

June 19, 2007
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:30 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: July 17, 2007

Attachments:

- Cash Flow Summary – Year To Date, May 2007
- Iconography Plan for Saint Gregory’s Church

Vestry members present:

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

Guests:

Leesy Taggart

Katherine Krebs

Luke Osbaldeston, Seminarian at College of the Resurrection in Yorkshire, England

I. APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2007 MINUTES

First, Rick asked for clarification on the Parochial Report annexed to the minutes: Is it correct that we have a \$23,000 surplus? Barb replied that that figure owes to reporting differences as the Diocese counts as “revenue” anything left over from prior years. We do NOT have a surplus.

Subsequent clarification by Leesy: The \$23,000 surplus is in restricted funds. We took in more donations for the icon fund and the Food Pantry during 2006 than we spent. As previously reported, our operating fund ran a deficit, which was met by drawing on accumulated surpluses from prior years.

Since circulating the draft May 15, 2007 minutes, there was much discussion about what to do when something is captured in the minutes that is later found to be incorrect. Similarly, what do to when vestry members disagree with a statement made at the meeting that is recorded in the minutes.

It was agreed that the minutes should accurately reflect what was said at the time of the meeting. If points are clarified later, those clarifications will be included in the next month’s minutes.

The May 15, 2007 minutes were approved, as amended.

II. CELEBRATION RECAP

At the moment, it appears that the fundraising at the Glory to Glory event netted \$75,000. A final figure will be determined once all of the costs are analyzed. There will be a follow up with all donors to focus on completing the icon.

The dinner was attended by 175 people. Katherine noted that “It looked like Versailles in here!”

There was a late-night auction that inspired unexpected items for auction that fetched great donations.

Katherine voiced thanks to Paul Fromberg, Suzanne Fowler-Palmer and David Elliott and to the Vestry for the support and participation.

Rick noted that 29 years of experience and experiment in hosting celebrations at Saint Gregory's all came to fruition at the event. "Everything we have done here contributed to the perfection of this event."

Felipe moved to go on record as expressing appreciation to all of the organizers of the Glory To Glory celebration.

III. INVENTORY UPDATE

There is more work to be done. The next meeting is Saturday, June 23rd when some of the more valuable items will be inventoried. There are some questions about the purpose of the inventory. Some want to capture the story behind items. Some want to know how to care for the textiles. Rick Fabian wanted Saint Gregory's to let him know which items it wanted to keep and which items it was not interested in keeping, so that those items that Saint Gregory's did not want could be reclaimed by All Saints Company. At this point, the latter purpose has been served and all of the items that are being returned to All Saints Company have been moved from the Saint Gregory's premises. Rick Fabian also mentioned that he had taken the large cross for safekeeping but that it was always available for use by Saint Gregory's, as needed.

Felipe suggested that perhaps we do a sort of museum showing of Saint Gregory's and All Saints Company's artifacts as a fundraiser.

IV. GREENING PROJECTS

Mark Lodico, Susan Kellerman and Jim Petersen have all expressed interest in "greening" Saint Gregory's. Brad has asked Mark Lodico to form a committee to evaluate options. The first tasks are to coordinate with PG&E for a free energy use audit and replacing the bathroom toilet.

Susan Kellerman has offered to fund some of the greening improvements. Barb asked that Susan's contribution be put into the operating fund. Barb noted that we already have budgeted \$500 per month for maintenance in the building fund and we haven't used it all.

Leesy urged everyone to look at the greening project as a whole and not just a series of discrete to-dos.

There was once an organization called Episcopal Power and Light. Sally Bingham was the coordinator at Grace Cathedral.

Motion to authorize Paul Fromberg to spend up to \$1,000 to replace the toilet upstairs with a more energy efficient model. Passed.

AnnaMarie noted that cheap, fluorescent lights, while more energy efficient, have been shown to be very damaging to fabrics.

V. VESTRY RETREAT

The Vestry will be on retreat at Jessica Anderson's home from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 7th. We will be discussing our dreams and fears and getting to know each other spiritually. Jessica gave each Vestry member a copy of Beginning Ministry Together by Roy M. Oswald, James M. Heath and Ann W. Heath.

There are more vestry retreats in the works. Jessica asked that everyone respond ASAP with their availability over the next several months.

VI. CLERGY REPORT

Rick announced that canonically, this would be his last vestry meeting as rector before his terminal sabbatical begins. He stated that he would be happy to come to any future vestry meetings if invited and if the vestry believed his presence would serve a purpose.

Rick gave some background on their decisions about how the vestry would be elected and formed. He voiced pride that Saint Gregory's has so far done a great job of electing representatives from many of the representative groups at Saint Gregory's.

Rick then presented his Icon Plan for Saint Gregory's church, annexed hereto. He gave some background on the planned inscriptions. In considering who might do the inscriptions in the future, AnneMarie, Rick Storrs and Alissa Worthing all thought of Damon Styer. This plan was placed as an attachment to the meeting minutes.

There was a brief conversation about indexing the Vestry Minutes using Optical Character Recognition ("OCR") software so that important decisions can be easily found and referenced and major policy decisions explained. It was agreed that its helpful to consult with long time members concerning history such as Jackie Lee, Scott King, Donald and Rick among others.

VII. SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Margaret Simpson has taken up leadership of the Sunday School for the next two years.

VIII. FINANCE REPORT

Leesy brought forth a Proposed Investment Policy. We have been talking about investing some of our money for many months. We have excess funds that are sitting and not earning interest. Leesy talked to Jim Forsythe, Diocesan Director about guidelines. She also talked to a trust officer at JP Morgan who has written policies for other churches. He reviewed Leesy's proposal and found it to be conservative.

Rick Fabian officially designated Paul as his delegate in all matters, including investment decisions, during his sabbatical.

Voting on the proposed investment policy is tabled until July, to allow further consideration by the Vestry. Until then, Leesy wanted to put a portion of the Vestry Designated Fund and Building Fund into a money market fund with instant availability. Jessica suggested a Schwab fund or CD at a 4% interest rate. Leesy clarified that we already had a money market fund in our investment account at

Wachovia, with roughly the same return. Jessica made a motion to move substantial portions of the Vestry Designated Fund and the Building Fund into a money market fund through Wachovia. Motion passed.

Barb presented the Budget v. Actual for January through May, 2007. We are exactly where we anticipated we would be financially. We need to plan how we raise funds for the transition to fund the projected shortfall in 2008 as the All Saints Grant ends.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Learning & Service

Rick Storrs announced that Sara Miles would be giving an extended report as Director of Ministry at the July Vestry meeting. She will be discussing our outreach programs and how to achieve better transparency about how a program becomes an official Saint Gregory's project.

Felipe expressed some concern about better clarity about where various groups in the church are moving. He is seeing much overlap in discussions among the Evangelism Committee and other groups.

Rick Storrs announced that he will not be able to attend Fall Chapter 2007 but was pleased to report that Elizabeth Boileau has agreed to be the money point person: gathering up the money, considering scholarships, and insuring that the Bishop's Ranch gets paid. Hillie and Joe Cousart have volunteered to host the program. Rick is now looking for someone to take on the important function of coordinating the social hour on Friday evening. A "Western" theme has been contemplated.

For Spring Chapter 2008, it has been decided that it will be one Sunday afternoon. Dinners will be back in people's homes but on Saturday night, instead of Friday, so that people have time to cook on Saturday.

Communications

AnnaMarie presented a draft Communications expenses year to date. AnnaMarie noted that she had cancelled the Yellow Pages ad and Leesy said that she was still receiving bills for it. AnnaMarie, Barb and Leesy to communicate via e-mail to discuss allocating funds.

AnnaMarie reported that Susan Sutton has agreed to be the web host but will be relying on the increased user-friendliness of the new site so that more people can participate in submitting and updating content.

Rick Storrs noted that he and David Elliott would really like to see the "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" sign put back up. Jessica noted that it was on-site in the undercroft but that it had been taken down previously because the wind knocked it against things noisily.

Membership

Felipe envisioned a “Welcome Wagon” of Saint Gregory’s folks that would welcome new Potrero Hill residents. It has also been discussed how important mentoring can be and how the first six weeks of a new member’s experience at Saint Gregory’s are the most important. Felipe also noted how important record keeping was: headcounts at each service and monitoring attendance. Finally, Felipe noted that they were going to pare down the unused identification buttons pinned to the welcome closet doors.

Next meeting July 17, 2007

**** meeting adjourned ****