

ST. JOHN'S VESTRY MEETING - MAY 2, 2010  
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm., those present being JoAnn Ford, Sharon Davarn, Bob and Pam Larson, Gary Bennett, Tom Kelly, Don Paulson, and Nancy Rule.

JoAnn began by reading a Bible passage from the first chapter of the Gospel of John, and circulated a handout elaborating more on the Christian Life Model for Congregational Development which she had talked about at the April meeting. She noted that John's disciples recognized something compelling, something that instilled in them and others to want to know more about the man Jesus. This is how the church grew and how the church is growing today.

The minutes of the April 11th meeting will be forwarded by e-mail. Pam Larson gave the financial report and passed out a sheet showing the comparison of January through April for the past three years. Of great concern is the growing deficit and Pam attributes it to smaller attendance at Sunday services and the loss of a major donor in the past year but those regular attending have been giving less. In April she had to take \$6000 more out of Savings, with only \$2,000 remaining in the account We are operating on a bare bones budget, and expenses have come in the lowest in several years. She presented a draft of a notice to be sent to the congregation and discussion ensued as to what should be included - suggestions included how behind we are and how much of savings we have used. Pam will revise the notice accordingly and it will be sent by email to the vestry for further consideration, to which vestry members should respond next week. It should go out as a letter to every member.

The group reviewed the kickoff meetings held the previous Sunday (it was noted that we had the lowest attendance at service in some time.) JoAnn convened the Education and Worship Committee with Sue Hillhouse in attendance. A plan was formulated for a Church School to take place during the service, with children attending the service up until the Lessons for the Day, then leaving for a short service with prayer, song and Bible Study, then returning for Eucharist It was hoped a team of three teachers could be secured, dividing their duties so that two would always be in attendance, with other individuals agreeing to supplement the teaching on occasion. Sharon said she had experienced the division of duties by church season when some volunteers resonated more enthusiastically with certain ones. Training will be required and Bob Larson will try to assume that duty. Tom Kelly stated his belief that background checks are an expected necessity. A policy statement will also be needed. It is hoped the program can commence in June.

JoAnn reiterated the plan for Saturday night services (5:30pm) in June and July and no service July 4<sup>th</sup> but otherwise the regular 10:30am Sunday service (9:30 had been suggested but the idea was vetoed). The Saturday evening service will be more meditative, with little music (some appropriate music in the background and perhaps an offertory hymn!) JoAnn has been in touch with Dan Preston and the Presbyterian Church has been contacted to consider an early (8 or 8:30 am) ecumenical service in the park, to include readings from the Declaration of Independence, the Gettysburg Address and the Ute Prayer, prayer, and some patriotic hymns. Dan will speak to Randy Stanko. Father Nat will also be contacted.

Gary met with Building & Grounds (with Kentee Pasek). Kentee is ready to get the cross installed in the Meditation garden. JoAnn has sent a letter to Barb Meckel reassuring her that no money will be spent for this project and no big changes will take place. When Barb returns she and Pam will take her to lunch with other interested parties and they will go over the plans in place.

Tom Kelly began the meeting by reading the definition of the committee and its mission statement. Nine other people were in attendance. The group determined that we would probably continue to support some of the same programs we have supported in the past but need to consider other programs we can personally (with time and talent) be involved in. Suggestions were forthcoming from Frank Durkee and Colleen Hollenbeck that we could help out the Ouray School in some way. A Committee of three (Frank, Colleen and David Koch) was appointed to be in touch and see in what ways that might happen: tutoring, mentoring, counseling for further education, etc. Doug Richards reported for Inreach that his main concern was to find replacement for Pam Parker as coordinator of special occasions. Shelley Bennett offered to take that on and to see that the kitchen is stocked as well.

Sharon reminded the group again that they were to be in touch with other small churches regarding sharing priests or having part-time priests. JoAnn should have the info Don Paulson was requesting. Sharon also read a complimentary letter from Bishop O'Neill commending St. John's for fulfilling its commitment to the diocese.

At the previous Vestry meeting JoAnn had discussed the Christian Life Model and felt she needed to elaborate a little more. She distributed a handout with more detail and asked that the members reflect on the information and bring comments and response to the June 6th meeting. It was noted the July meeting will be the 11th

Note was made of a notice from the Chamber regarding a fund raising workshop put on by the Western Colorado Community Foundation.

Deacon Bob Larson closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm

Nancy Rule, Clerk Pro Tern