

St. James' Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 9, 2007

In attendance: Bob Honeychurch, Sylvia Sweeney, Tim Young, Meg Williams, Jim McConnell, Sylvia Ma, Greg Miller, Jan Brandt, Scott Whitaker, Barbara Dabney, E.J. Hilliard, Connie Rux, Johanne LaRocque, and Elizabeth Hart.
Absent: Ralph Locher and Janet Fischer

Bob Honeychurch called the meeting to order and led the opening devotion. Vestry members were asked to walk around Bob and Sylvia's garden while accompanied by music, and think about "How do you perceive God during the movement and music?" and "How do you apprehend the presence of God at St. James'?" The devotion concluded with "wherever the sacred places are in your life, invite others in to share the space."

Visioning activity

- Discussed the challenge of moving people away from a consumer mentality to a more giving focus. Questions began with 1. What was the last thing you remember buying? and 2. What was the last thing you remember giving?
- What do you "buy" with St. James' with either your time or money?
- What have you given away at St. James'?
- Can you remember some event that helped you to move away from being a consumer/buyer to being a giver?
- Being asked involves us in a sacred act already.
- This is all ministry development.

Minutes

1. The minutes of the February 24, 2007 vestry retreat meeting were approved as presented.
2. The minutes of the April 12, 2007 vestry meeting were approved as presented.
3. The minutes of the April 23, 2007 calendaring meeting were approved as presented.
4. The minutes of the July 5, 2007 vestry meeting had one clarification
 - a. Add to page 2, after "Vestry goals for 2007/lead team support attached" the following: "The vestry brainstormed the following ideas:"
 - b. Motion was made to approve the July 5, 2007 vestry meeting minutes as amended. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Music program

- The new music director is Katherine LaRose. She comes from St. Barnabas Catholic Church in Alameda.
- Katherine will also be organist at the 11 am service.
- She is officially on the payroll as of September 1, but will attend the last two staff meetings in August.

- Thanks to the music committee for all of their hard work, helping screen applicants and conduct thorough interviews – Bruce Roberts, Sandy Jaekel, Jackie Whitehouse, Brian Cochran, and Johanne LaRocque.
- FYI Katherine found the job listing through the Diocesan website.
- Don Westfall will be playing until the end of August. His last day will be August 26. Please give thanks to him for his year of service. Also keep Don in your prayers as he copes with a reoccurrence of cancer.

Possible fundraisers – idea stage right now

- Used book sale
- Selling See's candy
- Concert series (with new organist?)

Childcare

- Kate Pyatobratova has graduated from high school and will be leaving the St. James' nursery in August to attend college. Her last day is August 19.
- Suzanne David will be taking over the position. She has great deal of babysitting experience, and has been working with the Cabrillo Park Elementary tutoring ministry for several months. Suzanne and Kate will both be in the nursery for 3 weeks.
- The age limit for child care is not completely set. Right now the age limit is approximately 7 to 8 years old, but that may need to be firmed up.

Kitchen and event team (note: this is not set in stone)

- Kitchen coordinator – Barbara Dabney
- Coffee hour coordinator – Pam Young
- Housekeeping coordinator – Sandra Motley
- The first quarter this will be in effect is October
- Margaret Rainey is the coordinator for funeral receptions, not for other events (e.g. Christmas eve, etc.)

Financial report

- There was a request from Margaret Rainey, director of the altar guild, for money from undesignated memorial donations (special interest fund 2630-08, memorial donations) to purchase a new silver chalice and paten, cost approximately \$2000.

Motion was made to approve up to \$2000 from special interest fund 2630-08 memorial donations to purchase a new silver chalice and paten. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Budget

- Mortgage is \$7335.10. It should be paid off by November 2007
- The line of credit is \$1404.00. It should also be paid off soon.
- Roughly \$800 has come from 50/50 money for the sewer.

- We will still have a Building Fund even after the mortgage is paid off. It is for major capital improvements and is not assessed by the Diocese.
- We are slightly ahead on operating pledges. Some people have already paid their full year pledge.
- Operating income over expenses is \$10438.05
- Will be doing some restructuring of special interest funds to begin January 2008 (after the books have closed in December). Some line items will be retired, and like items will be kept together.

Auditor's report – attached

- Need to redo current space use agreement – need proof of required insurance
- Some churches are pulling back on building use because of liability and insurance.
- In the past we have used insurance values for the value of church property. We need to have insurance people come out and provide us with new insurance values, and have an informal appraisal of the property.

Adult ministry

- Education for Ministry (EFM) – an opportunity to go deeper in your personal faith and understanding of the church and scriptures. It is serious faith exploration.
- 4 year program – Program covers Old Testament, New Testament, Church History and Ethics and Theology
- Cost is \$300 a year.
- Group consists of 6 to 11 people who will meet 2½ hours a week, beginning in mid-September.
- For more information, talk to Johanne LaRocque, Bob Honeychurch, or Sylvia Sweeney.

Cluster reports

- Communication and Evangelism – info via e-mail very helpful for Eucharistic minister list
- Facilities and Parish Life – no work party until September
- Social Ministries and Congregational Care – trying to get up and running. Mike Aquino's team is up and running
- Worship and Christian Formation – correction: may be a problem with new librarian

Calendar

- August 19 – commemoration for Kate Pyatobratova
- End of August – Party for Don Westfall
- October 7 – Blessing of the Animals in the afternoon. May be combined effort with sister Episcopal church
- October 21-22 – Diocesan convention
- November 10 – check to see if anti-racism training occurring that day (Veteran's Day)

- November 11 – mortgage party and celebration. Lead team will work on it

Sylvia Ma led the closing devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hart
Clerk of the Vestry