

## Church of the Epiphany Vestry Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2010

The Vestry Meeting began with Fr Robin leading the group in prayer at 7PM.

Fr. Robin and Deacon Dave Welch were present at this meeting.

Vestry Members Attendance: Present (P), Excused (E)

Bassert, David	P	Hamlin, George	P
Conlon, Tom	P	Kodat, Roger	P
Cummings, Ross	P	Mentzer, Steve	E
Edmunds, Gin	P	McNeely, Dennis	P
Ellis, Lisa	P	Reed, David	E
Fetzer, Bill	E	Stoddard, Sandra	P

Robbie Pruitt and Paul Petersen attended as observers. Rev. Julian Dobbs, Scott Reiter and Babette Arnold attended to present reports.

### **Treasurer and Finance Committee Report – Scott Reiter**

- Expenses exceeded income for February
  - Snow removal and one less Sunday with services due to weather were factors
  - Overall, income continues to exceed expenses and there are no major concerns for keeping financially sound
  - Building & Grounds expenses remain close to budget , despite snow
- Tom Conlon motioned for the financial report to be accepted and Dennis McNeely second the motion. Vestry approval was unanimous.

### ***Purpose Filled Church – Gin Edmunds***

- Rev Rick Warren book discusses growth and balance without compromise
- What works, based on a study of Saddleback Church
  - Use a baseball diagram analogous to one at Epiphany
  - Concerned with getting people ‘at bat’, the un-churched in the community
  - Get newcomers to attend 2 – 3 times
  - Core people need to be encouraged and supported

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- Book is recommended for Vestry Retreat discussions to influence strategy for church direction

### **Epiphany Pre-School and Education Program Items– Babette Arnold**

- Reached current full-capacity today with another new student
  - Expect to have 16 students in April
  - May reach the limit of 20 as well
  - May have a wait list for the remainder of this year
- Pre-school fill a big need in the area, especially for new arrivals
- Current participants provide great word-of mouth advertising
- Next year goal is 30 students, the planned capacity
- Full-day kindergarten is a consideration
- Consignment sale for school and charitable needs on March 20
  - Could use help from groups in the church
  - Kid Serve Egg Hunt also on March 20
- Pre-School summer camp has 6 sign-ups
  - 3 more may also sign-up
  - Cost is \$80 each for supplies and related expenses
- Babette will retire from the Little Women ministry this year; no successor has been identified yet
  - In response to Gin Edmund's questions, participation costs about \$50 per year
  - Also, the position is not a paid one
- Catechesis of Good Shepherd on Sundays has 12 – 20 at Level 1
  - 3 first graders included in this number
  - Program uses Room 203, but set-up allows for other meetings
  - Will develop Level 2 in full for the Fall to replace Children's Chapel
- Cathy & Betsy Zimmerman will lead this summer's Vacation Bible School

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## **Approval of Minutes for February 16, 2010 Meeting**

- George Hamlin made the motion to accept the minutes with corrections; Dave Bassert seconded the motion. The Vestry voted unanimously to do so.

## **Reports**

### **Rector's Report – Fr. Robin**

- Church appears to have a steady stream of newcomers; ambassadors have success with older couples
- New activities for Holy Week
  - 24-hour prayer chapel; Lauren Duffy working to vary the ways to experience and to engage in prayer
  - Service on Good Friday at noon
  - Easter Monday Child's sermon and Easter eggs with symbols

### **Chancellor Report – Dennis McNeely for Dave Reed**

- The trial (oral arguments) will be on April 12 - 16
- There are no big developments for now.

### **Senior Warden Report – Dennis McNeely**

- Vestry and staff retreat will be on April 10
- Using Facebook for church communications is being examined
  - No firm plans for use
  - Might use for the *Star* and the *Candle*
- Dave Welch noted that some visitors to the church have tried to solicit money
  - Dave noted the church is part of the WFCM
  - Ushers have been advised on how to accommodate such solicitations
  - If compelled to honor request, please do so outside the church
  - Visitors have used misstatements when soliciting money
  - People have been found in various parts of the building during the Sunday evening service
  - Ambassadors are not really able to deal with requests, but should have information (to address the solicitations)

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### **Junior Warden Report – Lisa Ellis**

- Wheel additions to allow the name board to be easily moved, are now on the (to-do) list
  - Modification is not a priority, though
  - Dave Bassert noted that the board needs more space
  - Dennis McNeely indicated that solutions (for a portable nametag board) found on-line cost \$300 - \$700.

### **New Business**

### **Strategic Dialog – Rev Julian Dobbs**

- We should rely upon the Holy Spirit, but we also need to take action, according to Proverbs
- Having written goals is a key for success in the future
- Rev Dobbs provided a handout for a 7-step strategy
  - Start by identifying the progress to date; what's working well and what needs attention
  - Church needs to have a vision
  - Compare to other churches
  - Need to consider up to 5 primary areas for Epiphany
  - Make areas small and specific to grasp, such as:
    - Newcomers
    - Communicating and implementing the vision and the message
    - Reaching the un-churched in the community
    - Every member ministry
    - Pastoral support of the leaders and spiritual renewal of the ministry
  - There will be a need to work steps 5 and step 6 together

Meeting adjourned with a motion from Tom Conlon and seconded by Ross Cummings. The Vestry unanimously concurred.