

Minutes of Vestry Retreat September 21, 2019

Present at the meeting were Patty Alexander, Lacy Douglas, Sue Carroll, Kiska Williams, Rosi Sweeney, Carl Adams, Joanne Comstock, Frenchie Gogos, Mark MacCarthy, Donna Alvarez.

Patty led a discussion on Matthew 9: 9-13 followed by an icebreaker in which self-introductions were made for Patty to get to know the Vestry better.

Sue handed out a multi-page handout on the Stewardship Campaign. This handout will be part of these minutes. In addition, the minutes will contain discussion and decisions not found in Sue's handout. Rosi suggested that we pick up the Anvil Society again. Joanne suggested that since there will be lots cocktail parties as part of the transition activities, maybe we don't need a major donors party. After some discussion, all agreed to discontinue the major donors party. Patty says she will thank all donors personally. Sue will give updates to the Vestry if we are behind on pledges, and that situation will be addressed as needed. There was general agreement that a one-month campaign is appreciated by the congregation.

The next discussion was on the Format and Time of the Worship Service. Patty will continue with one service at 10:00 for now. She has talked with some parents of young children who say that the old early worship service was difficult. Patty may poll the whole congregation on the subject of the worship service. Patty asked Frenchie to speak since she has young children. Frenchie said that 10:00 AM is perfect for her family. Her kids are looking forward to Sunday School and want the little kids to be separate from the big kids. Some churches give out an activity bag to each child to keep them entertained. Another suggestion is a kids' space up front where the choir used to sit. Another suggestion is Sunday School at 10:00 and church at 10:45. Robyn, our new Seminarian, may get involved with Sunday School. She knows about Godly Play. Robyn will give the children's sermon on the 22nd of September. Sue suggests that some bigger kids wrangle the little kids. Patty mentions that there is a program on Safeguarding God's Children, which is directed at those adults who teach Sunday School. Rosi says that the children's participation model that Sue Von showed us was well-appreciated. Kids should be able to do what they choose—no rigidity in expectations. This comment had a lot of agreement from others. Patty brought up the subject of P.R.A.Y. and says Yaa Addison will be with us soon. P.R.A.Y. is for grades 5 and up. Patty says she is open to all possibilities and will try to identify families with children in the 10 and up category. On another matter, Donna says that worship styles—formal and informal—have elicited many spirited comments in the past. Carl says that although we keep the 10:00 service as is for now, there should be another session where individuals can express their opinions on the worship styles they like and dislike. We have probably lost our guitar players, but Joey is open to all kinds of music including a Jazz Mass for All Saints Day. Patty wants to offer Joey a permanent position, and all Vestry members are in favor of it. On the subject of adult formation, many liked Sue's summer sermon discussions. Patty would like to become the neighborhood congregation for the A.U. students and also start an Inquirers' Group. Confirmation classes were a topic of discussion with Joanne suggesting a program which offers mentors for young people preparing for confirmation.

The next topic was fundraising activities. There was a discussion of Octoberfest, and it was agreed to go forward with it on October 26 with the Douglas family doing the Haunted House. Carl will send out a sign up genius to fill jobs and donations. Carl will call Bob Tupper about beer and Clint about a band. We will have to develop a PDF flyer; Kim will facilitate. On another matter, Patty would like to develop relationships with realtors so that we might know when a new family is moving in. She will do a Blessing of Animals for the congregation and community on October 6 at 4:00 PM. Frenchie would be willing to talk to people in her neighborhood about St. Dunstan's activities and to put flyers on some doorsteps. The discussion moved to our spring fundraiser. Cabaret money went to operating funds. There was discussion about dropping Cabaret since it was so dependent of Jeff's talents, and maybe people are tired of the auction format. Sue says that we might think in terms of raising money for special things such as the choir or children's programs. There might be naming opportunities for generous givers. Sue also suggests making Octoberfest a fundraiser with tickets at \$10 for adults and free for kids. Sometimes people will give a free will offering exceeding the ticket costs.

Capturing Actions:

Carl will take the lead for Consecration Sunday luncheon.

Chuck will be asked to continue his work on the website.

There will be no Major Donor Reception.

On Nov. 3 there will be a forum to listen to opinions on worship styles and times.

Octoberfest will be on October 26 with Carl sending out the Sign Up Genius and speaking to Bob Tupper and Clint Chamberlain.

We need a photo directory.

Joey will be offered a contract with medical insurance to be explored.

There will be a Blessing of Animals on Oct. 6 at 4:00 in the afternoon.

There will be a Vestry Cocktail from 5 to 7 at Sue and Ray's. Pledge cards will be received and should be returned by Friday, October 18. October 20 will be the campaign launch and November 17 is Consecration Sunday with brunch after the service.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Alvarez