

Vestry Meeting Highlights – St. Mark's Episcopal Church – 20 January 2009

1. Rector's Report: George

- Baptisms of Cali and Talan Ludwig (twins) on January 18.
- Memorial service for Sean Lindberg, grandson of Edith Jacobson, on January 16.
- Yoga with Reeny Linstrom began a winter series on Thursday, Jan 15.
- Epiphany pageant on Sunday, Jan 11 – a change to have the pageant after Christmas; some have asked for the pageant to return to its Sunday-before-Christmas date.
- Daily Herald Sunday edition, Jan 11th, front page article included mention of St. Mark's and comments from GDS about the issue of how homosexuality has affected Episcopal churches.
- Village Planning Commission met on Jan 8th to consider the Diamante Montessori proposal to move to Park and Hillside; continued on Thursday, Jan 22nd.
- Christmas Eve attendance continues to rise: 2004: 370; 2006: 420; 2008: 459.

2. Giving Campaign: Joe

- As of today: 164 pledging families have pledged \$421,501;
- 47 families have offered supplemental pledges and donations totaling \$41,477;
- that total is now \$461, 978 – 98.1% of goal!
- we now have 22 new pledging families and 142 re-pledging families;
- HUGE thank-yous to Beth and Ted Figler, and Cindy and Paul Flynn for their hard work!

3. Fundraising: Elizabeth

- Several smaller events will be merged in 2009 – Angela Adkins is a highly-experienced fundraiser, and has suggested a single fall event;
- this event will have a \$10K goal, and will appear in the budget as an income line-item;
- the event will be integrated with the 100th anniversary of St. Mark's becoming a parish;
- date is TBD, depending on committee choice and other area events such as homecoming.

4. Vision Statement: Elizabeth

- tri-fold brochure out now: Javier designed a beautiful logo to go with it;
- brochure will go to everyone at the annual meeting, with (persistent!) reminders in bulletins and displays around the church

5. Parking Concerns: Elizabeth

- Is there a way to expand “special parking” for older guests and parishioners, especially in winter?
- Do we want to rerig parking? Can we offer valet parking?
- People may need to hear that they can park in the lower lot and use the elevator

Issue referred to Senior-Warden-Elect for assignment to Buildings&Grounds Committee.

6. Finance: Dick

- As of end-of-year, pledge payments exceeded the \$445K budgeted;
- however, this was due to additional gifts – if those not counted, 95% of pledges were collected;
- Campbell Trust draws totaled \$85K in 2008;
- among our restricted funds, Campbell Trust was almost entirely in laddered CDs, and suffered no investment loss; Lewis Trust was half-invested in equities, and that half lost 40% of value in 2008.

7. Open finance issues: Dick

- Note there was a \$10K “buildings debt reduction” item in the 2008 budget that was never paid.
- One parishioner made a directed \$1100 donation specifically for “debt reduction”; for this \$10K item to be paid would require an additional draw on Campbell Trust funds – which would NOT be effective use of that resource;
- Finance recommends that the donation be honored as intended, and that the \$10K item be adjusted in 2008 reporting to the \$1100 donation specified by that generous donor (approved).
- Note that we have to refinance the large main-building mortgage in Aug this year – now at 5.25%;
- this is not rectory debt – rectory refi was last done in April 2008, and happens every five years;
- Finance will explore the prospect of early refi to possibly take advantage of current rates.

8. Budget 2009: Dick

- We are about \$20K short of pledges for our proposed \$489K budget right now;
- \$10K in program reductions and \$10K in debt reduction have been identified to meet this;
- recommended reductions include COLA adjustment from 4% to 3%, and \$500 reductions in continuing ed, supply priest, fellowship, W2W, and music; a \$750 reduction in Newcomers, \$250 in Pastoral Care, and \$3000 in Buildings&Grounds utility costs;
- Finance recommends these edits and final pledge income of \$470,500 total for 2009 budget.

George: we have invested in growing the parish, and have succeeded – we are a rarity in the Diocese

9. Preschool Next Steps: Cindy Flynn and Kim Reed

- Exploration and planning began one year ago, and preliminary plan presented to vestry in Sep;
- we have waited to see what Diamante will do, are *done* waiting, and would like to move forward;
- we would like to start in winter 2010 with one class of fifteen three- and four-year-olds, three days a week in afternoons in phase with PDO, and would like to budget one or two scholarship kids;
- we would like to plan a fundraiser in the spring, and now seek a loan from the Campbell Trust for a director's salary and a grant to purchase furniture.
- All equipment purchases would be coordinated with the Sunday school leaders;
- if Diamante stays, we postpone startup of the school, continue to fundraise, and begin expanded art and music programs here anyway.

Motion “to fund a \$5000 grant and a \$5000 loan in 2009 for the ‘St. Mark’s Preschool Startup’ per the recommendation of the Preschool Exploration Committee, and to move forward with startup plans per their report”: approved unanimously.

10. Final By-Laws Recommendations: Elizabeth

Motion “to accept ‘additional minor revisions to the bylaws’ in Article I and Article VI per Elizabeth Lanzillo’s report of Jan18, and that ‘bylaws be amended to permit voting at the Annual Meeting of persons age 16 or more’ in order to be consistent with the Diocesan Canons, all to be voted-upon by the Parish at the coming Annual Meeting”: approved unanimously.

Clerk’s Note: *The second portion of this resolution was later discovered to be moot, and was consequently not presented in the By-Laws changes voted-upon at the Annual Meeting. The By-Laws already state (in Article VI, Section 8) that Annual Meeting business is regulated by Diocesan Canons; persons age 16 or more and in good standing may already vote at the Annual Meeting.*

Unofficial notes by Daniel Conaway