

**St. Gregory's
Vestry Retreat
March 7, 2009**

The annual Vestry Retreat was held at St. Phillip in the Field in Sedalia. Those present were Gary Schanbacher, Cynthia Roberts, Michael Stephens, Scott Kingsbury, Jami Jones, Harvey Frank, Bill Kreidler, John Manta, Bonnie Frank, Ace Ashworth, and Father Todd Sorensen. The retreat opened with recitation of the Morning Office from the Book of Common Prayer in the church.

Overview of the role of the Vestry

Financials: The Vestry has overall approval for all expenditures. A financial report is presented at each Vestry meeting. All funds go through the checking account at Wells Fargo and all checks are signed by two people. The accounting system is fund based. There is an audit committee which meets once a year to assure all records are accurate. Bills should be presented using the established procedure. The church has a credit card and a Costco card. There is a letter stating the church is tax exempt. Our tax exempt status has been based on the Diocesan tax identification. Apparently some businesses won't accept this. Cynthia will check on getting a number for St. Gregory's in order to avoid this problem.

Roles of Individual Vestry Members: The annual Diocesan Vestry training will be on April 25. St. Gregory's will pay for vestry members to attend. An updated Organizational Chart was handed out. Father Todd went over the roles of individual vestry members. Facilities requires the most time and effort. Currently, we have two members responsible for Facilities. Perhaps forming a committee (CIA = Church Improvement Association) to fulfill this function would be best.

Vestry Assignments

Facilities: Orié Roberts primary, Ace Ashworth to assist
Outreach: Ace Ashworth
Fellowship: Michael Stephens
Resources: John Manta primary, Cynthia Roberts to assist
Spiritual Growth: Cynthia Roberts
Worship: Jami Jones

Ministries: The list of ministries with the appropriate contact person should be updated and also should include the e-mail address of each contact person. The calendar needs to be co-ordinated with the various ministries. Calendar items need to be submitted in time to be included in the August Chant.

Vestry Meals: A sign up sheet was circulated for vestry meals.

Shepherding: Each vestry member gets a section of the congregation to call. Harvey Frank provides the lists from the current membership information. There should be a script for Shepherding calls in the notebooks. We possibly could do a formal survey as part of the

shepherding with questions related to frequency of attendance and needs of the parishioners. We should check e-mail addresses as part of the calls. Once people have left the church, trying to win them back has not been effective. All parishioners should be encouraged to call if they notice someone hasn't been coming.

Goals for 2008

Fellowship: The goal was to have at least 4 fellowship events. The fellowship events held in 2008 were the SIDS dinner, Movie Night (only 2 people came), a Chili cook-off, and the church picnic. We should continue with at least 4 fellowship events this year as well. We need to do a better job of promoting the SIDS dinner to increase attendance. People can be encouraged to bring their own entree if they don't want to purchase the lobsters and steaks that are offered.

Incorporation: A newcomer's class has been created, but no one came to the first one scheduled. Father Todd will issue invitations the next time the program is scheduled. Father Todd has also created a welcoming liturgy to formalize joining the congregation. We have audio New Testaments (MP3 player) which will be presented to new members when they join. There has been a drop in new visitors in recent months. Some suggestions for increasing the number of visitors and new members include:

- Re-invigorate the greeters.
- Print more visitor's cards and put in pews.
- Copy of Chant to newcomers.
- Remind people use names at the peace and to talk after church.
- Encourage families to bring new families to church.
- Designate picnic as Invitation Sunday to bring guests.
- Emphasize that we have a lot to offer.

Spiritual growth: A marriage course was provided. Mike Guyerson offered a presentation on the current financial situation. A new men's group has been started and has been very successful. As many women indicated interest in a small group, but many of them were interested in having a Mother and Child group or a couples group. Those interested in a Couples group could be encouraged to attend the already existing Koininia groups. There is some interest in special interest groups as well, e.g., parenting, theology, centering prayer.

Precept Surveys from the Diocese: These surveys indicate that our area is affluent, well-educated, resistant to a faith message, and the main interest in finding a church is recreation. Everyone can access and obtain information from the diocesan web page.

Suggested Programs/Activities: We could hold a class on the symbolism in our church worship. Many young people are interested in returning to the ancient practices of the early church. Perhaps there would be some interest in a Saturday evening service, particularly on Saturdays before Bronco's home games and morning away games. Others might like a hike with worship, or a camping trip. A women's yoga group was also suggested. We could have an event in a neighborhood park and invite residents of the neighborhood to attend. Perhaps we could

distribute door hangers with “Join us at St. Gregory’s” on one side and Robin Williams “10 Top Reasons to be Episcopalian” on the other.

Youth Group: This area has been a struggle. There are not enough kids in this age group in our church to establish a successful youth group. A group needs about 20 people to be successful. Kids want fun and their friends to be involved also. Perhaps having our youth join a successful group at another church would be one way to address this problem. Many families drop out when their kids move from Sunday school to youth group age. If the youth accept responsibility for other areas in the church such as nursery, Sunday school, or helping with fellowship, they would feel more involved and not drop out. Another suggestion is to arrange for a mission trip or pilgrimage.

Fellowship:

The retreat ended at 11:45 with worship in the Church.