

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 by the Rev. John Talk.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Tom Cragg

Financial reports for January and February will be presented at the March meeting. During table discussion prior to the meeting, Tom Cragg explained the attached handouts. The top sheet tracks average church attendance, the number of pledging units, the amount pledged, the actual pledge payments and the average pledge per unit for the last seven years. Although the number of pledge units and the amount pledged are trending downward the average pledge per pledge unit is up. The additional handouts compared Christ Church Detroit attendance and pledge and plate giving to six other urban churches in the diocese. Only one of the six had shown growth in the past 10 years. The other five had statistics similar to Christ Church.

The other handout was authored by the Percept Group using census bureau and other data to give a profile of zip code 48207.

RECTOR'S REPORT – John Talk

The date of the vestry retreat will be either May 1st or 8th. The place, facilitator and agenda are to be determined. Suggestions for agenda items are welcomed.

By consensus the vestry approved the opening of the church for delegates to the United States Social Forum Thursday through Saturday, June 24-26, 2010. It is estimated that approximately 200-300 people might be using the building in any number of ways. We will be providing food at a nominal fee and might be called upon to provide some homes for housing delegates.

A personnel committee will be formed. Members of the committee will be the Junior and Senior Warden, Megan Norris and Jon Miller. It will meet on request of the rector and/or vestry on an ad hoc basis and might discuss among other things salaries, benefits, etc.

The By-laws committee will be asked to study the present by-law that requires two persons to run for each vacant vestry position and make a recommendation re: the size of the vestry.

Vestry is presently discussing a change of the time for vestry elections. It has been suggested that elections be held in October or November so that new members may attend at least two meetings before taking office in January.

Building Issues

- Plans for the courtyard design are being discussed and will be brought to vestry for approval. A phased construction might be advised so that funding can be obtained before work is begun.
- Vestry approved the placement of a plaque in the courtyard inscribed as follows: "Mother's and Children's Garden in memory of Toni Kelly by her family and friends"

- Howard Matthew has accepted the position of Chair of Buildings and Grounds. Terry Lloyd and Theresa Zajac will also serve on the committee.
- In the next few weeks donated work will be completed to stabilize the balcony pillars and the front row rail.
- Some time before the winter winds blow again Buildings and Grounds, the rector, Purvis and Foster and Dave Coleman will try to satisfactorily resolve the sanctuary heating issue.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Maggie Blanchard

KEEPING OUR CHURCH SAFE - Vestry discussed the policy contained in the “Keeping Our Church Safe” handout that was distributed last month. This policy is in compliance with the diocesan and national policy. Some parts of it have already been implemented.

- Maggie or her designated representative are checking all of the Sunday School rooms before the children arrive.
- Hall monitors have been appointed and provided with walkie-talkies.
- The use of the downstairs bathrooms on Sunday morning has been restricted to Sunday school children and teachers.
- When possible parents are delivering to and picking up their children from the classrooms.
- Teachers are talking to students about proper behavior toward any street people that may visit.

Some things that may be implemented this year are:

- Getting two teachers for each class
- Denying access to the lower level via the stairs near the Sibley House door.
- Providing two colors of name tags so that visitors may be easily identified.

Before voting to adopt the Keeping Our Church Safe policy vestry asked for clarification on the following issues:

- How will the confidentiality of background checks be kept. For instance where will those physically reside?
- How often will a background check be done? Will checks include those who are already teaching?
- Does the policy comply with our insurance requirements?
- How will we keep track of those who have to take the diocesan training for those in regular contact with a child four or more times a year? This training has to be renewed every five years.
- How do we communicate the plan to the congregation and monitor compliance?

READING CAMP

Maggie prefaced her proposal by saying that one of the qualities about Christ Church that she found attractive was our commitment to be a beacon of hope in the city. To that end she asked that Christ Church consider offering a reading camp to area children this summer and might include the following:

- The camp would operate for a two week period from June 28-July 9, four or five days a week from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for children 6-10 years of age.
- The objective of the program would be to teach and/or improve reading skills.
- Vision and hearing tests might be offered
- Volunteers might include not only our own members including J2A and Rite 13 but volunteers from the neighborhood and/or other churches.
- The program would operate like a one-room school house where the children would rotate from one activity to another and a lunch would be offered.
- A proposal to request funding from the diocese will be written.

The suggestion was enthusiastically received and suggestions were made to contact the Elmwood library and the Outreach Committee for support and possible co-sponsorship.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT - Susan Diehl

A list of committees, committee chairs and vestry liaisons was distributed and will be updated. Those committee chairs scheduled to report next month will be notified by the vestry liaisons.

The 2010 vestry objectives and eight implementation initiatives and were approved as distributed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vestry members commented on the successful conclusion of our Rotating Shelter. Jan Weir suggested that a special coffee hour be scheduled to honor Margo Norris and Mary Basse who have chaired this committee for twenty years. She did not, however, offer to oversee said coffee hour. Vestry supported this idea. The date and planner are to be determined.

Aretha Marshall announced that although final plans for the Christmas party have not been determined the Yacht Club has been asked to hold Friday, December 3, 2010 for Christ Church.

All agreed that the young people and the Parish Activities Committee should be congratulated on the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in many a year.

John reported that due to a mix up regarding the beginning date of the Stations of the Cross on Friday nights only Jon Miller and Shelly were in attendance.

Comments were made regarding using our new sign to better advantage.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with prayer and 8:15.