

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS JULY 2009

The Rev. John Talk opened the meeting with prayer.

Jan Weir was the next highest on recent vestry elections. A motion was made to elect her to the position from which Jon Campbell resigned. The motion passed.

Tom Cragg shared the current financial report. Through June, both revenues and expenses are down compared to 2008. Overall, we are about \$36,000 under last year. Last month we were ahead of budget in revenues and expenses, largely due to the fact that there were five Sundays in May. We will need to watch expenses closely over the next few months. We had some good news in that the Diocesan investments are doing better since March. We still have a ways to go to recoup all our losses.

John Talk reported that we received the Diocesan Tithes and Offerings letter asking us for \$63,061 for next year (2010). The tithe is based upon revenues spent on operations. Thus, money that is withdrawn from the endowment and spent on operations is included in revenues. Money that is spent on outreach and capital expenses is not included. The Vestry asked Tom to have the Finance Committee discuss how outreach is defined and to come back to the Vestry with a recommendation on the tithe.

We need to elect Delegates to the Diocesan Convention which is scheduled for October 23-24. In the past we have had a mix of Vestry and non-Vestry members. John will suggest names to us at the next meeting.

Seth Lloyd distributed by email an implementation strategy for the Committee/Ministry recommendations which were approved in May. Not every Committee has a Vestry liaison. If Vestry members wish to be liaison to a certain group, an email should be sent to John Talk within a week. After that, John and the Wardens will be making liaison assignments.

Seth reported that the new globes are ready for the Chancel lights. They will be installed as soon as the scaffolding is ready. Hopefully, this will be before August.

The Finance Committee is working with Buildings and Grounds to come up with a reasonable lower-cost solution to the Woodbridge parking lot wall adjacent to the law firm. Pam Wilkins is talking to the law firm to let them know what is happening.

The Eagle Scout who has volunteered to work on the North Courtyard upgrade is ready to proceed but in need of direction from us. It was agreed that Theresa Zajac and John Leney will coordinate with the Buildings and Grounds committee to get a master plan designed and back to the Vestry for approval by the August meeting. If security issues are met, the fence may be moved back from the sidewalk before August.

Seth mentioned that we should take a look at how much time we, as a Vestry, spend discussing expenses and financial problems versus the time we spend on membership. Increasing membership may be the only way out of our financial problems.

Theresa said that there are many outreach opportunities available downtown, particularly during some of the Summer events and festivals. We could be making our name known by handing out promotional material.

Susan Diehl mentioned that we should be focusing our agenda items on Vestry priorities during the meetings so that we can achieve our goals. Items should be added to the agenda when actions are required or motions are ready.

Tom Cragg wants to suggest a different way to prepare our annual budget. First, goals are set and then budgets are built from them. This is a method designed by the Albion Institute. Tom will forward more information to Vestry members by email.

John Talk said that he would like Vestry meetings to be focusing on the agenda for the Church, allowing committees to do their work.

The next Vestry meeting will be August 27th.