

St. Stephens Vestry Meeting 6-12-07

Diane Kenefic, Cheryl Davenport, Joan Morgan, Pastor Manisha Dostert, John Morley, Harold Hotelling, Steve Fragnoli, Tim Maxwell, Rich Bialowas, Bob Hoffman, Penny Piantedosi, and Anne Mortensen were in attendance.

1. John opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. The Minutes for April 19th and May were approved.
3. The Associate Rector presented her report (attached). The final item concerning the sound system got special discussion. The vestry has received many complaints about the sound system, particularly from parishioners in the back of the church who cannot hear. The Buildings & Grounds committee got the assignment to look into it and make recommendations.
4. The J2A auction was considered a big success, though it could use better promotion. Some members thought that it was a youth event and did not realize the event was for the general congregation.
5. Suzanne Maxwell addressed the Vestry concerning the Co-op. The Co-op requested a rent abatement of \$1400. The response of the Vestry to the email conversation was split approximately 50-50 on a 6 month or 12 month abatement. Suzanne explained the leadership turmoil they have had during the past school year. Some salient points of the discussion:
 - The rent does not cover the costs to the Church.
 - Troy Schools offers a preschool for the same cost, without parental involvement.
 - The St. Stephens Co-op is not Christian based, a sales point that might distinguish it from the Troy public schools.
 - The Vestry could find no differentiator between the Co-op and other preschools in the area.
 - In the beginning, when the city infrastructure was weak, the preschool was considered outreach.
 - 18 students represent only 10 families. It is a large burden on those families.
 - Cranbrook and “the Methodist Church” both have successful preschools that could be benchmarked.

A motion was proposed to approve the \$1400 rent abatement through May 2008. By December, the school will know if they are viable for the next year. If they must shut down, they need to do so half a year ahead (so teachers can look for new jobs and the parents can look for new day care). The Vestry approved the motion.

6. Financial Report.
 - a. May was medium for income (Flash report attached). We are on track at this point.

b. There is still confusion over the organ fund. Is the organ paid for? Did the fund have a surplus? Real (cash) or pledges? Bill Dunn will be asked to give the Vestry an update.

7. Parochial report.

Bob questioned where all of these expenses are? It appears to be missing Buildings & Grounds and Administrative reports. He would like to review it further before the Vestry approves it. The Clerk was requested to redistribute the report to the Vestry.

8. Pastor Manisha is now a proud home owner. The Vestry voted to reapportion her compensation to allocate more money to her housing allowance. This change has tax advantages to Manisha and Troy, but does not change the cost to the Parish. (Copy of the motion is attached).

9. Spiritual Growth Question.

Pastor Manisha asked the Vestry to reflect upon their plans for the summer and how activities that appear to be for recreation and relaxation might also be gifts from God. The Vestry shared their plans for the summer.

10. SWAT team reports.

- a. The Stewardship Dinner in May was successful. 69 invitations were sent out and approx 35 people attended. The feedback was very positive, but Pastor Manisha would not share any details since she is planning to spring it on the rest of the parish later this year.
- b. The program that the SWAT team is zeroing in on is "Stories to tell, gifts to share". More info to follow.

11. New Members.

- a. Jonathan has always run the new member meetings. With his absence, the Membership committee is concerned that new members might slip away without being properly engaged. Joan requests that anyone who has contact with a new or potential member be mentioned to Joan or Manisha.
- b. Manisha told the story of another church when at the last new member meeting, one member of each committee would attend and get one minute to tell about their ministry.
- c. Diane pointed out that hosting Fellowship Hour is an excellent way to publicize their ministry.

12. Summer Vestry Meetings.

- a. The July Vestry meeting is still tentatively scheduled, though it may be canceled depending on the availability of the Vestry members. The Wardens will decide in the two weeks before meeting.
- b. The Vestry tentatively scheduled a Mini-retreat for August 25th at 9:30 am at Diane's house.

13. The meeting closed with a prayer.

Associate Rector's Report for May 8- Jun 11, 2007
By Pastor Manisha

- **Weddings:** I had the honor to bless the marriages of Caitlin Sams and Michael Lerner, and Katie Waters and Michael Sobolewski.
- **Lutheran Synod Assembly:** It is the Lutheran version of the diocesan convention. I was not really impressed by the speaker this year.
- **An addition to the worship service during the summer:** With the blessing of the Worship Committee, we will add to an opportunity to thank God out loud during worship service. I would love for the Vestry to be bold and lead the congregation in this act of praise!
- **Funeral for Janetha Dickerman:** We will let the congregation know as soon as we hear something. Father Jonathan will come out of sabbatical to preach at her funeral.
- **Youth Fundraising—Rite 13:** The youngest youth group raised money for Crop Walk this year. They collected \$1160!!
- **Youth Fundraising-J2A:** The J2Aers have raised nearly \$5000, about \$4500 from the auction and the remainder from spirit wear (\$300) and donations (\$200). The Urban Adventure will cost about \$450/person, \$200 of which is paid by the family and \$250 of which they wanted to raise through the fundraising efforts. With 15 people going, that means our goal for the Urban Adventure was to raise about \$3750. The remainder will go toward the Pilgrimage in 2008. Their fundraising was a huge success financially even though there was a small turnout. This is an annual event, so we will learn how to make it better next year.
- **J2A Adventure Trip:** 10 J2A students and 5 youth leaders are going on the trip. This is the first step for preparation for the Pilgrimage that will happen next year. YACYM and I are working on a confirmation class for these students who will be confirmed before their pilgrimage next year.
- **June 10 Youth Sunday:** I have heard great things about this worship service and all the youth gave it their all! I am hoping the Lord enjoyed it.
- **SWAT:** Our *Spending Money is Fun and Godly!* Party was a big hit. We received mostly favorable reviews and we plan on using this again. We are considering using a stewardship program called Stories to Tell, Gifts to Share.
- **Vacation:** I am on vacation from June 25-July 9.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Please come! We will be having an adult Bible study, too! Sun, July 29-Wed, Aug 3 at 5:30-8:30PM. I am hoping and praying for 50 children (compared to our 35 from last year).
- **I WANT:** a better sound system! It has been very difficult to preach and preside since our mikes just are not that powerful. When the house of God is full, folks have a hard time hearing me when I am at the altar. And it is hard to preach then, too.

2007 St. Stephen's Flash Report										
	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Actual (Last Year)	MTD Actual Variance		YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	YTD Actual Variance		YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Act/Bud Variance
Revenue	\$27,555	\$26,975	\$580		\$181,274	\$162,866	\$18,408		\$183,325	(\$2,051)
Expenses	35,539	31,201	(4,338)		182,676	171,976	(10,700)		195,028	12,352
Variance	(\$7,984)	(\$4,226)	(\$3,758)		(\$1,402)	(\$9,110)	\$7,708		(\$11,703)	\$10,301
Forecasted Giving										
					Variance to	Variance to	2007 YTD		2007	
	Min	Max	Average	2006	Avg Rate	2006 Rate	Parish Giving		Forecast	
Jan	6%	10%	8%	10%	(\$59,088)	(\$148,773)	\$30,632		\$390,479	
Feb	12%	18%	16%	18%	(\$93,023)	(\$132,491)	\$57,398		\$356,544	
Mar	22%	27%	24%	24%	(\$8,410)	(\$14,329)	\$106,460		\$441,157	
Apr	30%	34%	32%	32%	(\$2,265)	(\$11,214)	\$141,254		\$447,302	
May	38%	40%	39%	39%	(\$14,226)	(\$10,848)	\$170,060		\$435,341	
Jun	47%	50%	48%	47%						
Jul	53%	58%	55%	54%						
Aug	59%	66%	62%	59%						
Sep	68%	72%	70%	68%						
Oct	75%	81%	78%	77%						
Nov	82%	89%	86%	85%						
Dec	100%	100%	100%	100%						
					YTD Budget:	\$449,567				
					2006 Actual:	\$394,906				

Motion For Change In Housing Allowance for Pastor Manisha

June 12, 2007

The vestry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on the day of June 12, 2007, is asked to adopt the following resolution regarding the amount to be designated as a housing allowance to the Rev. Manisha Dostert:

Let it be resolved, that that housing allowance provided to the Rev. Manisha Dostert, Associate Rector, in the year 2006, be increased from its present amount of \$5,000 to \$25,000 for the remainder of the year in accordance with IRS rules. This amount may be amended with Vestry approval prior to any increase in the amount. Any part of this amount not used for housing purposes as defined in IRS rules is regarded as salary and is subject to income tax and possible penalty.

Respectfully submitted,
 John Morley
 Clerk of St. Stephens Episcopal Church