

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church
2008 Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 29, 2006, 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Following a luncheon, at 12:30 pm, Senior Warden Emily Peterson called the meeting to order and thanked the Community Life commission for providing the lunch. Emily Peterson led the opening prayer and Chad Smith led a hymn. Emily also thanked Vicki Madsen for taking the pictures on display during lunch and asked everyone to sign in on the sheets on each table.

Reflections

Looking Back: A Year in Review

Junior Warden, Craig Gudorf highlighted some of the successes in the last year, especially the completion of the building project, and then asked the congregation to consider the events of the last year that were meaningful to them. After some discussion, a few members offered, among other things, that wedding ceremonies were much nicer with the new addition, the pilgrimage was inspiring, the gardens and grounds were beautifully transformed, Chad Smith is a great addition to the staff, and the work of the Justice and Peace Foundation in north Minneapolis and Haiti is a fulfilling success.

Looking Ahead: God's Dream for St. John's and Ours

Craig then transitioned into talking about the future for St. Johns by highlighting the following areas.

Minister for Children, Youth and Families Update

Craig stated that the church leaders were disappointed in the necessity to terminate Gretchen VanScoy's employment, but her skills set did not meet the needs of St. John's. However, we are blessed to have Michele Morgan as the interim minister for Children Youth and Families. In the coming weeks, a new search committee will be formed and lead by Craig. The new committee is seeking feedback from Sunday school teachers and parents to make sure the needs of the congregation can be met by any new candidates. Craig hopes to convene a search committee in March.

Reflections from Chad Smith, Music Minister

Chad Smith began his reflections by saying that he has felt welcome and embraced by the St. John's community as soon as he arrived. He spent 14 years working at a church in Ohio where his wife and two sons continue to reside until they can sell their house.

Chad's philosophy is that music is fluid and in motion and there are many talented people at St. John's to keep it moving. The 9:00 and 11:00 services are very different with the more experimental forms of music at 9:00 with the piano used as accompaniment. The 11:00 service is more traditional and uses mainly the organ as accompaniment. Chad says that rather than focusing on the differences in these two services, he prefers to look at the things in common.

Currently the 11:00 service has a choral group consisting of only women. Chad hopes to add more women and men to the group. He is also starting a Children's choir that he hopes will eventually have a high school component. He also started a guitar group. Finally, Chad would like to invite anyone in the congregation who is interested in getting more involved in the music program to come to a lunch meeting next Sunday after church. Pizza will be served. A second meeting with the same agenda will take place Tuesday, Feb. 5 in the evening.

Questions for Table Conversation and Written Reflection

Emily Peterson invited everyone to consider the following two questions and to write out some answers and leave them on the table for her to collect later. She said that the vestry would review the responses as a way to help plan for the future of St. John's.

What about St. John's life and ministry matters most to you?

What spiritual question that you hold in your heart would you like us as a faith community to explore with you?

Business Meeting

2007 Annual Meeting Minutes

Emily Peterson asked everyone to review the minutes from the 2007 annual meeting and Then the following occurred:

A motion to approve the 2007 minutes was offered, seconded and approved.

2008 Budget

Bruce Mair reviewed the 2007 financials and stated that we had a net surplus of \$13,500. The surplus was largely due to the expense savings in salary when Devon Anderson left. Pledges were also up by \$30,000 compared to 2006. He noted that 10 of the last 16 years, the year ended in a deficit, but in the last six years, the year ended with a surplus. 2007 was a surplus and 2008 is projected to be as well.

This years expenses will go up because the church will have to provide more healthcare benefits for full time positions that were once part-time. In general, healthcare costs are also up. However, the added expense will be offset by \$14,000 in a day care center rent increase that Ed Crandall negotiated. Also, because of the 2007 surplus, a mortgage interest payment is included in the 2008 operating budget even though the capital campaign did not plan for the inclusion of a mortgage payment in the operating budget until 2009.

Bruce showed a pie chart to demonstrate the break down of expenditures in the 2008 budget including the different ministries, the diocesan pledge and buildings and grounds.

One area of particular interest for 2007 is the amazing \$58,000 the church raised through its Justice and Peace ministries. Michelle Dibblee explained that that money was raised through pledges, fundraisers, the extra offering collection on the fourth Sunday and the

Christmas and Easter offerings. It is worth noting that \$35,000 of the total was raised through fundraisers.

A motion was made to approve the 2008 budget and then seconded and approved.

Blessing and Thanks for Outgoing Vestry Members and Warden

Mariann recognized the good works of Dianne Pizey, who completed her term as the diocesan delegate to convention and John Willoughby, Jan Olfe and Emily Peterson for their leadership and service on the vestry.

2008 Vestry Election

After introducing the nominated vestry members and diocesan representative, the following occurred:

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the new slate of vestry members: Ed McFadden, John Soderberg and Mitty Johnson and to appoint Kay Kramer as Senior Warden.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept Michelle Dibblee as the diocesan convention delegate for 2008.

Vestry Commissioning

Mariann led the congregation in a short vestry commissioning ceremony that asked the new and returning vestry members to promise to promote the mission of the church. She also asked the congregation to support the vestry leadership in its decisions.

Mariann offered a blessing and a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Gill Murray, Clerk of the Vestry