

Vestry Meeting Highlights – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church – 19 Feb 2008

1. Jim Hildner (Troop 44 committee-chairman) spoke about the troop (report attached)
 - working on more shared activities with Katie (WhirlyBall / LazerTag event possible);
 - looking for Eagle-Scout projects for two Eagle candidates in 2008;
 - thanked the parish and the vestry for continued support and space.
2. Rector’s Report:
 - Miguel’s discernment-committee held its first meeting; please keep him in your prayers, as he is hearing a call to ordained ministry;
 - Katie, Kim, and George visited the preschool at Grace Episcopal Church in Hinsdale to gather research on the prospect of opening our own preschool;
 - guest preacher David Sanford in the pulpit two weeks ago;
 - the dinner for Bishop Benito of SE Mexico was well-attended;
 - consecration of our new bishop, Jeffrey Lee;
 - annual meeting held Jan27, with the St. Gregory School choir singing at the service that morning;
 - Katie and George attended the “Making Excellent Disciples” conference in Beverly Hills CA;
 - “Keeping God’s People Safe” training for several parishes held here at St. Mark’s;
 - the Men’s Cake Auction raised \$1100 for the Mexico trip
3. George: Diamante Montessori:
 - school will give us a proposal for a new contract in the range of Dec2008-May2009;
 - this timing gives us the opportunity to consider our own preschool;
 - they have received our letter to them from last month.
4. Paula Zwiebel: Worship
 - ushers, lay readers, bulletin production, and acolytes are all part of work of this committee;
 - looking for a person to administer the acolytes (assist / share duties with Fiona Miller);
 - acolytes may be taking a trip to the National Cathedral;
 - discussion of more guitar-led hymns;
 - the full-service-bulletin at the holidays has received very positive response.
5. Elizabeth Schnell, for Martha Sexauer: Fundraising / Parish Life
 - LentEvent goal is \$15K; hoping for a few higher-end silent auction items for donation – these were very popular at the art auction last year.
 - ALSO: May17 8a-2p “car-boot sale” in the parking lot; Joan Eorgoff is organizing; sellers may be asked to contribute a small amount for advertising and will run their own sales from their car-trunks, with some or all of the proceeds (as chosen by sellers) to general ministries of St. Mark’s

George: looking for a new Parish Life chair; Jill Bednas will run coffee-hours now
6. Martha Pfefferman: Missions and Outreach
 - M&O is organizing St. Mark’s parishioners to completely staff (meals / monitors / food / cleanup) for three Sunday nights this summer at First Congregational Church; we will start signups soon;
 - the school-supplies pledge drive for St. Gregory School netted \$4000, and was started with an initial \$1000 donation from Don and Marie Sutherland.

Ann: additional note: M&O also needs a new chair; Dan Chambers is stepping aside for reduced duty
7. Katie: Youth & Children’s Ministries
 - want to build a youth-and-children’s ministries program that people can be excited about;
 - started work on VBS 2008: “God’s Big Back Yard – Service to our Neighbors” – Sarah Adler, Michelle Gorman, and Penny Taback chairing VBS
 - ten local parishes / congregations in “Making Excellent Disciples” conference, most of those attending newly-ordained; group has asked Katie to represent the Diocese in Indianapolis in May.
8. George: “Diocese Form 9” endorsement requested of the vestry, to recommend Katie’s ordination. Endorsement was approved unanimously and signed by all vestry members present.

9. David Funck: the wardens will give a “rector’s review” to George each May; soliciting input from vestry until Apr15.
10. George: Vestry Retreat recap: Gary Hall (dean of Seabury) led discussions
 - talked about trends he sees in the Church;
 - identified the “core values” of our parish;
 - discussed “vision” for our parish: how to establish one;
 - “distill your thoughts down to three verbs”;
 - Elizabeth will circulate notes at next meeting.
11. Elizabeth: resolution offered to declare a portion of George’s compensation as “housing allowance” per IRS guidelines; approved unanimously.
12. Dick Anstee: Finance
 - we are almost exactly on budget (good to do, this early in the year!)
 - no Campbell Trust fund-use has been budgeted;
 - PDO reimbursements are down a little – but tend to lag a month, especially near holidays;
 - music expenses are just starting to increase for the year
13. John Braly: Buildings and Grounds: the five leaks
 - above the library is a flat roof, with many patches; recommend replacement and special flat-roof-sheathing estimated at \$24K – soliciting second estimate now;
 - Rainbow-room needs roof repair and gutter repair – executed agreement to repair at \$7K;
 - balance of the leaks already long-evident in sanctuary and chapel;
 - the roof is a capital investment, which may make use of the Lewis Trust funds appropriate.

Unofficial notes by Daniel Conaway