

St. John's Episcopal Church

Bangor, Maine

January 8, 2008

Present: Mo. Rita, J. Perry, E. Hikel, J. Pickering, C. Palmer, G. Creaser, J. Blanchette, E. Patches, H. Soweine, E. Lutz, A. Tripp, S. Gormley.

Opening Prayers:

Mo. Rita opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from December were accepted and approved.

Adoption of Agenda:

The agenda was adopted.

Rector's Report:

Mo. Rita summarized the many well-attended activities that took place during the advent season: the quiet evening, Grinch night, Christmas caroling, the Mitchell's 55th wedding anniversary, church decorating, and star decorating. The Christmas Basket Project also went very well with the change back to fresh turkeys and more volunteer options available.

As far as Advent services, more families attended the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service, and fewer elderly persons stayed for the 11:00 PM service. In addition, most of the people at the 11:00 service were not regular church attendees. Mo. Rita also commented on the successful feast days, lessons and carols, New Year's Eve service, and Epiphany pageant.

Under upcoming events, Mo. Rita will leave for vacation on January 20. Adam George will speak after coffee hour regarding his trip to Honduras on February 3.

During Lent the church will have an Anglican Identity program at 10:00 on Saturdays, a book group on *Beginning to Pray* on Sundays, and worship in the chapel on Wednesdays.

The church has hired Andy Tripp as the new Parish Administrator. In addition, offices are being cleaned and moved, old documents destroyed, and the church is looking into making a removable sign to be used to signify special events.

The Vestry focus in January will be on fellowship, parish life and the need to build parish community. Since the Men's Breakfast Group is the only fellowship group at the church at this time, Mo. Rita suggested that the Vestry take responsibility for coffee hour.

Senior Warden's Report:

In addition to the information in the written report G. Creaser mentioned that a new food slicer was purchased, and the Sunday coffee hour would be a special lunch made by the volunteers

from Second Saturday. A motion was made and approved to use undesignated contributions from December to go toward Second Saturday expenses.

Property Report:

J. Perry reported that the church will be using regular bulbs in light fixtures because the illumination is better, there is less socket burnout, and they are cheaper. In addition, a snow blower will be purchased and kept in Dick Mitchell's truck.

Treasurer's Report:

A. Tripp reported that funds from UBS helped St. John's to end the year with the budget balanced.

Stewardship Report:

\$271,000 has been pledged for 2008 for a total of 124 units. Of these, 43 increased, 48 stayed the same, and 6 decreased. 27 new pledges were also added, and 8 pledges were not renewed. Mo. Rita asked if Vestry help is needed to gather any remaining pledges. G. Creaser will draft a letter to send out on behalf of the Vestry.

Nominating Committee:

The committee will focus on what St. John's needs and the people to help us get there. H. Soweine asked that the Vestry be provided a list before January 27. E. Patches asked if nominations would be accepted from the floor, to which Mo. Rita replied yes. Bios must be ready by January 20.

Old Business:

H. Soweine reported that the Vestry fundraiser will be a food auction and there will also be a talent show coming soon.

There will be a capital campaign report at the annual meeting. The Vestry discussed the issue of whether the final 10% of the capital campaign contributions would be designated for mission and outreach or will 10% of every capital campaign contribution go to mission and outreach. J. Perry also mentioned that there is an issue about what type of outreach the funds will be used for. Mo. Rita proposed that mission and outreach should be addressed in the capital campaign report with the final 10% of contributions to be used for that purpose. The church should continue to develop the mission and outreach plan over the next two years.

A. Tripp as Parish Administrator will take over daily maintenance issues such as the church lighting and the snow blower issue, and J. Perry will oversee capital improvement projects. A motion was made and approved to move the source of funds for the snow blower from property reserve to maintenance.

New Business:

It was agreed that the Vestry will bring bread, salad, utensils, dressing and butter for 8-10 persons to the annual meeting lunch. The Vestry will also do coffee hours in February. There will be a formation task force report at the March or April meeting. The Vestry acknowledged the retirement of E. Hikel, D. Lewis, and J. Wilson after their years of service to the Vestry.

The Vestry retreat will take place on February 8-9.

Summary of Votes:

Approval of the December Vestry Meeting minutes.

Undesignated contributions from December will go to Second Saturday expenses.

The source of funds for the snow blower was moved from property reserve to maintenance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Palmer, Clerk