

St. James' Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
November 16, 2009

WORSHIP

Reverend Nancy Gossling led the Vestry in Evening Prayer.

DISCUSSION

The monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. James' Episcopal Church was called to order at 6:35 pm at St. James' Church.

Present were Rich Mills, Fred Larson, Carl Benker, Ann Cahill, Leslee Flanagan, Gail Lebert, Nancy Goodwin, David Buddington, Jennifer Daukas, Rev. Paul Habersang, and Rev. Nancy Gossling.

Outreach Commission Report

Nancy Goodwin had previously e mailed to members of the Vestry the attached Outreach Commission Report. Nancy highlighted the following points:

- Outreach Committee – this committee is chaired by Blakeley Crevoiserat and is made up of a large, dedicated, willing group of people. Blakely is a good communicator and the committee is involved in traditional projects as well as looking for new ways to expand the churches outreach. The Outreach Committee was charged with managing a tight budget and has done a good job of that this year.
- Share the Faith Committee – Has had several successful events including the Book discussions and Apple Fest. Nancy Goodwin met with Rich Mills and Reverend Nancy to review the direction and purpose of this committee. The Share the Faith Committee will work closely with the Radical Hospitality Committee to provide follow through on ideas surfaced.

Update on the Website

Thanks to Carl for getting the new website up and running. The Commission reports, which are located on the web site, are good. Carl is still missing one commission but has been in touch with them. The website has a scrolling feature where up to ten (10) events can be added. Leslee Flanagan pointed out that she met a family who attended the 5pm Sunday service after reading about it on the website. Carl is looking into posting pictures and what legal issues that poses. The Vestry thanked Carl for his hard work on the website.

Commission Needs

- Photo Directory – Gail Lebert mentioned that is has been three (3) years since we produced our last directory. Gail is looking into putting together a new directory

and possibly doing it digitally so that it can be on the web with users having a protected login. Gail will report back to the Vestry on what she finds.

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship campaign seems to have gone well and thanks to Chip Flanagan for his hard work this year. The Vestry will hold an additional meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 6:30 to discuss the proposed budget.

Vestry Nominations

Jennifer Daukas has agreed to serve as clerk next year. Lisa Brainerd, Scott Thompson, David Buddington, Leslee Flanagan, Jim Bennett and Rich Mills have all agreed to serve another year. The treasurer's position is still open for next year.

DECISIONS

Treasurers Report

Fred Larson gave the Treasurers Report and highlighted the following:

- Rick Edwards and David Buddington have reviewed and analyzed the annual pledges. They are cautiously optimistic that pledges will come in as expected.
- In 2010 Fred stressed that we will need to make the Special Funds whole.

Rich Mills thanked Fred for his report and hard work. Leslee Flagn moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Nancy Goodwin seconded. The treasurer's report was approved by the Vestry unanimously.

Approval Minutes

Carl Benker made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2009 Vestry meeting and David Buddington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval from Bishop

Rich Mills read the names of the parishioners who are Eucharistic visitors, Eucharistic ministers and worship leaders. David Buddington made a motion, which Nancy Goodwin seconded to approve the list of names and submit to the Bishop for approval.

INFORMATION

Rector's Report

Reverend Nancy reported on many things highlighting the following:

- The Hartford Deanery is looking to go on the Camp Coast Care trip in April.
- The Episcopal Church picked five (5) strategic goals: Reaching youth, evangelism, worship, liturgy, music, leadership and strengthening congregation
- Retreats
 - Clergy Retreat – Esther DeWaal spoke on Approaching God through Poetry
 - Cape Cod Retreat – Nancy discussed a possible Spring trip to a wonderful place she found at a recent trip to Cape Cod. It has a beautiful sanctuary with interesting windows.
 - Parish Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery – There is a retreat planned for February 12 - 14, 2009. Esther will speak at the retreat.
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Assistant Rector's Report

Reverend Paul reported on many things and his highlights are as follows:

- Adult Formation Classes continue on “Challenging Lifestyles”
- There will be a Quiet Day on November 28, 2009. Eileen Epperson will guide a retreat this day from 10 – 3.
- Advent – The Sunday at 5pm service will be meditative service during the 4 Sundays.
- Jim Ervin will lead The Lord and his Prayer based on the book during Advent on Monday nights.
- The St. James Youth page is up on Facebook. There are 27 friends so far. Special thanks go out to David Habersang for his hard work in getting the site up and running.
- Reverend Nancy and Paul met with the Rite 13 parents to see what they liked and did not like about the Rite 13 program.
- This past Saturday was a Pizza and Movie night for the youth. 15 kids attended.
- This coming Saturday, there is a trip to go hiking with the Buddingtons. Meet at the church at 10am.
- Lisa Brainerd met with Ray Purtil regarding possible local service projects. Ray gave Lisa a list of projects and the youth will vote on the projects that interest them.
- A nation wide project is being offered April 19 – 23, 2009 for both youth and adults to Camp Coast care.
- There are discussions about a possible international trip to Haiti next summer. St. James would link up with a church in Stanford and establish a relationship with their congregation.
- This Sunday after church, a pot luck will be held and the youth will speak on their recent experiences in Outreach.

Junior Warden's Report

Junior Warden, Jim Bennett was unable to attend the meeting so there was no update. Rich Mills used this time to hand out the Vestry Meeting Schedule for 2010.

Feedback

- David Buddington pointed out that parishioners seem to like singing from the Red Book.
- Gail Lebert has heard positive feedback on the 5pm service.
- Many parishioners like having the hymn numbers back on the hymn boards
- The Vestry forum was well received. The presentation was clear and easy to follow.
- The Children's choir is up to 19 children. Parents are very happy.
- There was a lot of positive feedback around the Stewardship Campaign. One comment to consider was that it took too much time during the visits to fill out the paperwork. Perhaps some of that could be done on line or in advance.

WORSHIP

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

Rev. Paul concluded the meeting with evening prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Daukas