

St. Francis Episcopal Church
Potomac Parish
Vestry Minutes
April 20, 2010

The Vestry convened on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kincaid Library, the Rector presiding. Vestry members present: Ms. Tozer, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Bachman, Mr. Baker, Mr. Harper, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Wallace, Ms. Austin, Mr. Jannotta, and Mr. Daly. Not in attendance: Mr. Maroulis, Ms. Tendall, Ms. Young, Ms. Jillings. Also in attendance: Mr. Bassett, Mr. Hirsch, Ms. Riddle, Ms. Dolan and Ms. Tabner Thayer.

The Rector opened with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as distributed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Bachman distributed liquid asset balance sheets for first quarter 2010, as well as fourth quarter 2009 for comparison purposes (attached hereto). There have been no significant changes. The year-to-date income statement (attached hereto) continues to show actual pledge revenue in excess of budget; however, our pledge revenue to date is slightly below our position at this time in 2009, whereas our budget is 3 or 4 percent higher. The Vestry noted that Easter occurred in March last year and April this year which could make a difference. Mr. Bachman noted that all expenses are in line with budget, except for grounds maintenance (because of snow removal) and internet expenses (because of the delay in switching providers).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Mr. Gardiner reported that the church now has a high speed, lower cost internet service connection.

Ms. Austin stated that the Rebuilding Together project will be this Saturday, April 24, and volunteers are still needed. An email went out on April 19 explaining that the project is to assist in making a home safer for the resident, and has contact information.

Mr. Harper reported that about 4 or 5 families attended the Newcomers' Tea on April 18. The Vestry conveys their gratitude to the Singham's for hosting and Nancy Hoke for coordinating the refreshments. Vestry members who attended included the Rector, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Austin, Ms. Dolan and Mr. Harper. The Rector noted that the position of chair of the Newcomers Committee needs to be filled by a current Vestry member. Ms. Austin stated that she would like to chair the committee.

Mr. Hirsch noted that only one person has signed up for the "family" mission trip scheduled for the first week of August. Mr. Hirsch reminded Vestry members that it is a trip for all generations, and not all the members of a family need attend. Mr. Hirsch invited Vestry members to participate, and will place an article in *Sounds* inviting parishioners to join the trip.

The Rector noted that attendance at Easter services is greatly affected by the schools' spring breaks. Attendance peaked in the year 2000. Attendance at this year's 9 o'clock service was at its highest in five years, and the number for the 11:15 service was in line with attendance over

the past five years. There was one baptism at the Saturday service. The Rector expressed his gratitude to all those who worked on the Egg Hunt.

OLD BUSINESS

Vestry Task Forces

Mr. Baker distributed minutes (attached hereto) of the most recent meeting of the task force on parish finances. The task force adopted a mission statement and is working on the following aspects of annual giving/stewardship, planned giving and a capital campaign: review of history, analysis and quantification of needs for financial strengthening, identification of available resources, development of plans for engaging parishioners and providing justification for programs, and identification and evaluation of options for building financial capacity. The task force hopes to make a full report with recommendations at the September Vestry meeting. The Rector encouraged the task force members to contact individual parishioners that the task force believes could be of assistance to its work. Mr. Bachman stated that we need soon to identify persons to lead this year's stewardship campaign, and welcomes Vestry suggestions. He also plans to have assistance in conducting research about the best practices of other churches.

Mr. Jannotta listed some of the ideas of the growth committee, including greeting visitors at the Easter services, a family event for families of the lower school of St. Andrew's Episcopal School (SAES), making introductions to new neighbors, progressive dinners, a brunch following the 11:15 service, and following up with persons who have been recently married or had their child baptized at the church. The Rector asked that the task force consult with the youth group before planning any event that would enlist the group's help. The Rector and Ms. Tozer also encouraged the task force to be in touch with the Communications Committee who is working on a new welcome brochure and developing an effort to mail new residents a post card from St. Francis, and the Newcomers Committee and Women of St. Francis about planned future social events. This will allow the task force to engage its discussion at a higher level, focusing on how we should grow as a church.

Privacy Policy for Website Visitors

Vestry members will receive, via email, the final version of the proposed privacy policy. Members should direct questions or suggestions to Mr. Gardiner before the next Vestry meeting, so that the Vestry may vote on the policy at that time.

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF A NEW BISHOP

The Rector distributed the list of the responsibilities and members of the Search Committee (attached hereto) who are charged with nominating candidates to be the next bishop by March 2011. After such nominations, there will likely be "walk-about," allowing candidates the opportunity to visit parishes in the Diocese. The Convention at which a new bishop will be elected is to occur in June 2011. There will not be any nominations from the floor, but nominations by petition could be allowed. At Convention, a majority of votes of both the order of the clergy and of the lay delegates are required for a candidate to be elected. Following that, every bishop and Diocesan standing committee must ratify the election.

St. Francis will be represented by delegates who will vote in the lay election at the Convention. In the near future, the Vestry needs to decide how and when to choose our delegates, and how the delegates will receive parishioner input with respect to the various candidates.

Ms. Wallace announced that Dresden Koons, chair of the SAES Upper School English department will be the new head of the SAES Lower School.

Mr. Ellsworth closed the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 pm in the Kincaid Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Tabner Thayer
Clerk of the Vestry