

St. Matthew's Vestry Meeting

December 15, 2009
7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew's Church

Rector	Fr. Michael Richardson	Type of Meeting	Regular Vestry Meeting
Sr. Warden	Kandy Halstead	Treasurer	Bev Van Zandt
Jr. Warden	Whit Greene	Clerk	Laurie Landry

Vestry Members in Attendance: Fr. Michael Richardson, Kandy Halstead, Whit Greene, Laurie Landry, Laurie Gough, Jo Evans, Kim DeJong

Guests in Attendance: None

Documents Disseminated: Meeting Agenda, St. Matthew's Analysis of Revenues and Expenses January to November, 2009, Online Giving – Vestry Summary and Update 12.15.09 (Kandy Halstead)

Overview of Agenda:

- Opening Prayer
- Approval of Minutes
- Rector's Report
- Sr. Warden's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Beacon Reports – Fellowship, Music & Worship, Newcomer's
- Journey Reports – Children & Youth, Christian Formation, Pastoral Care, Stewardship
- Servanthood Reports – Finance, Outreach, Building & Grounds
- Other Business
- Adjournment

Minutes

Meeting opened with prayer – 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The Vestry reviewed the November '09 Vestry minutes online prior to the meeting. Laurie G. moved the minutes be approved as they are – motion was carried

Rector's Report

Fr. Michael

Report and Discussion:

1. Christian Formation – for adults and children. With Kipper DeGavre, planning new Christian Education offerings for St. Matt's.
 - New to St. Matt's/New to the Episcopal Church classes to be offered two or more times each year, starting in January 2010, Sunday afternoons or evenings.
 - Lent Program will planned next.

2. Bishop O’Neill is doing well, still recovering from effects of the concussion.
3. Doug Dunn resigned from regional missionary position as expected from initial agreement when he took the post; no replacement named yet.
4. Christmas services have been planned; altar guild and choir in preparation.
5. Festival of Lessons and Carols to be offered this Sunday evening (12.20.09)
6. Fr. Michael is exploring possibility of 3-month sabbatical in 2011.

Actions:

Sr. Warden’s Report

Kandy H.

Report and Discussion:

1. Update on online giving. Refer to attached outline. Kandy is still getting fee info from Compass and will have a recommendation for the Vestry by next meeting.
2. Stewardship update. So far we have 60 pledges in, totaling about \$165K. Pledge goal is about \$200K.
3. Vestry party will be Sunday Jan 3, 5:30 pm. Kandy will coordinate further by email.

Actions:

Treasurer’s Report

Fr. Michael for Bev V.

Report and Discussion:

1. As of November our total revenue is \$242K and total expense is \$242K with a net +\$11.20. Compares exceedingly well to where we were in November last year.
2. Diocesan giving discussion. To make up the difference between the 5% we have paid since early in the year and the 8.5% we originally intended to pledge will be about \$5,000. We decided that at the Vestry Party Jan 3 we would vote on whether to give the 8.5% amount; Fr. Michael will bring close to final end-of-year figures to the Vestry for our evaluation prior to the vote.

To Do:

1. Put in bulletin the amount of pledge income we have as a goal, along with number of pledge cards received and total pledged.
2. Vote on Diocesan giving at Jan 3 Vestry party.

**Beacon Reports –
Fellowship, Music & Worship, Newcomer’s**

Kim DeJong, Laurie Gough, Jennifer Tinsely, Others

Reports and Discussion: 1. Lessons and Carols Sunday Dec 20. 2. Also see notes in Fr. Michael's report.	
Actions: none	
Journey Reports – Children & Youth, Christian Formation, Stewardship Pastoral Care	Fr. Michael, Jo Evans, Jerry Grabowski, Clay Hubbs, Brandon Stewart, Others
Reports and Discussion: 1. New to St. Matt's/the Episcopal Church classes to be offered starting in Jan. See Fr. Michael's report for details. 2. Stewardship – Calling lists being prepared for a) those who usually pledge but have not yet done so for the upcoming year and b) those who have never pledged. - Vestry members will call folks on the first list, Tom Clark working on contacting people on the larger, never-pledged list. 3. Also see Kandy's report on Stewardship. 4. New online webpage being piloted for use in coordinating meals, rides, and supporting parishioners who need help. 5. Peggy B. doing well, in need of meals. 6. Yvette is still in need of liver donor.	
Actions: none	
Servanthood Reports – Finance, Outreach, Buildings & Grounds	Whit Greene, Jo Evans, Chris Hardy, Laurie Landry, Bev Van Zandt
Reports and Discussion: 1. See Finance report above for November summary. 2. Jo Evans reports that over 100 presents and \$605 have been collected for Denver Inner City Parish the toy drive.	
Actions: none	
New/Other Business – none	Presenter –
Meeting Adjourned: Whit G. moved to adjourn. Passed. Meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.	
Next Meeting Date: January 19, 2010	
Summary of Actions: 1. Approval of minutes.	
To Do List: 1. Publish pledge goal along with pledge updates in the Sunday bulletin.	

Items Tabled for Next Meeting:

1. Diocesan giving. Vote at Jan 3 Vestry Party whether to give the difference to make up the 8.5% pledge we originally intended.
2. Kandy's recommendation for online giving.

Appendix: Online Giving – Vestry Summary & Update 12.15.09 (Kandy H.)**• Background**

- Many churches are:
 - Facing the challenge of managing contributions & expenses
 - Looking to provide user friendly tools to increase/promote consistency of giving year-round
- Our culture is shifting to plastic & e-tools to pay for goods/services & manage bills, investments
 - The internet will be the primary customer touch point within the next decade

• Paper Problems & e-Solutions

- “Busyness” – may result in unintentional but inconsistent/missed giving
 - Hectic/multi-tasking pace reduces time for us to focus intentionally on giving
- Paper mailings may get lost in the shuffle
 - May be mis-directed by the post office or lost on the kitchen counter
- Non-cash or checkbook carriers
 - Some folks just don't carry much cash or the checkbook

• e-Solutions

- On demand availability when time permits focus on managing bills & investments
- Create consistency in our giving so we can express gratitude & provide support for our ministries
- Reinforce tithing as the first priority when managing family finances using online banking
 - Provide quiet time to reach focused, generous decision about giving
 - Learning opportunity for children to see & ask questions about how this works
- How it works:
 - Members (& guests) can access via our web site to set up & complete giving
 - Folks can set up giving as a one-time gift or as a flexible, recurring pledge
 - Easy event registration (e.g. auction) & purchase of goods (e.g. cookbooks, auction items)
 - Debit gifts to their checking account or charge to their credit card

• Update & Next Steps

- **Debit to Checking**
 - Solutions available & “good to go” today
 - Parishioners can set up from home computer & “push” funds via their online banking

- Compass “Compass For Your Cause” Program
 - St. Matthew’s benefit - \$20 per new account + .25% of giving
 - Customer benefit – points accumulate to get cool “stuff”
 - Easy to implement with communications & “mentors” to help parishioners
 - Automated Clearing House (ACH) “pull” from parishioner’s bank accounts
 - Assessing solution, but is less feasible for our purposes – additional effort & cost for the church
 - **Charge to Credit Card**
 - Two primary vendors being compared to ensure the best solution & fee structure
 - Due diligence being done with one independent vendor & one Compass Bank vendor
 - Primary differences - fee structures & local (Compass) vs. remote (EFT) resources
 - Next Steps
 - Assembly & analysis of options & potential benefit to St. Matthew’s
 - Finance committee will prepare recommendations for Vestry - ETA January meeting
- **Initial Rollout Brainstorm**
 - Leaders as early adopters
 - Pilot & obtain direct feedback
 - Help spread the word & prepare folks
 - Publicity
 - Blurbs in Messenger, updates/bulletin
 - Note on our web site
 - Pulpit announcements
 - What else – be creative!
 - Provide help
 - “Mentors” can help folks get signed up on laptops in parish hall
 - Provide “gift cards” for folks to place in offering plate
 - Allows parishioner/guest to “feel” the participation in ritual of giving during the service
 - Notifies treasurer that the person submitting gave online