

Vestry Meeting Highlights – St. Mark's Episcopal Church – 18 Aug 2009, 730pm

1. Consent Agenda: discussion of Buildings&Grounds paving and concrete projects; copies of quotes from all bidders were sent to all vestry members this month. Per recommendation by B&G committee: resolution to engage A&J Concrete for concrete wall replacement and other work for \$9710 plus 10% discretionary margin, and engage A&A Paving for blacktopping both lots for \$21200 plus 10% discretionary margin, per their quotations to St. Mark's: moved and approved unanimously.
2. Rector's Report: George
 - Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held Aug 3-7, enrolling 61 children. "Canyon Ranch - Explore!" included singing, crafts, Bible stories, snacks and lots of fun. Marsha Webster was assisted by dozens of volunteers who created an outstanding experience for children from both St. Mark's and the community.
 - A memorial service for Fred Dinse was held on Aug 15th. A Dixieland band led a procession from the church to the Columbarium and to a reception in Mahon Hall.
 - Wesley Baier was baptized on Aug 9th at the 10:30 a.m. service.
 - Jillian Hug was baptized on June 21st at the 10:30 a.m. service.
 - George Smith led the opening prayer at the Boy Scout Court of Honor, held at St. Mark's on Sunday, Aug 9th at 3 p.m. A reception in Mahon Hall followed the ceremony.
 - Kris Baier and George Smith attended the Leadership Summit at Willow Creek Church in Barrington on August 6th. Over 6,000 people attended the two-day conference and another 40,000 via satellite.
 - Teresa Mathes of the Episcopal Church Foundation was selected to be the consultant for the St. Mark's Capital Campaign. Work is underway to identify leadership / training for the first phase of campaign.
 - The first of three Sunday morning "Open Houses" was held on Aug 9th. All were welcomed by greeters and were offered tours, name tags and an introduction to the Episcopal Church.
 - A cookout for the men of St. Mark's was held on Friday, July 31 at the rector's home.
 - Rinda and Sandy Allison hosted a newcomers brunch on July 26 following the 10:30 a.m. service.
 - A memorial service was held for Jenny Thirsk on Friday, July 10; Catharine Phillips officiated.
 - A Junior High mission week was held between July 6-10, a three-church effort (St. Mark's, 1st Congregational and Faith Lutheran). Twelve youth from St. Mark's participated.
 - Mallory Holding gave a presentation on her upcoming year in Haiti through the Young Adult Service Corp (YASC) on July 1st.
3. Strategy session for August: Budget 2010: Eric and Dick: there are three drivers to be aware of:
 - income: Diamante Montessori has left now, so no income from them for 2009-2010 school year;
 - expenses: regarding payroll, we are assuming a full-time associate rector (Elizabeth Molitors);
 - assumptions: Miguel will drop to half-salary on Sep 01.

Notes on major expenses, income, and fundraising:

- the \$2.4M building mortgage will be renewed at 5.5% (up from 5.25%), and we are working on the mechanics of writing in a prepay-without-penalty clause with the bank;
- significant assumption: by Jan 01-2010, special fundraising will have brought in \$200K; if we make that goal, the diocese has agreed to match that, which will reduce our mortgage to \$2M. We have commitments for 10% of that \$200K now;
- to fund this proposed 2010 budget, pledge payments would need to increase 6.8%;
- right now, we have 163 pledgers in 2009, which is twelve more than in 2008;
- there is an income opportunity for the rectory again – interest from a prospective occupant with whom we would establish a service agreement (not a lease).

George: Elizabeth will work on youth programs in 2010, and Marsha will focus on children's programs.

Dick: our operating deficit is down by 1/3: the 2009 budget deficit of \$100K is now forecast as \$65K.

No motion to endorse the proposed budget at this time: still in discussion phase.

4. Capital Campaign: George and David
 - wardens and George went back to Episcopal Church Foundation, negotiated a reduced quote for proposed services, and elected to go with them;

- were able to do this because the first-phase ECF expenditures were budgeted and under limits;
 - second phase expenditures will require more approvals from vestry;
 - Terri Mathes is moving along FAST: training of first-organizers here will start Aug29
5. Bruce Benson (away to Belgium for sabbatical) and Doug Page (family move to Boston) have resigned from the Vestry.

Vestry Meeting Highlights – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church – 15 Sep 2009, 730pm

1. Introduction of Elizabeth Molitors, our new associate rector!
 - Elizabeth will have responsibility for youth programs; junior-high and senior-high coordinator.
 - will also have pastoral duties and give pastoral care.
2. Bill Novak has agreed to become Assistant Treasurer – congratulations!
3. Rector’s Report (read into record):
 - St. Mark’s hosted the Diocesan Hispanic Youth Event on Saturday, September 12th. Attendance was 65 youth, sponsors and clergy.
 - Elizabeth Molitors and George Smith participated in the annual Ministry Fair at Wheaton College Sep 9th where local churches are invited to present information about worship services and programs.
 - Renata Danielewicz and Filip Gagovich were married at St. Mark’s on Sunday, September 6th. George Smith officiated.
 - Evensong resumed on Sunday, September 6th. Joyce and David Fletcher provided a beautiful meal following the service. Evensong will be offered the first Sunday of the month through May.
 - Owen Repetowski and Olivia Rausch were baptized on Sunday, September 6th at 10:30 a.m. service. Owen is the grandson of Keith and Peggy Schoen. Olivia is the granddaughter of Alex and Eleanor Krause.
 - A thank you to Mardie & John Roberts, who hosted a pool party for Senior High youth on Sep 6th.
 - Fifty for Holding – an event to support Mallory Holding was held on Friday, September 4th in Mahon Hall. With a \$3,000 contribution from St. Mark’s Global Partnership Fund, Mallory has achieved her goal of raising \$10,000 as part of her upcoming Youth Service Corps Year in Haiti.
 - On Saturday, August 29th, Terri Mathes from Episcopal Church Foundation led a training session for over a dozen volunteers who will be facilitating our upcoming Visioning 2.0 small group meetings.
 - Kick-off Sunday was August 30th. Attendance at both services was 275 – an increase of 20% over 2008. The beautiful weather provided an ideal setting for a front lawn coffee hour and hot dog lunch. Hot dogs were served by Glen Ellyn’s own Hot Dog Man.
 - Miguel Briones began orientation at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (Hyde Park) on Monday, August 31st. Classes began on Tuesday, September 7th.
 - St. Mark’s hosted a lecture by Lori Escalera on August 20th as part of the Glen Ellyn Madonnari festival.
4. Strategy session for September: Newcomers: Sarah and George, Danna Gross, Tim & Liz Dorgan, Paul Ruskusky, Greg Dempsey

Newcomer efforts include:

- designated greeters at doors for 10:30 services
- name-tags on first Sundays of the month
- welcome-bags: brochures, PostMark, a mug, chocolate
- welcome-brochures and vision-brochures
- our website is a form of greeting
- phone message greetings go out when we get a phone-number from a newcomer
- we now produce a full-service bulletin instead of the former “coded list of BCP page-numbers”
- maps of the church and room assignments
- new signage, inside and out (thanks, Dale!)
- welcome cards in the pews, also giving the opportunity to make prayer-requests
- ambassador visits
- altar flowers are redistributed
- newcomer brunches
- follow-up calls, visits by clergy, and ConstantContact e-mail system
- phone invitations to join ministries / groups / events

- photo directory
- open-house-month in August
- children / youth registration forms out
- the guest book

There are six ambassadors now: if we identify a guest, we send out an ambassador the following Tuesday or Wednesday with a brochure, other printed materials and some baked goods; sometimes we find someone at home, sometimes we don't.

Open thoughts and / or things to improve:

- music: "I want to hum going out – "
 - timely services (George: announcement-time before offertory will be reduced / shortened)
 - observe what people's interests are – not just questioning / surveying
 - "subtle approach was effective for us" – not 'drink the Kool-Aid' pressure
 - PADS: support more – passing around the sign-up sheets in service is effective
 - more-clear announcements
 - how about a Bible table in the narthex, for parishioners to take a Bible with them to the pews?
5. Vestry Nominating Committee: the group charged with seeking parishioners to fill the vestry slate in January. By tradition, George named the outgoing members of the vestry to the committee: David Funck, Paula Zwiebel, Javier Valdivia, Sarah Adler, and Adrian Buchanan.
- six seats are to be filled: the four three-year seats being vacated by Paula, Javier, Sarah, and Adrian, plus two one-year seats vacated by early departures of Bruce Benson and Doug Page;
 - Laurie Vanderlei will complete the term for the seat vacated by Kendall Vail;
 - ministries whose representatives are vacating: Newcomers, Pastoral Care, Communications, Worship, Christian Formation – and a warden;
 - things to think about: what are our needs; what are the strengths of the people here;
 - the committee will need the help of all here to find the right people.

Motion to affirm the vestry nominating committee as offered by George; approved unanimously.

6. Giving Campaign (pledge campaign update, in lieu of written report this month): Joe
- committee met with Chuck Tupta: Gretchen Kenower, Beth & Ted Figler, Cindy & Paul Flynn;
 - letter written and mailing will go out first week in October;
 - sending a card with a reproduction of church icon with letter: postcard to keep
 - testimonials scheduled at services Oct 11, Oct 25 (perhaps someone from PADS?)
 - delivering bread to 40-50 families;
 - Consecration Sunday will be Nov 01 (All Saints' Day)

7. Capital Campaign: David
- we are now in the "discernment phase" of the campaign, and have held training sessions for the discernment leaders;
 - 'visioning' versus campaign: Terri assisting: what is the vision? – where do we want to be?
 - we know we DO want the 'visioning' step; we may not want to have the capital campaign
 - we need to approve the phase-II portion of the effort tonight: \$9750 expenditure for ECF to perform feasibility study: 16 onsite interviews, all ECF service visits – a three-month effort, negotiated with a substantial reduction to their standard fee

Motion to approve expenditure of \$9750 for phase-II of the capital campaign: approved unanimously.

8. Open-items list: David
- Special-needs parking (two spaces in upper lot) requested by parishioners: DONE August
 - Ensure clarity around M&O budget: DONE August
 - Shore up communications around M&O initiatives: open, in process.
 - Establish a schedule for 'new music' opportunities: DONE September