

**St. James' Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**January 19, 2010**

**WORSHIP**

Reverend 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 6:35 pm at St. James' Church.

Present were Rich Mills, Fred Larson, Gail Lebert, Carl Benker, Leslee Flanagan, Nancy Goodwin, Rick Edwards, Lisa Brainerd, Jennifer Daukas, Rev. Paul Habersang, and Rev. Nancy Gossling.

**Communications Commission Report**

Carl Benker had previously sent out, via e-mail, the Commission Report on Communications and highlighted the following progress (2009) and plans (2010):

- Website: rebuilt in 2009. Plans are underway in 2010 to promote the site to Parishioners and visitors to the site. Jim Ervin to work with Carl on improving the content that is given to Carl to post on the website.
- Network Newsletter: Thanks go out to Barbara Buddington for her work as editor of the newsletter for many years. Carl welcomed Janice Davis as the new editor. Barbara will stay on and be responsible for gathering the stories and Janice will serve to edit and create the newsletter. The newsletter was transitioned into a electronic version in 2009 reducing costs. Plans for 2010 are to continue looking for ways to improve.
- Sign-up Sheets/Bulletin Boards: In 2009, a process was implemented for requesting a sign-up sheet and weekly reviews of the bulletin board information were performed to insure that past notices were removed. Plans for 2010 include a possible vestry forum on the website and how to use it as well as working with the parish to promote the sign up sheet process.
- Email: The church e mail system was converted to a fully-supported, self managed system in 2009. Plans for 2010 include working with Commissions and Committees to establish mailing lists for each group.
- Technical Support: Carl will work in 2010 to up date church PC's to be more capable.
- The Share the Faith Commission, Communications Commission and the Radical Hospitality Committee will continue to have discussions on how to systemize their processes.

The Vestry thanked Carl for his hard work this past year.

**Pictorial Directory**

Gail Lebert reported that 72 families have signed up to have their photo taken for the directory. Pictures will be taken on February 5, 6 and 15<sup>th</sup>. Pictorial Directories will be

ready mid June. Gail is working with Carl Benker and others to see how we can put the directory on the web while keeping the site secure. Questions and feedback on the Pictorial Directory should be directed to Gail Lebert.

### **Annual Meeting and Vestry Retreat Planning**

Rich reminded Vestry members that the Annual Meeting will be January 24<sup>th</sup> after the 10:15 service. It was suggested and agreed that instead of having the meeting in the church, we would try holding it in the Parish Hall. Folks can grab a cup of coffee and child care will be offered. The Annual Report is in good shape. Thanks to everyone for getting their reports in on time. We will approve last years Annual Meeting Minutes at this years Annual Meeting. Rich asked each Commission leader to be ready to speak for a minute on the Commissions greatest celebration during 2009.

Rich also reminded Vestry members of the upcoming Vestry Retreat. Friday night will run from 6 – 9 with a Pot Luck dinner. Bishop Aherns will join us and take us through a video presentation titled *Fresh Expressions – different ways to do church*. Saturday's discussion will center on where we want to go as Parish. We will also have discussions about Stewardship Challenges, Planned Giving, Capital Campaign Finance issues and Fundraising events for 2010.

### **Planning for February 28<sup>th</sup> Visit by Bishop Ahrens**

Bishop Ahrens will preach at both the 8 and 10:15 services on February 28, 2010. There will be a Pot luck lunch in the Parish Hall following the 10:15 service. The Vestry will meet with the Bishop between 9 and 10 in the Meeting Room. Bishop Ahrens will talk with us about the 5 Diocese Goals. The Bishop will accompany a Lay Eucharist Minister (Judy Knowlton) on a visit in the afternoon. Gail Lebert will speak to the ECW about coordinating the Potluck lunch to be held that day.

### **Update on Fundraising Events for 2010**

Time and Talent Auction to be held on Saturday, March 20 beginning at 5:30. Rob Lynn has agreed to be the Auctioneer for the Live Auction part of the evening.

DJ on the Lawn – an event to be held in Spring/Summer. Vestry members were asked to think about identifying individuals who might like to help with this event.

### **Commission Needs for Support**

No Commissions were in need of support as of this date. Rich would like the Commission Leader who reports to Vestry to submit an article in the Network the month following their report.

## **DECISIONS**

### **Treasurers Report**

Rick Edwards gave the Treasurers Report in Fred Larson's absence and highlighted the following:

- December 2009 was a good month with pledges and other offerings up. We did not have to take anything out of reserves.
- 2009, over all, ended \$7,000 better than planned. Income was on line and expenses were under budget. We did not need to use any reserves.
- Rich Mills thanked Rick Edwards and others for their commitment and hard work.

Leslee Flanagan approved and Gail Lebert seconded the motion to approve the Treasurers Report.

### **Approval Minutes**

Nancy Goodwin made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2009 Vestry meeting and Rick Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATION**

### **Rector's Report**

Reverend Nancy reported on many things highlighting the following:

- Mississippi Mission Trip is scheduled for April 19 – 23, 2010. Those who have signed up range in age from 16 – 70. We are encouraging Deanery participation.
- Met with Jim Ervin and Carl Benker regarding Web updates.
- Dealt with many pastoral care issues
- Administration Activities including Executive Committee, Staff Meetings and Planning meetings with Rev. Paul for upcoming events.
- Working on Recovery Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Paul Gossling to preach.
- Nancy will attend another meeting on February 25 for East of the River parishes.
- Working on the Committee 2 on the Postulants and Candidates weekend.
- Nancy worked on a Celebration of Baptism.
- Decision was made to not add a Rhythm of Grace worship service in the fall. Four other locations offer the service and at this time, we will inform those interested of the existing services.

### **Assistant Rector's Report**

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

- Paul met on January 3<sup>rd</sup> with both youth and youth leaders to discuss what is working and what is not. Youth expressed that they want to do more in church school.
- Based on the 1/3/2010 meeting, the winter/spring curriculum was revised to add new things like Tai Chi, a speaker on Recovery Sunday and many more events that the kids asked for.
- Reverend Paul is actively recruiting for new teachers in the fall. Many people presently teaching would like to continue in the fall.

- There will be a gathering on March 6, 2010 to make plans for a joint youth venture between St. James/ & L'Eglise de L'Ephiphanie.
- Paul is working with Allison St. Louis on the Wednesday night presentations on Family Systems.
- Paul and Nancy are working together on an Inquirer's Course to begin in late February.
- Paul will hold a Coming to Communion Class for youth in grades pre-K- through grades 5 on February 28.
- There will be a Newcomers Committee Meeting to discuss how to proceed forward. We talked about how each of us needs to be aware of Newcomers. It is everyone's responsibility to welcome new members.

### **Feedback**

- The Fellowship dinners are going well.
- Wednesday night adult formation classes are a great way to meet the wonderful parishioners here at St. James'.
- Gail and Jeff Lebert are teaching the 3 and 4 year olds and love it. Gail encourages everyone to give it a try!
- Bad Weather Notification: TV, e mail blasts, website (Paul to contact Carl to put something up on the web), add to our answering message.
- Coffee: There have been several complaints on the coffee so the hosts/hostesses are following a new recipe to accommodate those that gave feedback.
- Bishop Smith's celebration will be held on February 28, 2010 at 4pm. Gail Lebert will follow up with ECW on what to bring.
- The Network is now available on line. Some have expressed unhappiness with that format. We discussed that the Network is available in written format as well if you contact the office.
- Some have expressed dislike in the entire service being printed in the bulletin. Carl Benker stated that those guests who attended his son's baptism were very happy to have the "full" bulletin.

### **WORSHIP**

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

Rev. Nancy concluded the meeting with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Daukas