale. As an event it has grown in participation and the popular Cookie Bar from last year is a highly anticipated feature for this year.

VI. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Susan Abernethy's report was given by Jessica Anderson and follows in toto.

I. I met with Paul Fromberg and Sara Miles to discuss various categories of St. Gregory's luncheons in the coming year. We will treat 2009 as an experiment for three types of luncheons: 1) New **members and their sponsors** will be welcomed at quarterly luncheons at Paul Fromberg's and Grant Martin's home. These luncheons will follow the 10:30 service on: January 4, March 29, June 14, and October 20. The costs will be covered by the Rector's hospitality budget.

The main purposes of these luncheons are:

- a) to provide a small-group social opportunity to become better acquainted with each other, Paul, Sara, and selected lay leaders
- b) to have an informal discussion that will stimulate new members to consider their areas of primary interest and how they want to become involved in the life of the church
- c) to strengthen the involvement of sponsors and encourage them to maintain a relationship with the members whom they sponsored.

2) Community luncheons are open to all members and friends and will be held at the church after the 10:30 service. The purpose is general fellowship. The fact that the church is wheelchair-accessible is an advantage. Several luncheons will be held during '09, but I do not have the dates.

3) **Home** luncheons for members and friends are valuable occasions for small-group interaction and may be held when individual members would like to host luncheons--or dinners--in their homes, on the model of the San Francisco Fellowship. Like the Fellowship, these home luncheons will not require the sponsorship or involvement of the Membership Committee. When I was discerning whether to join St. Gregory's, I benefited from getting acquainted with members through conversations in potluck group luncheons in people's homes, and I hope that these will continue in some form, initiated by members themselves.

We will experiment with these three categories through 2009 and evaluate them a year from now.

II. We are delighted that the following members have joined St. Gregory's since the last Vestry meeting:

- Dan Crisafulli, sponsored by Brad Erickson
- Lynn Dolce, sponsored by Sara Miles
- Carolyn Richardson, sponsored by Sara Miles
- Les Wright, sponsored by Tom Devine

III. A Membership Committee is in formation. The first meeting will be held in early February. I am pleased that Steve McCormack has accepted my invitation to be a guest at a meeting next spring to talk about his own ways of sensing when to invite people to come to St. Gregory's. In talking with people, Steve said that he is "tuning in to how God works." Steve does not draw attention to this fact, but he is responsible for the initial contact with several members of St. Gregory's.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Open discussion was largely about the discernment process for the next 2 to 3 weeks, the schedule, the times, individual responsibilities and as well as those collectively held as Vestry. Also discussed at this time was the need for recommendations for safely enclosing the new recycling bins in the back play area, a childproofing challenge linked with esthetics.

CLOSING PRAYER

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ****