

St. John's Episcopal Church

Bangor, Maine

March 12, 2008

Present: Mo. Rita, J. Perry, J. Pickering, C. Palmer, G. Creaser, J. Blanchette, E. Patches, P. Counihan, E. Lutz, A. Tripp, N. Dymond, L. Phillips, K. Huhn.

Opening Prayers:

Mo. Rita opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from January were accepted and approved with an amendment that the minutes reflect the amount collected on the fourth Sunday of each month that is dedicated to outreach.

Adoption of Agenda:

The agenda was adopted.

Rector's Report:

Mo. Rita summarized the Lenten events at St. John's:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – attendance 70, various ages and groups, 6 volunteers

Ash Wednesday Services – attendance 17, 35, 31

Sundays in Lent – combined attendance 118, 176, 168, 125, 167

Choral Evensong for Linton Studdiford – attendance 137

Lenten Programs

Sunday Book Group: 18 books purchased, 1 guest, average attendance 10

Wednesday Taize – average attendance 12

Saturday Eucharist/Presentation – average attendance 10/16

Pastoral Offices – funeral for Norma Wilks

Palm Sunday and outreach to families – procession to occur with children and readers

Holy Week Services and Outreach to Families –

M-W, 8:00 AM Eucharist

Maundy Thursday - 7:00 PM service

Good Friday – 12:00-3:00 Liturgy and organ meditation, 7:00 PM Liturgy

Easter Vigil – 9:00 AM, 7:00 PM combined service with St. Pat's, St. James, and Redeemer Lutheran, 3 baptisms

Easter Day – egg hunt and Easter feast

Easter Programs

Movie Series - Sunday nights at 5:00 on the art of film food

Home Eucharist – 3 during Eastertide, at the Patches', Wilbanks' and McHeny homes

Under office health, painting and work is continuing at 234 French Street, and the computers now have upgraded programming and are all linked on a network.

Advertising for Holy Week – all services will be listed in the paper

Invitations to the community – Mo. Rita spoke at a local college and will be serving on the Diocese Financial Committee

Identity and St. John's – a meeting on looking to the future at St' John's will take place March 15 at 10:00

Growth of Parishioner Initiative – Ann McHeny is leading a discussion group on Wednesday's during Lent, Esther Rauch will be leading the film series on Sundays during Eastertide, the youth group is headed by Dawn Cadotte, Anne Faulkner is working with a group to move us closer to our outreach in Haiti.

Education Initiatives – Education for Ministry program to begin next fall. This is a four-year curriculum and should be the cornerstone for adult education. Also, St. Pat's, St. James, and St. John's are discussing working together to create a Journey to Adulthood program.

Mo. Rita will continue to meet with the Finance Committee and focus on financial relations and the summer budget process.

Senior Warden's Report:

Gary will report next month on the January – March funds spent on Second Saturday. Lew Phillips moved that the 4th Sunday's loose plate for missions be used for the 2nd Saturday community meal unless otherwise determined by the vestry. The administrator should report this amount at vestry meetings by the Treasurer and in the Sunday bulletin monthly. Motion approved. Numbers continue to fluctuate for 2nd Saturday, though volunteer help is steady.

Junior Warden's Report:

The repairs are proceeding on schedule. There was some ice backup after a recent storm and the vestry will need to look into repairing the roof. This will cost approximately \$7,500. The property committee will be creating a list of all projects that need to be completed at the church and estimates of cost. Lew Phillips made a motion that the vestry approve the repair of the roof. Mo. Rita asked where the funds would come from for this repair. Lew added an amendment to the motion that the finance committee review and advise the vestry on the roof repair situation, as

the cost is greater than \$3,000. Ken Huhn added that the vestry needs to look at all the capital projects budgeted and see how much has already been used and how much is left. Lew tabled his motion until next month so that the finance committee can review the roof issue and bring back more information to the vestry.

Property Report:

Lew Phillips is recruiting leaders and helpers for a property cleanup on April 26, from 8-12. He urged each vestry member to contact three people to help with these tasks. The information will be posted in the bulletin and at the office. Jim Blanchette asked about the elevator repairs. Jeff Perry said that something jarred the inside elevator door and put it off track, causing stress on the motor. Mo. Rita asked Any Tripp to post a sign on the door saying that the elevator is not hand operated and asked that he mention to Travis LaCombe to be careful to not bang the door when using the cart to bring up music. Jeff said that any repairs that need to be done to the elevator in the near future will be included on the property repair list.

Treasurer's Report:

Ken Huhn reported that so far in 2008 income is ahead and expenses are behind what was budgeted. Evelyn Lutz asked why are there two banks for cash. Ken said that one is for the construction loan from Bar Harbor Bank and one is for the operating account at Camden National Bank. Mo. Rita asked what the outreach fund was from. Ken replied that this is from the 4th Sunday collections and undesignated funds. Elizabeth Patches asked why St. John's has an usher's flowers endowment. Mo. Rita stressed that this indicates why it is important for the vestry to be careful in accepting designated funds. In addition, the vestry needs to be careful in the naming of gifts it accepts, as there are big distinctions between funds and endowments. Ken added that the finance committee will be having a special presentation on planned giving on April 1 at 7:00.

Hospitality Report:

Evelyn Lutz reported on the work of the bread ministry. She will start keeping records on how many people return to St. John's. Eventually a database should be created to keep track of these people and send them news of upcoming events. John Pickering suggested at coffee hour that vestry should try to concentrate on talking to people that they do not know in an effort to meet others. Nancy Dymond asked if the Peace portion of the service could be longer so that more contacts with people can be made. Mo. Rita suggested that she take a turn at the bread ministry and speak to people as they are leaving the church.

Old Business:

Fundraising - Heather Souweine reported by form of a letter that Stephanie Lanham is willing to help organize a dance this spring. A dessert auction will be planned for the fall. Mo. Rita reminded the vestry that it pledged to raise \$5,000 for operating expenses, plus an additional \$2,000 is needed to make up for the fact that there are no weddings planned for this summer. Ken Huhn volunteered to join the fundraising committee. Elizabeth Patches did not feel that the dance as a fundraiser was a good idea. A motion was made and approved to move forward with both fundraisers, with Stephanie Lanham to head the dance planning.

Ken Huhn reported that St. John's has two loans with Bar Harbor Bank. Since the inception of these loans interest rates have lowered, and he asked the vestry to approve his working with the finance committee to shop rates. A motion was made and approved to authorize Ken Huhn to investigate rates at different banks and discuss ways to consolidate loans with the finance committee.

Mo. Rita discussed the issue of contributions to the vestry retreat. The cost was approximately \$100 per person. All members of the vestry are asked to give some form of a contribution.

New Business:

Mo. Rita requested that some members of the vestry volunteer to serve as financial liaisons for the gathering of reports that will clarify whether any shortfall exists for the capital campaign project. Parishioners need to know that the initial giving did not cover all the expenses that have been incurred. In addition, clarification needs to be made as to how much money has been drawn from the Dwelly fund for the last three years and where was it posted to. Lew Phillips has volunteered to serve as this liaison and work with Ken Huhn, Don Lewis, and the finance committee. In addition, a report also needs to be made on loan payments from the operating budget, specifying where these funds came from and where they were posted.

Mo. Rita advised that after the April meeting vestry needs to discuss how groups at St. John's can work together and communicate better.

Mo. Rita asked for help to contact ministry groups and create a list for coffee hours. Nancy Dymond and Cassy Palmer will help in that task.

Looking to the rest of the year, there is a great need for Mo. Rita to have an administrative assistant. In addition, the hours for the youth coordinator need to be increased. There is a possibility of securing lower cost but quality help from UTC. The vestry will meet next month at 6:00 with the finance committee to discuss these issues.

Summary of Votes:

Approval of the February minutes with change.

Approval that the 4th Sunday's loose plate for missions be used for the 2nd Saturday community meal unless otherwise determined by the vestry. The administrator should report this amount at vestry meetings by the Treasurer and in the Sunday bulletin monthly.

Approval to move forward with both vestry fundraisers, with Stephanie Lanham to head the dance planning.

Approval to authorize Ken Huhn to investigate rates at different banks and discuss ways to consolidate loans with the finance committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Palmer, Clerk