

March 11, 2008
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:30 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: April 15, 2008

Attachments:

YTD Financial Summary
Comparison with YTD Feb. 2007

Vestry members present:

Jessica Anderson, Brad Erickson, Paul Fromberg, Anna Marie Hoos, Barbara Nicol, Felipe Paris, Rick Storrs, Alissa Worthing

Guests:

Randy Bowman, for the Profile Team
Leesy Taggart

I. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY, 2008 MINUTES

February, 2008 minutes approved.

II. PROFILE TEAM UPDATE

Randy Bowman expressed some trepidation about commencing this process that seems to be “the most important thing ever.” Randy reported that the Profile Team has had some wonderfully productive meetings about how to divide up the tasks. The Profile Team is challenged by the fact that, “Saint Gregory’s isn’t a place – it’s a body in motion. How do we put that into words?”

The first Community Luncheon concerning the Parish Profile is scheduled for April 6th, 2008 from 12:30 p.m. to about 2:00 p.m. All other events have been cleared from the calendar, with the exception of the Icon Painting Workshop. Jessica volunteered to coordinate with Betsy Porter regarding the Icon Painting Workshop. Anna Marie commented that the plan is to divide participants into small groups.

The Profile Team has divided the content areas. Deb Tullman has offered to pull together visuals to accompany the Profile from footage that she has already shot and edited.

Randy commented that the Profile Team is very mindful that the Sunday worship community is only one of many groups within Saint Gregory’s and that the Team is striving for transparency of the process and the greatest possible inclusion therein. Jessica suggested that perhaps the Profile Team could send “missionaries” to groups that meet outside regular Sunday services. Profile Team members have already reached out to the Food Pantry. There is a flyer on the Information Tower with all of the contact information for everyone on the Profile Team.

Jessica has asked Sara Miles and Addie to make the Profile Team's work and planned meetings the top of all the announcements after Easter. The questions that the Profile Team will address will also be published in the Nyssa News.

The Diocese is also offering assistance in the form of paying for a helper / facilitator. No decision has been made, as yet, about when to bring that "helper" into the process. Michael Barlowe has offered to counsel the Profile Team once they decide on the questions they will address.

Bishop Marc has been hosting "Beloved Community" sessions featuring a "Beloved Community Play Box." Paul has a copy of these materials. Vik Slen attended one of the sessions and thought it was really cool. Bishop Marc is using these sessions to learn about what parishes in the diocese are most passionate about.

We discussed the possibility of incorporating the Beloved Community Play Box into Spring Chapter May 1st through May 4, 2008. General consensus is that the Saturday of Chapter (May 3rd) will be dedicated to Profile work. Perhaps we could use the Diocesan helper on this day?

Anna Marie will remind Dave Cowen to put a "Hold the Date" for Chapter into the April Nyssa News.

III. EASTER UPDATE

The full Easter court is now appointed. Linda James reminded everyone about the kids' involvement in the Palm Sunday procession. Hillie, Andy and Joe are working on the palm fronds. All of the light bulbs have been dusted and the palm fronds will be placed at the Saturday, March 15th workday. Jessica will be collecting donations of \$10 for the Palm Sunday breakfast. Paul and Jessica agreed to spread the word about this so everyone will be prepared. Jessica also reminded everyone that the Maundy Tuesday meal is a potluck. Janet Lohr is leading the charge on decorating. There will be no Easter Picnic this year. It is important to inform of the families who have participated in the Easter Picnic in the past that there is no picnic this year.

Jessica reported that they have reduced the cost of the Easter celebration by \$4,000, primarily by not renting round tables. We contemplated that we could have easily purchased round tables for less than the cost over the years of renting them. The only barrier has been where to store them. Paul believes that there would be room in the undercroft if many old boxes of records stored there could be shredded.

Paul requested that we add a visit from ShredWorks to the Wish List.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT / APPROVAL OF PAROCHIAL REPORT FOR 2007

In reviewing the financial reports, Barb reminded everyone that we need to start work on the \$30,000 of fundraising necessary to meet this year's budget. We reviewed Leesy's report comparing Jan/Feb 2007 with this year. Leesy was pleased that we are nearly even with 2007 for unrestricted gifts. Leesy reported that the goal is to have a seasonally adjusted comparison budget to be part of ongoing quarterly budgeting.

Leesy stated that she continues to be “cautiously optimistic.” There has been a good response to the February pledge renewal requests. Many members who raised their pledges last year are not significantly increasing their pledges this year. Leesy is now following up on the pledge renewal packets with an e-mail to each pledge renewer that lets them know their pledging activity over the previous twelve months.

We then reviewed the Parochial Report. We discussed the difference between a “member,” as defined by the Diocese and a “member,” as defined by the Saint Gregory’s Statement on Membership. For the Parochial Report, a “member” is anyone who acts like Saint Gregory’s is their church by coming to church, by giving to the church, and by participating in events at the church. Thus, the number of reported members for the Parochial Report is higher than the number of members as defined by Saint Gregory’s.

The motion to accept the Parochial Report was unanimously passed.

V. CLERGY REPORT

Paul began his report with a beautiful prayer from the Book of Common Prayer that included, “That in all our works, begun, continued and ended in You, we may glorify Your Holy Name.”

Paul then encouraged all of us to attend a Fish Fry with other Episcopal parishes: St. John the Evangelist, St. Aidens, and Holy Innocents. The Fish Fry is on Sunday, April 6th at 5:00 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 15th Street @ Julian, in the Mission.

Paul also reported that the next workshop on the Cristosal El Salvador Mission will take place on April 21st at 12:30 p.m. The mission to El Salvador had just returned on March 11th. All are learning from each other as the Diocese in Brazil is brand new and one of the few “gay friendly” dioceses in the world.

This brought to mind Paul’s recent blog entry about Saint Gregory’s role in wider Episcopal community. The entry can be found here: <http://www.saintgregorys.org/members/C224/>

Felipe shared a joyous moment from his recent attendance at the House of Bishops gathering wherein Gene Robinson stood up and said “I want every bishop able to go to Lambeth to go to Lambeth.”

VI. BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT

The fence had been repaired and a new deadbolt installed. We have now spent \$5,950 on the building projects outlined at the last vestry meeting.

We have decided not to repair the sprinklers in the rotunda and the sanctuary. The current sprinklers are sufficient to alert the fire department of any fire-related emergency.

The next issue to address is the fire inspection of the area occupied by the La Piccola Scuola Italiana. The school needs the fire inspector to sign off on the building’s fire safety to enable the

school to get their license. One solution might be to divide the fire systems serving the church and the admin building.

Regarding the repair of the flashing on the exterior of the admin building, Rick Storrs' contractor agreed that it was a problem and stated that he could not beat the estimate of \$4,890 provided by Bill Kurnizki. Jessica also reported that she spoke to Betsy and to Andy J. about the work and they agreed that it needed to be done and that Bill's was a fair estimate.

We discussed the potential for theft if we were to proceed with using copper flashing. General consensus is that if the copper flashing is not accessible from the ground, it will most likely not be stolen, i.e. there are no reports of theft of copper used on second stories or higher. Copper is supplied by TruSource.

All agreed that that we should fundraise the full expense, in addition to the \$30K amount we've committed to raising for operations. Jessica made a motion to spend up to \$4,890 on the repair of the exterior of the admin building. The motion passed unanimously.

Jessica also raised the issue that the beams in the upper part of the church are made of yellow cedar and they are cracking open a little bit. They are not rotting but they should be capped. Greg DeLory confirmed that yellow cedar takes a long time to rot. The existing damage is due to the long delay between installing them and painting them. The beams need to be capped but it is not an immediate crisis.

Only the possible repair of the roof is left to address.

It was decided to add "Fundraising" to the April vestry agenda.

VII. ARTS SUPPORT / SUPPORT FOR DOCUMENTARY

Paul reported that Ashia Chako had requested that we discuss the possibility of being "fiscal sponsors" for a documentary that she is planning. "Fiscal sponsorship" is a long established approach by small groups wanting to accomplish something under the umbrella of the sponsoring company's 501(c)(3). The sponsoring 501(c)(3) usually takes a 10% processing fee.

Leesy suggested that Makrina was specifically formed for this kind of purpose: to support work that is not directly related to Saint Gregory's. Were Saint Gregory's to act as the "fiscal sponsor" for Ms. Chako's project, we put at risk the church's tax exempt status. Leesy noted that Makrina's mission is written broadly enough to support arts, education, and the shared ministry of Saint Gregory's.

The vestry recommended to Paul that he tell Ms. Chako to discuss her project with Makrina and that Saint Gregory's could not act as the fiscal sponsor.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

AnnaMarie reported that she found a new cost savings – the phone company was charging Saint Gregory's for an 800 phone number that we do not use.

Rick mentioned that if there is another recruiting event like the Ministry Faire, he would like to be involved at an earlier stage of the planning.

Felipe reported that the Membership Team has committed to the work of responding to all new visitor inquiries. The Membership Team is looking at the extent to which our evangelism is working and to what extent it is working locally. Felipe reported that Zach has been doing a wonderful job of aggressively asking people to sign the guest book. Paul clarified that local people who sign the guest book receive subsequent contact from him and from the office. Out of town visitors do not. We talked about possible ways to get more people to sign the guest book, including the possibility of having people put their business cards in a designated receptacle.

Paul reported that Deb Tullman will be filming various liturgies of Holy Week for the website and for posting to YouTube. The usual videographer's fee is \$1,000 per finished minute of film. Paul is trying to raise \$5,000 to pay Deb. Barb asked that any money raised in excess of the \$5,000 go to the Operating Fund. A question was raised about notifying participants in Holy Week services that they are being filmed. There was a motion to approve Paul's fundraising for the Easter Week videos and it was approved.

IX. DISCERNMENT TEAM CANDIDATES

We had a brief discussion about Discernment Team candidates, which evolved into a discussion of Deanery Candidates. There are a total of six deanery spots available to Saint Gregory's.

** meeting adjourned **

Next meeting April 15, 2008

Financial Summary
YTD Feb 2008

	Gen'l operating funds	Building Fund	Icon Fund	Designated for Capital Projects by Vestry	Fall Retreat	Y&FM/ Events Fund	Outreach Passthru	Pastoral Care Fund	Music Fund	Presb Discr. Fund (Fabian)	Presb Discr. Fund (Fromberg)	=Total Cash on account
Balance at 1/1/08	\$ 36,009	\$ 20,114	\$ 8,225	\$ 49,088	\$ 699	\$ (70)	\$ 2,590	\$ 1,505	\$ 2,476	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,559	\$ 125,196
+Money coming in:												
Bequests												\$ -
Cash from the Plate	\$ 1,760											\$ 1,760
Fundraising -- in			\$ 11,800									\$ 11,800
Interfund transfers												\$ -
Misc income	\$ 741											\$ 741
Restricted Funds		\$ 1,250	\$ 315			\$ 165	\$ 377	\$ 125	\$ 100		\$ 700	\$ 3,032
Retreats - In					\$ 174							\$ 174
Space Rental	\$ 5,063											\$ 5,063
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 51,994											\$ 51,994
Other Grants												\$ -
Total Money coming in=	\$ 59,558	\$ 1,250	\$ 12,115	\$ -	\$ 174	\$ 165	\$ 377	\$ 125	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 74,564
-Money going out:												
Accounting & Finance	\$ (552)											\$ (552)
Assessment	\$ (11,926)											\$ (11,926)
Communications	\$ (292)											\$ (292)
Fundraising -- cost			\$ (282)									\$ (282)
Insurance	\$ (3,836)											\$ (3,836)
Interfund transfers												\$ -
Loan Payment	\$ (3,269)	\$ (1,731)										\$ (5,000)
Occupancy	\$ (6,114)											\$ (6,114)
Personnel	\$ (37,776)											\$ (37,776)
Restricted Funds		\$ (2,415)	\$ (10,000)				\$ (2,211)	\$ (1,200)		\$ (2,000)	\$ (1,970)	\$ (19,796)
Retreats - Out												\$ -
Space Use Expense	\$ (1,056)											\$ (1,056)
Supplies & Incidentals	\$ (3,309)											\$ (3,309)
Total Money going out=	\$ (68,131)	\$ (4,146)	\$ (10,282)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,211)	\$ (1,200)	\$ -	\$ (2,000)	\$ (1,970)	\$ (89,940)
Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$ (8,573)	\$ (2,896)	\$ 1,834	\$ -	\$ 174	\$ 165	\$ (1,834)	\$ (1,075)	\$ 100	\$ (2,000)	\$ (1,270)	\$ (15,376)
=Balance at 2/29/08	\$ 27,435	\$ 17,218	\$ 10,058	\$ 49,088	\$ 874	\$ 95	\$ 756	\$ 430	\$ 2,576	\$ 0	\$ 1,289	\$ 109,820
(held in Investment)		\$ 10,000		\$ 40,000								

Report prepared by Leesy Taggart, SGN Treasurer - please email treasurer@saintgregorys.org with any questions.

1. Loan balance on 1/1/08=	\$269,432
-Principal payments	-\$1,731
=Loan balance on 2/29/08	\$267,700

