

Vestry Meeting Highlights – St. Mark's Episcopal Church – 20 Oct 2009, 730pm

1. Consent Agenda: Sep vestry minutes and finance reports were moved to the Discussion Agenda.
 - corrections to September minutes;
 - finance: note \$40K moved from Campbell Trust; however, also note that this would have been much more but we are \$22K ahead on giving and another \$22K under on expenses at this time;
 - finance audit complete: no major issues, and only six minor recommendations.
2. Rector's Report (read into record):
 - Avery Haney, daughter of Angel and Mike, was baptized on Oct 18th.
 - St. Marksopoly! - the 100th parish anniversary gala was held on Oct 17th.
 - Our third annual Pumpkin Patch for PADS ran Oct 10-Oct 31.
 - Devin Ojeda, son of Kelly and Martin, was baptized on Oct 11th.
 - Peter Dorger and Hillary Korbar were married on Oct 10th.
 - A memorial service for Clayton Halvorsen, father of Karen Halvorsen-Schreck was held at College Church on Oct 10th. Walter and George officiated.
 - A memorial service for Wesley Hookham was held at St. Mark's on Monday, Oct 5th.
 - A Blessing of the Animals service was held on Sunday, Oct 4 in the Columbarium garden.
 - The Supper Bowl Shuffle kick off dinner was held on Saturday, Oct 3rd in Mahon Hall.
 - Jim Gill appeared in concert at St. Mark's on Friday, Sept 25; net proceeds are being donated to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.
 - Jim Hamilton was ordained to the priesthood on September 24.
 - Acolyte training was offered on Sept 20th.
 - The 2009-2010 Parent's Day Out (PDO) program year began in September (14-18). A few spaces are open on Mondays and Tuesdays.
 - Storage areas cleaned-out and organized during "Clean-Up Day" on Saturday, September 19th.
 - A children's clothing and toy resale was held on Saturday, September 19, raising \$2,000 for the planned St. Mark's preschool.
3. Strategy session: Children's Ministries: Marsha Webster

Education

- Sunday School – We offer six different Sunday morning classes for children, ages 3 years old – sixth grade. Average attendance to date this year has been 71 per Sunday.
- Sunday School is staffed by 15 volunteers, who teach weekly.
- Curriculum: Preschool – Hands On Bible Curriculum, an age appropriate curriculum that employs playing with instructional props to help convey the message of the lesson.
- K – 6th – All Things New Curriculum – A Biblical approach to learning the stories and
 - Episcopal "Basics." This year's curriculum focus:
 - "Heritage: People of God"
 - "Emmanuel: God with Us"
 - "A New People: God's Spirit and the Church."

Music: We offer three separate musical experiences for children through third grade:

- Cherub Choir – Sunday morning music for preschoolers, held at the beginning of the Sunday School hour. The Cherubs focus on learning to use their voices, having fun and very simple music skills. They are not pushed to prepare anthems for worship, although they are welcome to participate in the annual Christmas pageant and Mother's Day offerings. There are approximately 10 children participating in the Cherub Choir this year.
- Chorister Choir – Mid-week music program for children in Kindergarten – 3rd grade. They sing once per month during the school year, and also travel to local senior citizen centers to share the music they have learned. There are 12 Choristers this year.
- Christmas Pageant – will be presented during 10:30 worship on Sunday, December 20th. All children will be encouraged to participate.

Outreach

- The Children's Ministry supports St. Mark's M&O priority organizations.
- Food Pantry – VBS collection; weekly class collections during Sunday School.

- St.Marksopoly – Classes contributed to baskets for the silent auction.
- Trick or Treat for UNICEF – Collection boxes distributed to the children on Sunday mornings, in anticipation of Halloween. They are asked to bring them back for the Unicef Halloween Party.
- United Thank Offering – collection boxes distributed during Lent.

Worship: Two age appropriate worship experiences are offered for children weekly:

- Children's Worship – Ages 4 – 1st grade Avg. attendance: 13 children.
- Lamb's Chapel – Ages 2-3 Ave. attendance: 6 children.

Both are staffed by teams of two from a pool of over 20 adult volunteers who have committed to teaching on a monthly basis. Children's Worship follows the pattern of Godly Play, where the stories are told using wooden figures. Lamb's Chapel uses the Movers and Shakers toddler curriculum, which includes music, felt storyboards and craft activities. Both of these worship offerings employ an order, which is modeled after the rituals used for the adults.

Worship bags and handouts are provided to help children navigate the "adult" worship service. A change in the handouts is being explored.

Nursery: open for infants and toddlers every Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – Noon.

Staffed by Norma Cid and rotating volunteers. We average six children in the nursery over the course of the morning each week. This year, childcare is also being publicized and offered for a number of non-Sunday events, i.e., the All Saints Day Solemn Choral Evensong and Lenten Wednesday programs, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday services. We also offer childcare to moms who participate in the NOVA group and Winter/Spring YOGA.

Vacation Bible School: week-long camp for children, scheduled for Aug. 2 – 6, 2010.

VBS is not only faith formation for children; it is also a time for adults to make new friends. VBS is for children, ages 3 – 5th grade. It is also a community outreach for St. Mark's.

Other Educational Opportunities at St. Mark's

- Parents Day Out.
- Creativity Corner, a fine arts class for three- and four-year old children, has met weekly in September and October and will finish its current session on November 18.
- St. Mark's Preschool is in the planning process.
- Jim Gill Outreach concert for children.

Questions Looming for Children's Ministries

- Should we move to a workshop rotation model for Sunday School?
 - Should we rework the age boundaries for Lamb's Chapel and Children's Worship?
 - Lamb's Chapel 3 – 5; Children's Worship K – 3rd Grade? Staff consistency?
 - Should we offer a music, drama, or art fundamentals camp in the summer?
 - How do we facilitate spiritual growth in an entertainment based, over-scheduled culture?
4. Six seats to be filled on Vestry at January annual meeting: the four three-year seats being vacated by Paula Zwiebel, Javier Valdivia, Sarah Adler, and Adrian Buchanan, plus two one-year seats vacated early by Bruce Benson and Doug Page.
 5. Giving Campaign update: Joe
 - campaign letters went out;
 - bread-deliveries to 39 families: mix of newcomers, non-pledgers, and pledgers;
 - second mailing Nov15.
 6. Visioning: David
 - we are wrapping up the discernment phase of the visioning project;
 - we have gathered the initial round of feedback from the visioning sessions;
 - case statement is prepared;
 - there will be a Q&A session at Adult Ed this coming Sunday;
 - consultant Terri Mathes will discuss campaign and interview sixteen families/households;
 - report from Terri will be to us in mid-to-late December.