

October 28, 2008
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: November 25, 2008

Vestry members present:

Susan Abernethy, Brad Erickson, Elizabeth Boileau, AnneMarie Hoos, David Kincaid, Rick Storrs

Leesy Taggart, the Treasurer was also present

INVOCATION

I. OLD BUSINESS, APPROVAL of September 23, 2008 MINUTES

September 23, 2008 minutes approved.

II. FRONT DOOR REPAIR/FIX

Richard Anderson reported about the front doors of the church, the how and why the artist was commissioned by Donald Schell. He went on to discuss the inherent problems with the doors, exposure to the elements, the materials used and their design (the doors in frames/battens). He has researched how to preserve the doors effectively. There is a recommendation of using a marine varnish system consisting of 4 layers of refinishing. This is not a cheap system, possibly \$3000 but is effective.

At the end of the discussion Richard Anderson was going to contact Donald Schell and Andy Jaszewski about the doors. Andy will be asked to look at the doors during his next anticipated visit. Scott is trying to contact Scott Eagleton to head off any publicity problem. This is with an eye to the doors being removed and repaired for a lengthy time because Shane mentions the doors on his website as representative of his work. Hillie and Joe Cousart will be contacted to confirm if the first Tiger Dinner paid for past work on the doors. Richard also raised the possibility of the church buying a power-washing unit so that the black dirt (from traffic) could be rinsed off. The buildup of the black dirt causes the doors to heat up, a source of warping of the doors.

III. FINANCE REPORT

Leesy Taggart reported about the financials. Unrestricted giving is off from last year, probably due to the economy. We still see no deterioration in giving related to the leadership transition. Through September, giving was just under 60% of full year budget, vs last year when we were just over 70% of full year receipts by the end of September. Expenses are under budget, because staff has done an excellent job at holding the line. If giving and expenses continue on the same trend, the fundraising effort needs to come in at \$40,000 to hit the budget. A very optimistic goal is to break even on the year by raising \$50,000. David Kincaid gave a report on the 2009 budget process. One savings is that the assessment by the diocese is expected to be reduced by more than \$1,000. The diocese has set clergy and staff salary increases at a minimum 4.2% cost-of-living adjustment. Pension costs will also increase proportionally.

Discussion followed about the budget process. David Kincaid explained how the church has moved from a budget process that looked at individual members pledges, evaluated the reliability of each pledge and then created a budget. Now our budget process is based on the certainty of over 200 members, solid programs and good follow-up with members who have recently joined. However, because there can be lapses, Susan Abernethy was asked specifically about all the members who have recently joined and where each were in the pledging process during the discussion.

It was repeated again that Paul and staff have done a stunning job on keeping a lid on expenses. Also, the financial report included that given that the economy has been souring for a while and during this the transition period the church is doing well.

IV. FUNDRAISING: UPDATE ON HOUSE PARTIES AND COMMUNITY LUNCHEON (NOV 16) AND LEADERSHIP GIFTS

There have been few RSVPS to the November 5 fundraising evening. It was proposed to move all the fundraising effort to evening of November 11 and make phone calls to the folks who have yet to respond. Randy Bowman will help with hospitality on November 11. There has been 100% participation by Paul Fromberg and Vestry to jumpstart the fundraising. The fundraising effort will culminate in a community luncheon on November 16. A letter will go out to all members from Brad Erickson asking for gifts, 'bringing in the sheaves'. Clark Cole will be asked to play during the luncheon, this day will also be the last time for Daniel Simons to preach before leaving for New York.

V. LEARNING & SERVICE REPORT

Rick Storrs reported that the Fall Retreat at Bishop's Ranch was a break-even event. Planning for the future will include that no one person bears a hospitality burden, the social(s) will be BYOB (bring your own bottle).

Spring chapter dates are May 15-17; Chapter Dinners will be on Friday, May 15 with a possibility of a dinner at church, the church business meeting will take place on Sunday, May 17. It was acknowledged that the process of outreach and RSVP'ing for Chapter Dinners needs work. Which raised the question of how well are the dinners attended? It was emphasized that the dinners serve as the welcoming face to the community and should be preserved.

VI. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Susan reported that she had a meeting scheduled with Sara Miles and Paul Fromberg on November 5th concerning community lunches, members' lunches and membership in general. She would like to have the member's lunches as a budgeted item, or asking for a donation or charging for them. She added that she wondered why there was no charge for classes or asks for donations.

On November 16th Les Wright, Carolyn Richardson and Lynn Dolce will become members. Susan is talking with members about serving as sponsors-of-sponsors to encourage more members to become sponsors and to encourage them to continue the sponsoring relationship beyond the formal introduction service.

Susan went on to explain that she was not going to have a co-chair for the committee, however she was going to have many committee members. She will launch the full work of the committee after the discernment process.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

AnneMarie Hoos reported that outreach would include YELP, an online database of area based recommendations and Google, possibly an ad, text based, she will be talking with Susan Sutton for advice. She recommended that we ask at the Pageant and Christmas Chorale Service ‘how did you hear of us’ to track outreach.

The Nyssen News in November will have pictures. Deb Styer is doing the online design. Discussion followed about print ad placement in area-based publications versus metropolitan-based publications.

VIII. CLERGY REPORT

Paul made a recommendation that there be a person on Vestry in charge of maintenance. Brad pointed out that Jessica as Junior Warden had that job. Paul recommendation was made in order to generate a schedule of maintenance checklist for light bulb replacement, heating filters replacement, other similar items. He further explained that there should be one responsible person for scheduling regular repairs and following up versus having just a book with names and numbers.

IX. CONVENOR’S REPORT

Brad Erickson went over the schedule of meetings with the Discernment Team, Paul Fromberg and other parties. He will be talking with Michael Barlowe with the Diocese about the schedule. The schedule will be sent to the office for publication.

CLOSING PRAYER

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ****