

Report from the Vestry October 9, 2007

After Holy Eucharist, the vestry met at its regular session on October 9, 2007. Fr. Howard opened the meeting with prayer. Bert Ackermann then reported on the Home Eucharist program. Through October 5th, 81 households and 124 parishioners have attended one of 12 homes for Eucharist. The celebration of the eucharist in homes and in small groups, emulating the early Christians, has been a moving experience for all attendees. The discussion afterward has been beneficial in hearing the concerns of the parish and shaping our short and long term goals. It was noted that pledges already received included ones from new families and individuals and from people who had not pledged for several years.

Caroline Vogel reported to the Vestry on her Oral examination for entry into the priesthood. The exam did not go well, and she and the Bishop are considering options for further study. (For further details please see the text of Caroline's excellent sermon given on Sunday October 14.) The Vestry expressed its full support of Caroline's ministry and work at Ascension.

The Senior Warden filed his report in writing prior to the meeting and is asking the Vestry to consider updating and revising the by-laws. The Jr. Warden reported on the by-laws as well and asked that the Vestry take the time to consider revisions carefully.

Finance reported on the current cash flow problems. Though pledges are being paid, we have a short fall due to increased expenditures. Unexpected expenditures for a copier and bank debt restructure as well as increased staffing expense have led to the short fall. The situation is being monitored very carefully. If giving in December, the traditional highest month of giving, meets expectations, we will have sufficient funds to cover current staff and programs. Without such giving, hard choices will be necessary to remain financially sound.

The various Commissions reported on work over the month and plans for the future. Of particular interest were the Communications report on the redesign of our web page, the Education report on attendance increases and positive feedback for Sunday School programs; Buildings and Grounds on plantings for the front and monitoring of maintenance concerns; In-Reach on the Pig Roast and a proposed design for a welcoming area near the information area; Pastoral Care reporting on the helping hands volunteers who provide meals for families in need; and Youth reporting on the strong push to get the Youth Program going with the help of Molly Slabbekorn and Bev and David Baumgardner.

The Nomination Committee reported on their progress. The Vestry is seeking nominations for the five Vestry positions to be filled. Forms are available to everyone at the communications desk.

Please feel free to contact any Vestry Member for further information.

For the Vestry,

Mary LeMense,, Junior Warden