

## **Report from the Vestry December 9, 2008**

The December 9, 2008, vestry meeting was one primarily of saying farewell to departing vestry members and welcoming the newly elected. The first order of business was to hear the financial report for the month of November. Income for November was approximately \$2,400 more than budgeted while total operating expenses were around \$2,500 less than budgeted. November's cash flow was a positive \$5,500. The Treasurer, Vaiden Taylor, advised that we still needed a strong December in order to end the year in the black. As is always the case at Ascension, very strong revenues are counted on in December in order to cover all of the expenses we incur during the year. Parish Administrator Bob Wadley noted that the first two weeks of December were very good from a revenue standpoint, the parish having collected approximately \$82,000.

The next order of business was to receive and approve the audit performed by Robert Brown for calendar year 2007. The report had been distributed at the November vestry meeting and was unanimously approved. Finance Chairman Rick Deaderick reported on the status of the 2009 Stewardship Campaign:

Pledges Received 278 \$977,951.00

New Pledges 35

Increased Pledges 111

Decreased Pledges 21

Pledges staying same 105

The vestry approved a lump sum amount for staff bonuses, the division of which was left to Father Howard. Deaderick also distributed a first draft of the 2009 budget. The draft budget assumed 35 additional pledge cards to be received, shrinkage of 2.5 percent, adding consistent Diocesan pledge, staff salaries consistent with 2008 and a slightly increased outreach budget. The outgoing vestry members, Babs Richardson, Rick Deaderick, Anne Kaminsky, George Arants and Les Hargrove, spoke of their feelings about their service on the vestry and provided valuable advice to those in attendance.

The Senior Warden and Father Howard, on behalf of the parish and themselves, expressed thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for the hard work and dedication of these individuals. The Communications Commission reported that it had prepared a request for proposal for submission to a number of experts in the website design industry. Pursuant to the request, Ascension would seek to determine the cost of completely upgrading and revamping its website. In response to the Commission's inquiry, a number of vestry members asked for the opportunity to review the request for proposal.

The meeting of the vestry that included the outgoing vestry members was then adjourned and a special meeting of the vestry that included the new vestry members was called to order.

The new vestry members, Bert Ackermann, Paul Banick, Ann O'Connor, John Pannell and Rick Turner, were welcomed and thanked for their willingness to serve. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Randy Nichols reported on nominations for officers.

The following were approved for the positions opposite their names:

Tom Hale - Senior Warden

Julie Hembree - Junior Warden

Vaiden Taylor - Treasurer

Larry Jones - Clerk

It was announced that the vestry will hold an annual retreat on Saturday, January 10, beginning at 8:30 AM. The retreat will be held at the church, and it was reported that an agenda for the retreat was being developed that would include a report from the Visioning Task Force led by Chris Baker, a discussion of the 2009 budget, and possibly a report from the Search Committee.

Tom Hale,  
Senior Warden