

Report from the Vestry April 8, 2008

The Vestry met for its April meeting on April 8, 2008.

The parish continues to have positive results in the area of finances. Vaiden Taylor, the Treasurer, reported that rather than having the budgeted deficit of \$14,000 through the first quarter, which had been anticipated, the parish actually had a \$900 surplus.

The Finance Committee had recommended to the Vestry the adoption of a revised 2008 budget to reflect the increase in pledge income that originated after the budget was adopted. The proposed budget anticipated pledge, m m , unpledged and plate contributions totaling \$1,082,625. The Finance Committee's recommendation was approved by the Vestry and included the following changes to the original budget:

- Net increase in income from all sources \$64,652
- Additional audit expense 6,000
- Additional grounds maintenance 3,500
- Additional Children's Ministry expense 3,950
- Additional Outreach Ministries 3,300
- Additional Stephen Ministry expense 1,000
- Additional office/computer supply expense 15,266
- Additional clergy expense 32,097

Miscellaneous other adjustments were made to balance the budget

The Priest-in-Charge started his report with the happy news that Mary Lee Bergeron was interested in serving Ascension as a Priest Associate, primarily focusing her attention on the mid-week healing service, assisting at Sunday services, preaching and teaching. The Vestry was wholeheartedly in support of this addition to the staff. Father Howard also reported on his efforts in the recruitment process for the additional full-time assistant priest that has been underway for the past several months. He noted that he had just received from the Diocese 27 profiles of priests for review, as well as a couple of resumés through direct referrals.

Babs Richardson, the Junior Warden, was recognized and thanked by the Vestry for coordinating the refurbishing of the visitor's welcome area with the assistance of Margaret Rigsby and Corinne Evans.

Jim Phillips gave a report from the Building and Grounds Commission. The only action item required was the approval of a contract with Interstate Contractors for the purchase of a replacement compressor tank for use in the mechanical room. The Finance Committee was asked to review this item for the purpose of recommending where the funding should come from in the budget. There was a general discussion concerning the proper procedure for commissions to follow in obtaining authorization for unbudgeted expenditures. It was suggested that the commissions present unbudgeted expense needs to the Finance Committee which meets the week before Vestry meet-

ings. This allows the Finance Committee to make a recommendation about how such expenditures would be covered by the budget before being presented to the Vestry for approval. The point was made that from time to time substantial expenditures involving the building and grounds of the parish may be appropriately funded by funds from the building fund. It was explained that a number of different long-term building needs were being reviewed and monitored in hopes of taking care of some of them in the near future (i.e., HVAC system, bell tower repairs, parking lot and sidewalk repair, and cracks in outside walls of Rooms 101-103). Thanks were extended to a group composed of Posey Congleton, Pam and Allen Douglass, Les Hargrove, and Byron Proaps for time spent removing, planting, and designing new landscaping around the building.

The Worship and Music Commission liaison, Robin Kell, reported on a proposed gift to the Church of Ascension from the East Tennessee Icon Guild. The Guild has proposed painting the Stations of the Cross as icons for display around the nave during the Lenten season. The Worship and Music Commission is studying the proposal, and Bob Parrott has been asked to assess how such icons would fit aesthetically with the architecture in the nave.

It was announced that a Ministry Fair would be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, May 18, during the Sunday school hour. The purpose of the fair is to educate parishioners about opportunities for service that are available within the life of the parish and to encourage parishioners to become more actively involved in the life of the parish. All Vestry members were encouraged to attend the fair.

Tom Hale
Senior Warden