

## St. Stephens's Episcopal Church October 16, 2011 Vestry Meeting

Meeting started at 12:20 with a bible study. In attendance: Lisa, Piet, Paul, Rick, Don, Elizabeth, Chuck, David and Nancy.

### Discussion:

1. September minutes were approved as written and copies posted.
2. Treasurer's September report: Sizable memorial gift has us up for the month by over \$60,000. Without that gift, we would have been down about \$300. Piet reported that pledges are down for the year to date, tracking to be 25-30% below projections. It is a pastoral issue when people start giving significantly less than they have in the past. [Piet will give David the names of people who are significantly behind in their pledge. David will put an article in the Stone's Throw.](#)
3. Speak the Truth session:
  - a. We will acknowledge the people who spoke up. [Don and Lisa will get names and topics to David who will call each of them. Lisa will write a note in the Stone's Throw.](#)
  - b. If we had a vision for us to focus on, would that reduce the tension in the congregation?
  - c. Other related feedback we have gotten via email:
    - a. Not posting Vestry notes within a week of the meeting. This has never been our procedure, because the notes need to be approved by the Vestry first. To be responsive, we will change that procedure and approve over email. Going forward, [Nancy will send out notes electronically to the Vestry and David, who will email back any changes. Nancy will post the minutes the following Sunday.](#)
    - b. Having a published agenda the week before so people can decide if they'd like to attend. [Lisa will post the tentative agenda on the board the week before and David will send out in the Shooting Star.](#)
    - c. Using Serendipity as a sounding board has been criticized, but David will continue to bounce ideas off that valued group.
4. Common Ministry
  - a. The committee of Don, Rick, Nancy and Lisa will meet with Lisa Hughes our consultant 10/17, and the next meeting at Procter is 11/5.
5. Saving Grace: The next meeting will be Wed 10/19.
  - a. Saving Grace and Lexington Heights Civic Association are co-sponsoring a Halloween Bash October 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4.
  - b. They suggest putting the '9191' address more prominently on the front of the property. They will cover that topic in this week's meeting. The Vestry is in agreement that it is a good idea, Elizabeth gave as an example the fact that some people were unable to find the church for her wedding.
6. The Vestry approved David being the board member on Mt Healthy alliance.
7. Potential capital improvement projects – to be discussed in November.
8. Children's Sunday School
  - a. [Lisa and Nancy will send the links of the two options to Elizabeth and Rick to get their thought on what would work best for our children.](#)
  - b. Anyone who works with children has to take the Safe Church training, [David will get a list of who is due to take it.](#)
9. Stewardship Sunday
  - a. We won't have an external speaker, we will do a brunch between the two services and use estimate of giving cards.
  - b. Talking points for brunch – committee has been formed, want everyone to fill out an estimate of giving card and that will be the basis for the budget for next year.

- c. Stewardship committee has been formed – Piet is the chair, Chuck, Rick and Nancy are members.
  - a. First order of business is to decide what the asset balance needs to be to drop below to for David to go part-time.

10. Old Business

- a. Going Green – Elizabeth has a container and is working on how to label it for recycling, she also has a couple of baskets in the hall for recycling paper like old bulletins and Stone's Throw.

11. New Business

- a. Limit the Vestry meetings to less than 2 hours.
- b. We have unlimited long distance so no need to block.

12. Next Vestry meeting will be November 6<sup>th</sup>.

13. Adjourned at 2:05.

Nancy McCarthy for the Vestry