

St. James' Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 11, 2007

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

Absent: Janet Fischer and Jim McConnell

Sylvia Sweeney called the meeting to order, and led the opening study. The readings were from Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and Luke 17:11-19, and both were about being an outsider. The following questions were discussed:

- | Talk about a time when you felt like an outsider. How were you treated? Did anyone reach out to you? If so, who and how?
- | In what ways does St. James' create a culture of insiders and outsiders? What power dynamic does that create within the church? Who benefits from this power imbalance?
- | Are children and youth outsiders at St. James'? What would it take to move them from the outside of our life together to the inside? How might that change life at St. James'?

Visioning

- | The vestry watched the video: "Celebrate What's Right With the World."
- | What was one moment from the video that jumped out at you?
- | How can we model our generosity at St. James' in a way that people will feel for themselves what is right with this place?

Minutes

- | The September 13, 2007 vestry meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Church secretary

- | The new church secretary is Linda LeGere.
- | Her starting salary is xxx an hour, but that number will be renegotiated at the end of three weeks.
- | Linda has six years experience at St. Paul's Episcopal in Oakland.
- | Office hours are now 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Vacation schedule

- | Bob Honeychurch and Sylvia Sweeney will be on vacation for three weeks, from November 9 through November 27. They will be going to Ireland, then heading to Montana for Thanksgiving.
- | Lyn Morlan, associate priest at St. Bartholomew's in Livermore will be the supply priest for those three weeks.
- | Lynn Locher will be preaching on November 11.
- | Emergency pastoral care has not been arranged yet, but Bob and Sylvia will let the wardens and Linda LeGere know when that has been determined.

Pumpkin patch

- | Greg Miller is in charge of the set-up of the space, and the tear-down at the end.

- | Dave Nelsen is in charge of the unloading of the pumpkins.
- | The office is in charge of the worker's schedule. There are still a lot of spaces open.
- | Barbara Dabney will monitor the daily intake of funds.

Facility Use Agreement

- | Changes:
 - | "Fee" has been changed to "donation schedule"
 - | "Rental" to other words, such as "charter," "usage," etc.
 - | Add to number 9, page 1: "Smoking is permitted in the parking lots."
 - | If St. James' sets up, the cost is \$15.
- | Motion was made to accept the new Facilities Use Agreement and Hold Harmless Form. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.
- | The new rules become effective on December 1, 2007.
- | The office will send out new agreements to all users.

Finances

- | Total operating cash is \$19,752.79.
- | A pledge was paid with stock, which will be converted to fulfill the person's pledge. Some of the money will go to the operating fund, some to the building fund.
- | The last payment on the mortgage has been mailed off.
- | The line of credit should be paid off with the November payment.
- | Still owe on the sewer fund, but it is going down.
- | Pledges are behind, but much of that has been made up with unpledged contributions.
- | Note that "telephone" in the operating budget also includes internet service.
- | Have received \$366 from script this year.
- | Our Diocesan assessment is approximately 18-20% of our operating income. Building fund money is not accessed.

Endowment Board

- | Maggie Shalar has announced her resignation from the board. The Board has not yet made a recommendation for a replacement.
- | Two other members (Jan Pearson and Lynn Locher) are terming out in April.
- | Other members are Betty McCoy and Dave Nelsen.
- | The board and the vestry will be looking for replacements.

Eskimo Dental funds

- | Donna Noll's contact has moved to China, and Donna feels that the money should go to another children's outreach.
- | Motion was made that the money in the Eskimo Dental Special Interest Fund 2630-03 (\$376.17) be distributed as Payless Shoes gift certificates for the children in the Winter Relief Program sponsored by the Tri-City Homeless Coalition. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.
- | How are the gift certificates to be distributed? This is a Social Ministries issue, but it was suggested that the certificates be given to the Tri-City Homeless Coalition for them to distribute.

The budget meeting is next Thursday, October 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

This meeting is to discuss the operating budget only, not the special interest funds.

Cluster reports

- | Communication and Evangelism – as submitted. Kudos for the improved website.
- | Worship and Christian Education – as submitted..
 - | Four people attended the training for new lectors.
 - | Thanks for the Blessing of the Animals with St. Paul's Methodist Church. 47 people attended.
- | Parish Life and Facilities
 - | Helped with Fall Roundup
 - | Contractor came out to look at the bathrooms. The contractor has our layout, but has to talk with the city of Fremont to see what we have to do to follow code.
 - | Replacing hose bibs at the next work party.
 - | The sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour is on the bulletin board. Vestry level clusters need to take one Sunday as well. Remember each group is responsible for all three services, and clean up after the 11 a.m. service. Do not count on the “Costco stuff” anymore.
- | Social Ministries and Congregational Care – no written report
 - | The Social Ministries meeting talked about showcasing different social ministries during the service.
 - | This Saturday is the Episcopal Charities walk.
 - | Mike Aquino is collecting items for Winter Relief. Will ask Mike to send out e-mail blitz regarding Winter Relief.

Calendar

- | Add Pumpkin Patch in October.
- | Add Winter Relief in November.
- | Make sure groups have been notified that they cannot use the Parish Hall in November.
- | December 16 – Lessons and Carols
- | December 24 – Christmas Eve services
- | Kids' Choir meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Little Church.
- | Godly Play needs to be added.

Ralph Locher led the closing devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hart
Clerk of the Vestry