

Senior Warden's Vestry Report February 17, 2009 Meeting

I would first like to say how much I enjoyed our retreat last month. I feel good energy coming from this Vestry. We have much work to do over the next several months, so I would like to identify several ministries that I feel will need special attention this year.

Our search process will take a lot of work over the next two months. After the Nominating Committee has started working we will still need to be sensitive to the congregation and make sure that everyone has a voice. There will be more on the process for selecting the committee and how we can get it done during the Rector's Report.

Another area of concern for St. Michaels this year will be how to promote and manage the growth that has already begun. We are going to have to expand the membership of our church if we are to continue as a parish; it is as simple as that. How do we go about growing our membership? I am not sure I know the answer to that, but Ken Davis is already researching growth in a church and it will be listed as a ministry area that will get much discussion at every Vestry meeting. All of our other ministries will need to support this, so the more ideas we can bring to the table the better.

The final area that I feel is very important is stewardship and not just financial stewardship. Our financial stewardship campaign last year was successful and that success needs to be built on this year. But, we need to expand the definition of stewardship to the congregation and have a continuing dialogue. I want to expand the committee and start back in March talking about stewardship in different ways before we start the fall campaign. Again your ideas are always welcome.

In closing, I would like to say how much I enjoy the respect that we seem to have for each other. We all have different views and it is important that all these views are heard. I pray that our diversity can become our strength again at St. Michaels; we need to be the leaders that make that happen.

I will see you at the meeting Tuesday night.
Peace,
Duncan