

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2009

The Rev. John Talk opened the meeting with prayer.

John Talk said that the heating contractors have been working on the church boiler. Some parts have been replaced and the heating engineer recommended raising the lowest temperature setting (that is, the night time or off-hours setting) from 50 degrees to 55 degrees. The church should warm up more quickly when the heat is raised and it may also be more energy efficient.

Some of the Christian Education committee members are recommending spending part of the Hafli proceeds on new carpet for Ledyard Hall. They feel new carpet would serve to reduce the noise level in the Sunday School rooms immediately below the Hall. The Vestry agreed to follow up on trying to get Auto Show carpeting. Oliver Coleman will contact someone he knows to see how we go about doing this.

A motion was passed to create a new position of Sexton. The pay rate will be \$10 per hours and the work schedule will be 10 to 15 hours per week. Kevin Lewis has already been hired.

A new Director of Christian Education has been hired. Maggie Blanchard will be assuming the position on January 5, 2010. Maggie comes highly recommended by her rector at St. John's Royal Oak. Maggie has experience as a teacher, a lawyer, a magistrate, and has earned a Master's degree in Theology.

Tom Cragg presented the financial report through November. Revenues through November are down by \$19,000 compared to

2008. Expenses are down by \$75,000, largely due to aggressive cost cutting measures. We continue to hope that December revenues will help us meet our 2009 budget projections.

Jan Weir reported that we have received 87 pledges to date, with the majority showing increases. Two or three pledges have gone down, and we have 8 or 9 new pledges. At this time last year we had 137 pledges in, but the campaign started earlier. Total pledges to date are at about \$250,000.

Tom Cragg presented a final version of the 2010 Budget. After much discussion, a motion was made to accept the budget as presented. The motion passed.

Tom Cragg reported that the Outreach Committee has invested \$37,500 in the Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund for many years. The bond is coming due and the Outreach Committee wants to continue the investment, which returns 2% for up to a 5 year renewal. A motion was made and passed to renew the \$37,500 investment with the Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund. The Vestry also asked that the Outreach Committee communicate with parishioners as to the purpose and achievements of this fund.

Theresa Zajac reported that the posts for the new fence in the courtyard are up. The fence should be installed in early January. Some grading has been completed. The contractor will review final designs with John Talk and Theresa in January. They will then be presented to the Vestry. The design will include the placement of memorial plaques, benches, and paving stones.

Theresa Zajac reported that one person has agreed to run for the Vestry and two others are thinking about it. Committee reports are due to Sandra prior to the Annual Meeting. Vestry Liaisons were

asked to remind their committees to prepare the reports, if they haven't already done so.

There was much discussion about the format and time of the Annual Meeting, including whether or not to have lunch, or to have a lunch which won't require us to rent tables. Those Vestry members who are going off the Vestry will be responsible for designing the meeting, including the time, the format, and the lunch. Seth Lloyd reminded us that at a Vestry Retreat we discussed electing Vestry members at a special meeting in the fall, rather than at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting would be a good time to mention this and to solicit feedback from parishioners.

Tom Cragg said that the CCD archives, dating back to the 1840s, are currently boxed up in a room in the basement. Those that are not used could be sent to the library that UofM maintains where Episcopal Church records are kept. The archives would be available to parishioners, to scholars, and would be protected. Tom will check into UofM as a possibility, and will also check the Reuther Library.

Continuing our project of Visioning, Vestry Members were given proposed 2010 objectives in the areas of Being Inviting, Self-Awareness and Listening, and Communications, and asked to identify the three which should be top objectives for the year. The results were as follows:

Being Inviting: Have 2 training sessions during the year to teach parishioners how to greet new members and how to invite others to join us in worhsip. OWNER: Membership Development Committee; TARGET DATES: February and September.

Being Inviting: Create and host an "invite a friend" campaign

in conjunction with one high quality special event. OWNER: Membership Development Committee; TARGET DATE: On or before the end of June.

Communications: Establish and implement a "technology driven" communications process to provide instant communications and networking within and outside the parish, using email blasts, facebook, RSS feeds, Twitter, Blogs/podcast. OWNER: YAC?/Technology Committee/Sandra (staff support); TARGET DATE: Initial setup March 31, 2010/ Content ongoing.

Communications: Re-establish "shepherd" phone-calling tree for those who prefer phone communication vs. email. OWNER: John Talk/ Sandra (staff support); TARGET DATE: January 31, 2010.

The Rev. John Talk closed the meeting with prayer.