

Vestry Minutes Highlights – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church – 20 Nov 2007

1. Rector’s Report : George

- Baptism: Grant Bouchard;
- Baptisms: Madeleine, Thomas, and William Diamond;
- Birth: Isabelle Friebel;
- Funeral for Rachel Dinse;
- Funeral for Bruce Holding;
- Katie’s ordination on Nov01: Bishop Scantlebury officiating;
- Matthew’s installation at St. Columba;
- Bishop’s Candidate Forum here on Oct23: 400+ attendees (and a HUGE thank-you to May Anstee and her committee and all volunteers for the forum organization and hospitality!); we hosted the largest number of attendees among the six forums held in Chicago;
- Organ concert by Bruce Neswick held here on Oct19;
- Pumpkin Patch: almost \$18000 total raised -- \$5800 donated to PADS;
- Diocesan convention was held in Wheeling: Jeffrey Lee elected Bishop on second ballot – installation and consecration on Feb02, and George will participate in and help plan the consecration;
- Sleep-out-Saturday held this month – 18 sleepers participated;
- Vestry retreat is rescheduled to Feb09 at St. Procopius Abbey.

2. Giving: Jim Jenkins

- 116 pledges in now; average pledge \$3135;
- 12 families (representing \$31K in support) left the parish or passed away in 2007;
- our pledge goal is \$460K for 2008;
- we (finally) used \$20K of the Campbell Trust money this last month;
- there was a very generous bequest to the parish of \$18K this month.

3. Nominating Committee: Kim Reed

- committee has been meeting: we have several acceptances.

4. Parish Life: Martha Sexauer

- Jill Bednas officially heads the committee now – but family-needs may require a change;
- making some decisions: “we cannot be the de-facto catering service for St.Mark’s”;
- setting list of events to support;
- probably will not do the ArtAuction again this spring;
- Parish Life will organize a “Spring Event” -- separating it and itself from “fundraising”;
- Parish Life has taken over the after-worship coffee service;
- overall, we are more organized now.

5. Newcomers: Sarah Adler: did vestry members do their assignments (to introduce themselves to one new person or couple each Sunday)? -- we want to ratchet-up this effort among everyone: ushers, vestry, everybody!

- new pew-cards are in place now;
- some pews need minor repairs: book-holders and bench mouldings need gluing here and there.

6. Convention: George

- Vote passed 80/20 to ask general convention to recommend rescinding resolution B033 (“the 75th General Convention [shall] receive and embrace The Windsor Report’s invitation to engage in a process of healing and reconciliation” and “[we] therefore call upon Standing Committees and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion.”)
 - B033 contradicts other resolutions from previous conventions (canons against discrimination)
 - Archbishop says we need to clarify point: “what does it mean to ‘bless same-sex unions’?”
- resolution passed allowing prayers / funerals / authorized services for animals (pets)

7. Finance: Jack Toliver

- pledge payments are down;
- (unplanned) open plate collections and other gifts are carrying much of the deficit;
- we drew on the Campbell Trust funds for the first time last month (ten months without!);
- expenses are somewhat over budget: programs were slightly underbudgeted, M&O activities were slightly over budget, and clergy expenses (including painting and work on the rectory) were up.

Unofficial notes by Daniel Conaway