

Special Parish Meeting  
April 29, 2007

1. The meeting opened with a prayer.
2. The Senior Warden presented a Financial update. We are \$15,000 ahead for the first quarter compared to 2006. However, we are coming to a slow season and are uncertain where we stand on the entire year's contributions.
3. The Junior Warden gave a review of the "Dump the Deficit" campaign and SWAT team.
4. Father Sams
  - a. Gave a preview of his upcoming sabbatical.
  - b. Future Vision 3 is on hold. Jonathan thanked the Future Vision Committee for all of their efforts but felt that, while the report contained many good ideas, it did not represent a Vision. Jonathan outlined the elements of a strong Vision as:
    - Inspirational, yet practical and measurable
    - Supported by a wide consensus, yet call for us to move outside our comfort zone
    - Address real concerns, yet be expressed positively and proactively
    - Since we are Christians, Future Vision Goals, must be Good News, yet call us to "take up our cross and follow Christ"Possible directions might include:
    - Finances
    - Impending staff changes
    - Issues in the larger church
    - Issues in society
  - c. The parish was then canvassed for the "3 questions" and the elevator speech (Attached). Jonathan intends to use this feedback during his sabbatical as he meditates on a Future Vision.
5. Rich Bialowas presented the Landscape Vision.
  - a. Over the years, there have been requests for outdoor worship space, meditation space and a fire pit. There is no immediate plan to act upon these requests, but the Buildings and Grounds Committee felt that there was sufficient interest by the parish to begin drawing up some plans.
  - b. The Mountain Landscaping Company was retained to examine our situation. They presented a few sketches showing ideas for an outdoor worship area and a smaller gathering/meditation area that could also include a fire pit.
  - c. Water drainage needs to be addressed around the building and in the parking lot as a part of any outdoor renovations.
6. We closed with a prayer.

John Morley, St. Stephen's Clerk

**The “Three Questions” for the Parish:**

- My greatest concern for St. Stephen’s in the next four years is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The most important thing for St. Stephen’s to accomplish in the next four years is \_\_\_\_\_.
- My dream for St. Stephen’s is \_\_\_\_\_.

**The “Elevator Speech”:**

“St. Stephen’s is a happy place. You can find support when you need it, and fun the rest of the time. The sermons are real and worship doesn’t seem like you’re just going through the motions. There are people there who are examples of Godliness and self giving ... they make the idea of a relationship with God seem like a real possibility, something you’d like to have for yourself and your family.”

- \_\_\_\_ This sounds like St. Stephen’s to me.
- \_\_\_\_ Ok except for the part about \_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_ Some other church.

Here’s how I would say it ...