

# **St. James' Episcopal Church**

## **Vestry Minutes**

### **April 26, 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 Fred Larson, Gail Lebert, Nancy Goodwin, Rick Edwards, Jennifer Daukas, Jim Bennett, Gayle Kataja, Lisa Brainerd, Scott Thompson, Rich Mills, Leslee Flanagan, Rev. Paul Habersang, and Rev. Nancy Gossling.

##### ***Pastoral Care Commission Report***

Ann Cahill had to be out of town unexpectedly so the Pastoral Commission Report will be given at a later date.

##### ***Fellowship Commission Report***

Gail Lebert reviewed her Update on the Fellowship Commission Progress and Goals, a copy of which is attached hereto. She highlighted the following:

- **Newcomers:** This committee, which consists of 4-5 people, is chaired by Pat Goodrich. Many of the newcomers tell us they found our church from our website. Mary Jo Logan has been instrumental in calling newcomers and inviting them to our bi-monthly Fellowship Dinners. The next Newcomers luncheon is to be held on Sunday, May 23rd after our Pentecost Service. The challenge for the upcoming months is to think strategically of how to integrate radical hospitality into the committee.
- **ECW (Episcopal Church Women):** Amy Carvell has led this group and is planning on stepping down at the end of the year. Gail explained what the history of the ECW has been and the Vestry discussed what other parishes have done with this group. Plans on the future and direction of this group will depend on the interest expressed from a new leader.
- **Fellowship Dinners:** Scott Thompson has led this group. The last Fellowship dinner for this year will be the May/June timeframe. Vestry members suggested mixing up the participants between 8:00 and 10:15 service parishioners. A suggestion was made to kick off the year with a large dinner at the church in September and to make dinners once every two months instead of every month.
- **Coffee Hour:** Ginger Lynn has chaired this Committee. A question was raised as to the need for a coffee hour after the 5:00 service on Sundays and after the 10am Wednesday morning service. At this time, the Vestry agreed that it was not necessary.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Danielle Phelan is the current leader of this group. Her upcoming departure was discussed and Vestry members spoke about the strength among the members of this group and feel that it will run on its own when Danielle leaves, until her replacement is hired.
- **General Discussion on Fellowship:** The committee is looking for someone to be responsible for coordinating the grilling after the 5pm Sunday services in the summer. Possible new fellowship ideas discussed were movie and discussion nights and a pig roast. Vestry members discussed the September Homecoming Picnic. It was decided that the Vestry would be responsible for organizing the committee/activity tables and that the Vestry would look for someone or a group of people to organize the fellowship portion.

##### ***Fundraising Events for 2010***

Time & Talent Auction and Dinner: This event netted between \$11,500 and 12,000

Spring Fling: Plans are well under way for the Spring Fling on May 1st. Please encourage everyone to come. There is still time to sign up to work at the Fling.

Rentchler Field Clean Up: A group of parishioners over the age of 16 will spend 3 – 4 hours at Rentchler Field cleaning up. The church will receive \$1200 for the work and it will be another great way to build fellowship.

Chili booth at the Apple Fest: Rob Lynn has agreed to coordinate our Chili Booth at the annual Apple Fest held here in Glastonbury. More to follow on this fundraising and fellowship event.

### ***Staffing Update***

Bernie Prue needed to cut back her hours so she is resigning as of April 30, 2010. Jeanne Kowalsky will begin on May 4, 2010. Many folks know Jeanne from her work at the church in the past. Bernie and Jeanne have plans to meet and work toward a smooth transition.

Melissa Malchiodi, one of the Nursery attendants, is pregnant and would like to take the summer off to spend time with her baby. A replacement has been found for Melissa to cover the summer months.

Danielle Phelan has a full time substitute teaching position and is looking for a position for the Fall, which will further her career and provide her with benefits. The Vestry expressed sadness to see her go as she has gone above and beyond her job but we wish her well. June 18th will be Danielle's last day. Nancy and Paul are looking to fill the job of Christian Education Director, which is a 20 hour a week job. Part of the 20 hours must be availability to work on Sunday mornings from 9 – 12.

## **DECISIONS**

### ***Treasurers Report***

Fred Larson gave the Treasurers Report and highlighted the following:

- **Income:** David Buddington reports that Pledge offerings through March are good. April's numbers are still being finalized but look a bit lower than expected. Perhaps this is due to School vacation which included two of the April Sundays. Other offerings were a bit soft and the Easter collection was down from last year.
- **Expenses:** The expense numbers are higher as the Assistant Rectors pension bill has been wrong, so we are making up the difference making, cash flow tighter than usual.
- **Capital Campaign:** As of 3/31/2010, there are liabilities totaling \$214,000. We have Cash and Solid Pledge Balances of \$84,000, which leaves us with a shortfall of \$130,000. The Finance Committee is discussing and working on potential letters to parishioners. A decision will need to be made by the end of June and Fred will discuss this further at the May Vestry Meeting.

Gail Lebert approved and Rick Edwards seconded the motion to approve the Treasurers Report.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Jim Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2010 Vestry meeting, subject to the changes Reverend Nancy Gossling requested and Leslee Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATION**

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

Reverend Nancy reported on the recent trip to Mission on the Bay in Mississippi. This was a new initiative for St. James, which included an intergenerational group of parishioners. This national outreach program included time (1 week), talents (construction) and treasure (both from the parish and the individuals that attended). Mission on the Bay is part of the Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi (LESM). LESM partners with Habitat for Humanity and Americorp NCCC Volunteers. The St. James group worked with youth, clergy, and

lay leaders from St. John's in Duxbury, Mass. They shared camp with Mennonite youth and leaders from Canada, Grace Episcopal Church in Brooklyn Heights NYC, and adults from Methodist Church in Philadelphia. While there, folks worked on 2 single family homes. All who attended had a great experience.

Next year, Nancy would like to take the confirmation class on a pilgrimage to New Orleans.

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

Reverend Paul recapped the Youth Service Project held recently at JB Williams Park. It was a huge success with officials from the town offering much thanks and praise. It was an intergenerational event including youth, youth leaders and adult parishioners. 300 trees were planted and two dozen mountain laurel bushes planted!!!! St. James Youth have been asked to work on a second service project on May 16 mulching the Riverfront in Glastonbury.

Reverend Paul was one of 28 folks from all over the United States, who were asked to attend a Clergy Leadership Project held in Cornwall, Connecticut. Topics discussed included leadership and how to lead, when not in positions of authority. Managing conflict was also discussed, with an emphasis on creative conflict, and how to deal with conflict in a positive way.

### ***Feedback***

- Great sermons!
- Discussion of locking church after 10:15 services on Sunday.
- Website – Discussion of process for getting information on the website. Reminder to communicate with Carl Benker and Jim Ervin.

## **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 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Daukas