

St. John's Vestry Minutes

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

7:00pm-9:00pm – Library

Present: Mariann Budde, Shelly Gill Murray (clerk), Kay Kramer, Susan Tapp, Michelle Dibblee, Michele Morgan, Mitty Johnson, John Soderberg, Rex Gaskill, Ivy Booth, Brigitte Parenteau, Craig Gudorf and Dan Sutton

Absent: Bruce Mair and Ed Mc Fadden

Next meeting: March 8, 2008 (retreat)

After a dinner and check-in to meet new members, Mariann Budde led a discussion on the following topics:

What Matters Most

Repeating the question asked of the congregation at the annual meeting, Mariann asked the vestry members to name the things that matter most to them at St. John's:

- Acceptance of diversity-inclusiveness, especially towards the gay and lesbian community
- Community – Community St. John's is an extension of family for many members
- Openness, warmth, tone
- Informality
- Commitment to the wider community
- The call to give something back to the our church and social justice issues
- Intergenerational community
- Theology – the story we tell about God
- Opportunity to challenge our thinking
- Chance to explore educational issues – faith
- Music
- Commitment to growth
- Excellent preaching
- Sense of humor
- Sense of joy
- Room for experimentation – support for creativity
- Intellectual/informed/depth of knowledge in preaching and educational opportunities

At the end of the discussion, Mariann handed out the list of answers given by the congregation.

Why God Invests in/Cares about this Community

Again, Mariann asked the vestry to brainstorm, this time about why God cares about our community:

- St. John's helps us to be in touch with our faith, helps us remember what matters and challenges us to grow in faith
- This community is called to make an impact on the larger world

- We celebrate open communion
- We gather to keep Jesus' teaching alive
- We love, laugh, care – God loves joy
- This community saves lives and provides a welcoming inclusive place of worship
- We are willing to struggle with difficult issues
- We are accepting of other points of view as they relate to religion
- We try to take care of each other
- We are thriving in a diocese that is declining
- We are richly privileged and try to live with gratitude for that privilege

What is our Mission as Vestry Members

Setting aside the obvious roles vestry members play, Mariann asked the group to define themselves more globally:

- Vestry serves as a small model of the church community in both demographics and attitude
- Vestry members must be embedded in the community – be in relationship with the parish members
- Vestry members are keepers of the vision
- Vestry members must keep a pulse on the community they serve, show concern for the whole and be honest about who we are
- Vestry members must be good stewards of all the St. John's assets, including the building, human and financial assets
- Vestry members must build a vision through strategic planning
- Vestry members must enable others' visions to succeed – serve as well as lead
- Vestry members must learn to listen and speak
- Vestry members must love St. John's, its people and its challenges.
- Vestry members must make a commitment to be present

Plan for Retreat

Mariann suggested that the March 7-8 retreat focus Friday on relationship building and Saturday on fine tuning the vestry's global vision. Specifically, she would like to take stock in where the church's leadership is strong, where it is weak and where there appears to be no leadership and whether it is needed. To help the members think about these questions, Mariann distributed a list of people in roles of leadership at St. John's, a list of Sunday school teachers, St. John's Baptismal Covenant and Mission Statement.

After a prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Gill Murray
Clerk of the Vestry