

# St. James' Vestry Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, April 10, 2008

In attendance: Jan Brandt, Janet Fischer, Bob Honeychurch, Sylvia Ma, Jan Scutton, Charlie Paratore, Scott Whitaker, Scott Kennedy, Penny Trant, Sylvia Sweeney, Connie Rux, Greg Miller, Jim McConnell, Laura Winter, and Elizabeth Hart.

Absent: Tim Young and Johanne LaRocque

Sylvia Ma called the meeting to order, and Sylvia Sweeney led the opening study on Psalm 23. Discussion included these points:

- | A time in your life when you felt you were living in lush pastures.
- | A time in your life when God gave you courage.

Discussion on the specific action items: Be brave, Compassionate and Happy

- | Bob Honeychurch had requested that vestry members identify action items for each cluster that might grow out of "In 2008, St. James' will be brave, compassionate and happy." These items may include actions, events, programs and/or activities.

Brainstorm list of action items

Lead team

- | Potluck type of gathering for stewardship
- | If Jan Brandt is leaving as our treasurer in November, we should start looking for her replacement now
- | New model for stewardship
- | Need to replace our pledge and directory softwares

Worship and Christian Formation

- | Youth service
- | Youth service – With youth in charge
- | Host one seminar/teaching event with an outside teacher
- | Equip people with the tools & training in Christian leadership
- | Cultivate youth group activities
- | Online spirituality & bible studies
- | Kids service & celebration
- | Special worship service (Taize??) to replace/in addition to regular services
- | Education for Ministry group
- | Follow-on interfaith discussion – a la Lenten 2008 series
- | Monthly non-Eucharistic alternative service
- | Choir at 9:00/8:00 – occasionally
- | Class on types of appropriate vs non-appropriate worship
- | Utilize Teen Zone space & equipment

Facilities

- | Sunday lesson series on little church – held in the little church
- | Finish bathrooms

- | Repair bell A-frame (dedicate)
- | Bathroom renovation completed
- | Kitchen improvements (dishwasher, stove, garbage disposal)
- | Light the big church window from outside for nighttime viewing
- | Parking lot lighting
- | Walkway to education building
- | Solar electricity
- | Lighting for park
- | Space in front of big church
- | Host a party to honor those who work on our campus-invite the parish
- | Walkway repair
- | Becoming more green
- | Repair/re-upholstery of big church furniture
- | Advertise work parties
- | Re-stripe Cabrillo Terrace
- | Big church flooring
- | Little church

#### Parish Life

- | Provide opportunities for people to learn about one another
- | Special summer celebration (July 4<sup>th</sup>) Food to reflect heritage or celebrate America
- | A “count your blessings” Sunday – with picnic and special service (maybe outdoors)
- | Available for lunch
- | Smaller concert venues
- | Children’s celebration/service. Welcome.
- | Quarterly – celebration of Parish Life accomplishments
- | Ice cream social in the summer
- | 3 pure fun activities in 2008
- | Family games night
- | Memory book
- | Visual Board
- | Church family photo board
- | Church Directory with portraits
- | Celebrate to honor/get to know our youth
- | Treat for work party

#### Social Ministries and Congregational Care

- | New Ministries
  - | Support Marnie Hartman with commission for the environment.
  - | Develop and support lead/contact person(s) for millennium development goals.
- | Expansion of Existing Ministries
  - | St. James’ become involved in environmental causes, e.g. commission for the environment.
- | Ideas to explore
  - | Alternative Gift Market before Christmas
  - | Host a “listening” event where everyone can speak their mind – no comments allowed.

- | Build a transportation team for those who need rides to services and events.
- | Some kind of intentional “mission trip”.
- | Find a replacement program for nursing homes – besides Easter and Christmas, maybe a Spring Tea Party
- | Restarting the Grief Support Group
  - | Includes support for families caring for aging relatives.

#### Communication and Evangelism

- | Establish a phone tree to communicate with those who do not have e-mail
- | Newcomers Package
- | Put together a DVD of St. James’
- | Info on web site on Episcopal Church as an alternative to “evangelical” churches
- | Newcomer Welcome Process
- | Semi-annual Newcomer dinner (Lunch)
- | A “Friendship Tree” in the Narthex for Newcomers (or even OLD timers) so folks can take a name – get in touch with the person, extra contact – new friends at church
- | “Opportunities to Serve” want ads in the Window
- | Door Hangers for Blessing of the Animals
- | Children’s Service / Celebration Co-ordinate with other clusters
- | Webcast Sunday Service – LIVE?
- | Keep Communication with St. Anne’s & other nearby parishes
- | Post Audio recordings of services
- | Interview families who have left

#### Discussion on the worship change at the 8 am service from Rite 1 to Rite 2

- | “Worship at St. James” a reflection by Bob Honeychurch attached.
- | Bob Honeychurch has met with a variety of responses, both positive and negative
- | There will a discussion regarding the change at 9 am on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- | This was not a spur-of-the-moment decision.
- | Rite 1 has become more and more anachronistic, and has moved farther and farther away from current Episcopal theology.
- | When Bob first came to St. James', the 11 am service, then held in the Little Church, was his first concern, which seemed an “afterthought” service with its small attendance. It was the first service changed.
- | The second service changed was the 9 am service – to give that service its own identity and integrity. It originally had an organ-driven worship format, rather than music performed by Footprints.
- | This will not be the last time there will be worship changes at all of our services.
- | At the national level, the Episcopal church is in the process of reviewing the Book of Common Prayer. When the current prayer book was revised in the 1970s, there was a debate about whether to include Rite 1. Rite 1 was included as a transition.
- | The 8 am service will not be the 11 am service without music, but will be a service built around Rite 2 liturgy. There will be elements built in that will be unique to that service. Sylvia Sweeney commented that it would be OK to have the same words at both the 8 am and 11 am service – the different worship spaces would make them different services.

- | Need to move to some kind of congruent theology, one that includes deep lay participation, shared authority, and mutuality of relationship.
- | What is really different between Rite 1 and Rite 2, other than just language?
  - | In Rite 1, there is acknowledgment, week after week, of our sinfulness and our need for forgiveness, versus Rite 2, where we are pushing forward toward ministry and becoming ministers of the Holy Spirit.
  - | In Rite 1, there is a feeling of a separation from God, where one has to go through the priest to get to God.
- | Laura Winter, who often attends the 8 am service, stated that she does not feel there is a barrier between herself and God, and that she has as full a relationship with God as those who attend other services.
- | When changes were made at the 9 am and 11 am services, there was very little resistance.
- | Jan Brandt expressed concern about disenfranchising some people.
- | Bob explained that there are other dynamics going on. There are some people who attend the 8 am service who feel disenfranchised. He understands their concerns and it is something we can try to deal with. Changing the service, however, will not change their disenfranchisement – these people will still feel disconnected.
- | Sylvia Sweeney stated that we are living in some of the hardest times the church has had to face. It has caused problems for everyone having to face so many changes so quickly.

#### Parochial Report

- | Vestry acknowledges receipt of the parochial report
- | Questions regarding the membership page should be directed to Bob Honeychurch; questions regarding stewardship and financial information should be directed to Jan Brandt.

#### Sexton

- | The lead team recommended the discontinuation of Cliff Lovette's services as sexton. His last day will be April 18, 2008.
- | A job advertisement has been listed on Craigslist for a 19-hour a week position. Job will also be posted on the website.
- | There are approximately 10 applications in. The lead team will pick 3 to 4 individuals to serve on a committee to screen applicants.
- | Lead team suggested a 2 week severance pay for Cliff Lovette.
- | Motion was made to provide a severance package of 2 weeks severance pay for Cliff Lovette. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

#### Appointment of Jan Scrutton to the Vestry

- | On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the vestry voted via e-mail and appointed Jan Scrutton to the vestry.

#### Parish Life and Facilities

- | It was suggested to have Parish Life functionally apart from Facilities.
- | Facilities – Charlie Paratore and Scott Kennedy
- | Parish Life – Penny Trant and Jan Scrutton.

## Expenditures

- | On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the vestry voted via e-mail to donate \$200 from Special Interest-Outreach for relocation of a family being helped by George Vlastelica.
- | On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the vestry voted via e-mail \$2686.04 for purchasing 22 choir robes. This is funded out of Special Interest-Music Fund and Special Interest-Memorial Donation-undesignated Fund.
- | Motion was made to donate \$250 from Special Interest-Outreach to Episcopal Relief and Development. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

## Endowment Board Check

- | St. James' has received a check for \$1065.28 from the Endowment Board. This money can be used as seed money or for capital improvements.
- | Motion was made to move the \$1065.28 from the Endowment Board to bathroom renovation funds. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

## Minutes

- | The February 14, 2008 vestry meeting minutes were approved as submitted.
- | The March 8, 2008 vestry retreat minutes were approved as submitted.

## Cluster reports

### Lead team – as submitted

- | The “Affairs Faire” provided medical directive workbooks. There are a number available in the office.

### Social Ministries and Congregational Care

- | Scott Whitaker will be attending the next Millennium Development Goals meeting, being held at Grace Cathedral next Thursday.
- | There are 25 canvas shopping bags available for purchase for \$5.00 each.
- | April 27<sup>th</sup> is the Shell Society luncheon. The bishop will be talking about the Millennium Development Goals.

### Worship and Christian Formation

- | Making plans for Pentecost
- | New choir robes are being purchased. The children's robes are being custom made.

### Facilities

- | Laura Winter has presented drawings for the bathrooms.
- | The bathroom renovation committee is working on getting prices for the bathroom fixtures.
- | Barbara Dabney has formed a committee for looking into the possibility and feasibility of solar electricity. This is still in the research stage.

### Parish Life

- | Need dates for special events.
- | Going to use a bulletin board to celebrate events that have occurred. When the pictures come down they will be put in a scrapbook.

- I Planning an event to celebrate all the children, perhaps some kind of children's service with children participating. For example, the Gospel reading could be a story, with toys accessible to the children, music "action" songs, etc. Do not have a firm date yet.

#### New Ministry

- I Sylvia Ma talked about a new ministry called "Available for Lunch." Three or four times a year the ministry will organize a gathering of parishioners who are available for lunch after the 11 am service. First one will be held on Mother's Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>, at Cabrillo Park Cafe.

[Concerts@StJ](#) – information sheet provided by Debbie Fuller

Jim McConnell has been looking into pledges and/or concert tickets online. There is a merchant fee per transaction for credit cards. Money cannot be deposited directly into St. James' bank accounts.

#### Treasurer's Report

- I Financial reports attached
- I There has been \$6057.00 raised for the bathroom remodel.
- I The book sale raised \$1309.25.
- I Please remember – no receipt, no reimbursement
  - I Remember to adjust tax if the receipt has both personal and church items.
- I Jan Brandt suggested purchasing 30 day and/or 60 day CDs from Schwab using money from the Building Fund and Special Interest Funds so those funds could earn more interest.
- I Motion was made to move \$10,000 from Special Interest to a 30-day CD and \$10,000 to a 60-day CD. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.
- I Motion was made to move \$5000 from the Building Fund to a 30-day CD. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

The closing worship was led by Janet Fischer.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hart  
Clerk of the Vestry