

St. James' Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
May 18, 2009

WORSHIP

Rev. Paul Habersang led the Vestry in Evening Prayer.

DISCUSSION

The monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. James' Episcopal Church was called to order at 6:30 pm at St. James' Church.

Present were Rich Mills, Fred Larson, Leslee Flanagan, Lisa Brainerd, Gail Lebert, Gayle Kataja, Nancy Goodwin, Rick Edwards, Carl Benker, Ann Cahill, David Buddington, Jim Bennett, Jennifer Daukas, Rev. Paul Habersang, and Rev. Nancy Gossling.

Outreach Commission

Nancy Goodwin previously e mailed, to members of the Vestry, the attached Action Plan for the Outreach Commission. Nancy highlighted the following:

- The Outreach Committee is chaired by Blakely Crevoiserat. The Committee consists of twelve (12) members. With the assistance of our youth, the Committee organized the hunger feast dinner on MDG Sunday, which was a big success. The Committee also sponsors a child under Father Fernand at the Holy Trinity Elementary School in Haiti. Barbara Massey, one of the committee members, helps to organize events surrounding Haiti. The Outreach Committee has been proactive in evaluating its projects with an eye on managing the funds available.
- The Outreach Committee is also involved in a trip to Mississippi, possibly during February vacation 2010. Members of the Outreach Committee will be helping serve at Lunch in Bushnell Park, a program which serves lunch to homeless individuals on Saturdays. The Committee also participates in food banks, crop walks, serving Easter and Christmas meals and Kids helping Kids.
- Share the Faith is the second Committee under the Outreach Commission. Presently the committee is looking for a chairperson and has 7 members. Their meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month. New members are always welcome. This committee is working on the development of a new banner to hang outside the church and a new brochure to hand out at community events like the Apple Feast. Rob Lynn and Scott Thompson are co chairing a committee working on a booth at the Apple Feast. The Share the Faith Committee has put together a book discussion on The Shack to be held on June 24. It was suggested that a second book discussion be put together to discuss Stephanie Sellers book on Radical Hospitality. A suggestion was made to keep in mind high school students who are looking for possible outreach projects to work on. Many high schools require these kinds of hours.

Pastoral Care Commission

Ann Cahill had previously e mailed the Pastoral Care Commission to the Vestry members, a copy of which is attached hereto. Ann highlighted the following regarding the Pastoral Care Commission:

- The commission presently consists of three (3) committees. The plan is to move the Prayer Chain committee to the Worship Commission.
- The second committee under Pastoral Care Commission is the Shawl Ministry, which is run by Kay Ferris. The committee is running well and has knit 15 shawls. They donate shawls to Hartford Hospital as well as to newly baptized members of our parish. They are creatively looking for ways to get donations of yarn and money to keep within their budget. The committee is thinking of ways to attract new knitters.
- The CARE committee is the third committee under Pastoral Care. This committee is thinking of changing its name to better suit its purpose. The committee is working on a mission statement and is always looking for new members.

Commissions' Needs for Guidance/Support from Vestry

Gail Lebert asked the Vestry's opinion on holding a sale of items, left over from the Spring Fling, on June 20 from 9 – 12. The Vestry thought this was a great idea. Gail will pass along to Barbara Edwards. To date the Spring Fling has raised \$18,500. Thank you to all who helped.

Carl Benker asked that Commission heads please confirm sign up sheets and check with their committees on bulletin board space needed.

INFORMATION

Junior Warden's Report

Jim Bennett reported that he has surveyed the grounds. Thanks to Ray Davis for his help. Beverly Wu has the gardens in nice shape. She cleaned the memorial garden. Jim cleaned the gutters. Jim surveyed the condition of the roof and is concerned about the east side of the church. He estimates the cost to fix approximately \$3,000.

Jim reported that keeping a schedule of volunteer cleaners for the inside of the church has been challenging. Few people have signed up. Jim will think about pulling the facilities committee together to brainstorm how to solve this problem.

Dan Aramini will be taking pictures of Vestry members to post on the bulletin boards.

Jim has met with Otis Elevator to work out problems with our elevator. Jim will research maintenance contracts for the elevator and make a decision on the best route to take.

Rector's Report

Reverend Nancy reported that she has been meeting with members of the Greater Hartford Regional Ministry. This group includes St. Johns Church in East Hartford, St George in Bolton and St. James on Zion Street in Hartford. St. James Church, Zion Street will no longer be a part of Greater Hartford Regional Ministry as of June 1, 2009. Nancy and members of this group are brainstorming how to best share resources to benefit each other. More to follow on this interesting opportunity.

The ECW Fellowship dinner will be held on June 4, 2009. Reverend Paul and Reverend Nancy will be away on July 19th. Chris Webber will preach at the morning service and Steve Kelsey will preach at the 5pm service.

Assistant Rector's Report

Reverend Paul reported that there will be a baptism on Pentecost. On June 2 Christian Formation will hold a formal review and planning session. They will review results from a survey for children/adults regarding their experience with Christian Formation. Reverend Paul has send out a recruitment letter for possible teachers for next year. Reverend Paul has been busing setting up some exciting events for next year. A date has been booked for Meditation and plans are under way for a Saturday trip to New York City to see the Cloisters. Pat Goodrich is developing a welcoming packet for Newcomers. There will be a training session for Ushers/Greeters on June 8.

St. James Cemetery

The non-profit group that runs the cemetery behind Whole Foods approached St. James about its possible interest in taking over and running the cemetery. After a discussion regarding finances, it was decided by the Vestry, to not pursue this opportunity.

Feedback

Reverend Nancy has not heard back from Whole Foods on their request to use our parking lot for the Farmers Market. She will follow up.

Tickets to Lizzie on June 14 are on sale. Vestry members were encouraged to attend this wonderful production. The Fellowship Committee will help with a reception following the production.

DECISIONS

Approval Minutes

Reverend Nancy made one change to the proposed minutes. Fred Larson moved that the minutes be approved subject to the change being incorporated and Leslee Flanagan seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2009 Vestry meeting. It passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Fred Larson gave the Treasurers Report and highlighted the following:

- The Spring Fling was a very positive event bringing in a significant amount of money.
- There will be an article in the Network to remind parishioners to keep up their offerings during the summer months. It will remind folks that expenses are fixed so we need to keep the money coming in to stay on budget.
- Fred reminded the Vestry that we need to run a balanced budget to keep the Church Healthy. Fred will discuss the fiscal issues in more depth at the June Vestry meeting.
- David Buddington reminded members of the on line banking option available to parishioners in making their weekly pledges.
- It was suggested that Finances be a discussion item at the August Vestry Retreat.

The Vestry approved the Treasures report uniamously.

WORSHIP

Vestry members selected a prayer partner to pray for during the next month.

Rev. Nancy concluded the meeting with evening prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Daukas

Mission Statement for Outreach:

To spread the love of Christ by caring for and supporting our neighbors in need locally and worldwide by:

1. Informing ourselves on those needs
2. Educating the parish on the U.N. Millennium Development Goals
3. Sponsoring parish activities and giving monetary support to those needs

Action Plan for Outreach Committee - Strong, active committee
New initiatives

- Camp Coast Care - trip planning in the works to go to New Orleans, possibly during next Feb school vacation for helping those in need. Presentation last month by Larry Coleman from Trinity Newtown Episcopal Church. He offered to help with our trip.
- Lunch in Bushnell Park - new initiative to feed homeless lunch. Starts in June.
- Kids Helping Kids.

Ongoing projects

1. Food ministries – Panera Bread, Food Banks
2. Christmas & Easter families
3. CROP walk
4. Haiti projects – Holy Trinity Elementary school students, cisterns
5. Reduced Shepherd Home commitment for food
6. The committee looks carefully at every donation and has reduced gift in some cases

Mission Statement for Share the Faith:

Provide educational offerings on how to share the faith with others. Provide a welcoming and accessible faith community for people seeking Christ.

Action Plan:

Had to rebuild members. Now have a good group of 6-7 people on Share the Faith and two separate people working on the Apple Fest booth

1. Planning to buy a banner with a new phrase
2. Print up brochures for special events
3. Planning book discussion of “The Shack” in June on a Wed night
4. Sanctuary tours at Spring Fling
5. Apple Fest chili booth - Rob Lynn & Scott Thompson
6. Had Gayle Kataja speak at our last meeting about Radical Hospitality

St James Vestry
Pastoral Care Commission
May 15, 2009

- I. Prayer Chain: Lois Nickel
 - a. Moved oversight and support to Worship Commission in reorganization

- II. Shawl Ministry: Kay Ferris
 - a. 15 shawls knit year to date (ref: 25 shawls knit in 2008)
 - b. 2 shawls will be donated to Hartford Hospital (outreach)

- c. Hartford Hospital appreciation certificate: June 25 @ noon
- d. Operating under reduced budget for 2009 (cut to \$50.)
 - i. Gifts (yard or cash)
- e. New members welcome

- III. Care Committee: Lois Shepperton and Janet Donston
 - a. Identify mission. Re-name?
 - b. Primarily provides food for families in need
 - c. Some transportation provided
 - d. New members and drivers can only be solicited only after mission for the group is clarified and agreed upon

