

1. Budget: Eric and Dick

Eric: huge thanks to Dick Anstee and to Dave McCarraher for all of their work.

- Giving Campaign: \$502K was our target; now at \$470K in current pledges among 175 pledgers; the number of pledges is up, and the average pledge is down;
- going forward, we are not comfortable with depending upon the \$502K income number;
- we also reduced the expected income from “open-plate collections” slightly.
- Our final recommendation is to increase the 2010 budget deficit spending slightly, from \$68K to \$75K.

Dick: note that the budget now includes a new line-item, “gifts to M&O”, to raise visibility;

- please also note that “preschool” now has its own lines in the report for income and expenses.

2. Rector's Report (read into record):

- The vitality of St. Mark's was evident over the past month with the observance of Advent, a children's pageant, celebration of Christmas, a baptism, two funerals and a cake auction. This past week, our own Mallory Holding was in the center of the earthquake in Haiti. We waited anxiously and prayerfully for over twenty-four hours before finding out that Mallory was safe and uninjured. Then, this past Sunday, we welcomed Mallory and her mother, Suzi, at the 10:30 a.m. service with our applause, joy and thanksgiving to God. Our prayers continue for the people of Haiti, and I will ask Mallory to help guide in ways to support short-term and long-term efforts in that country.
- The cake auction on January 17<sup>th</sup> netted over \$1,700 toward our on-going relationship with San Marcos and a fifth trip to Nigromante planned for this coming June.
- Memorial services were held for Marion Hesterman (sister of Carol Bennett, grandmother of Kim Reed) on January 17<sup>th</sup> and for Fred Lungren (parishioner of St. Mark's in the 1970s and 1980s) on January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Fifteen parishioners participated in CPR training at St. Mark's on January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Thursday yoga with Reeny Linstrom began on January 14<sup>th</sup> and will continue through February and March. Childcare has been generously underwritten and is offered at no cost to the yoga participants.
- David Bass (son of Aaron and Brooke Bass, grandson of Kris and David Baier) was baptized on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth Molitors officiated at her first baptism service as a priest.
- Chuck Tupta officiated at the Evensong service on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by many guests from Grace Church in Oak Park. A special thank you is extended to Bob and Cheryl Olsen for providing a delicious dinner and warm hospitality following the service.
- We offered three Christmas Eve services (4 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.) and a service on Christmas Day (10 a.m.). This was the first time in recent memory that St. Mark's offered a service at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve. In spite of poor weather, attendance for the four services totaled 571 vs. 491 last year – an increase of 16%.
- Our Advent/Christmas pageant was held on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 a.m. service. Directed by Virginia Vagt, the name of this year's pageant was “His Name is Jesus” and featured our youth choirs and musicians. A beautiful scenery backdrop was created by Caroline McAlpine.
- Elizabeth Molitors and George Smith are participating in the diocesan sponsored “Making Excellent Disciples” program which includes monthly meetings and educational programs. The most recent event was a gathering and presentation at the diocesan center on January 13.

3. Annual Meeting preparation: David

- main item is the “feasibility study” presentation;
- we will be forthright and forthcoming about the financial situation, and the reasons for the capital campaign;
- presentation in three phases:
  - history, and the decision to build the new hall (Kim Reed)
  - presentation and proposal to the Bishop (Dick Anstee)
  - the feasibility study (David Funck)

4. Vestry, Past and Future: discussion open to all: What can we do better?

- “I would have liked to have seen a synopsis or presentation on “what do each of the ministries do?”
  - George: new activity this year; we will hold “Vestry 101” in February
- “Next job should be to communicate to the rest of the parish ‘WHAT THE VESTRY DOES’ ”

Unofficial notes by Daniel Conaway