

The February 10, 2009 Vestry Meeting was held at St. Francis' Parish Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m., with Bob Manasek providing the opening prayer. Present: Sr. Warden: Brad Bode, presiding, Jr. Warden: Don Eigenberg, Vestry members: Don Gable, Julie Fancher, Pati McLellan, Darcy Haslam, Chris Kelley, Gina Shedd. Guests: Priests Karen Anderson and Bob Manasek, treasurer Don Kepler, and Jane Sayre as secretary. Absent: Joyce Walsh, Kathy Yates. Excused absent: Sheryl Spath.

- Special guest **Debbie Hogue** presented a request to utilize approximately \$450 to \$500 of the Prairied Treasures ebay project funds to create a "Back Pack" program, providing food for homeless children who may not have enough food over the weekends. Debbie outlined the need for the project, as well as logistical issues including: needed storage space, "angels" to help pack the backpacks, and funds to purchase the food. She is developing a questionnaire to talk to families of school children for feedback, and has purchased 12 backpacks already, to prepare for the project. She is targeting a trial run for this spring, to see how it will work. Don Gable offered to check in to the food bank program at Sidney, which is part of a national program that he has worked with before, to see if the food can be purchased at a "pound" rate, instead of buying it at retail prices. Brad asked if the service groups at the high school might be of help. Debbie replied that yes, they are interested in participating. Gina suggested using one of the empty class rooms above the Parish Hall for storage, and packing the backpacks. With no further discussion, **Motion** to approve \$600 of the Prairied Treasures outreach funds toward the BackPack Program, was made by Gina, seconded by Pati, and approved.
- **Fr. Kelsey** offered comments about the conference in Des Moines that he just attended, which focused on small churches and how to keep them viable. He noted how thankful he is to be with St. Francis, and how blessed we are, especially compared to the many churches that are struggling.
- Members then officially welcomed new members: **Don Gable and Chris Kelley**, and did a "round table" discussion with each member sharing their various backgrounds, interests, and ministries.
- With no corrections noted, **Motion** to accept the **minutes** of the January 13, 2009 meeting was made by Don E., seconded by Julie, and approved.
- **Financial Reports** were presented by Don Kepler, showing little change on the balance sheet, P/L report showing a drop on pledges for the month of January, and commenting that is usually normal for the first month of the year. The Foundation Fund continues to take some "hits" with the stock market situation being what it is as present. After discussion, **Motion** to accept the financial report was made by Don G., seconded by Pati, and approved.
- **Update on additional land purchase** was given by Brad, reporting that John Selzer had contacted him with a new offer of \$10,000.00, from the estate he represents that owns the small strip of land southeast of the corner of the church property north of highway 26. After discussion, and clarification of the initial offer, for Don & Chris, Brad informed the members that he will continue to monitor, and report on the situation.

The Vestry members then broke into two groups, walking through the facility, grounds, and exterior of the church to gather thoughts and opinions as to what can be done to the outside & interior of the building to make it more inviting.

Group A:

1. Light the north-facing stained glass window, and ones on the west side
2. Place appropriate and readable signs directing people to various parts of the church
3. Knock out or re-do somehow the “fortress wall” to open the courtyard to give it an inviting appeal,
4. Move the interior single courtyard door from its present location to the bottom of the Parish Hall steps and replace it with double-doors,
5. Paint a mural on the east, outside wall, suggesting that Bill Snocker may enjoy doing that

Group B:

1. Suggested painting a big cross & “St. Francis Church” on the outside east corner
2. Move the “St. Francis” letters to the north outside wall of the Parish Hall
3. Place “Episcopal Church Welcomes You” signs
4. Remove the “violation” signs from the parking lot
5. Making the 2 Handicap parking spaces more visible
6. Adding parking spaces marked for “Pregnant or Newborn”
7. Remove the back iron gate, replacing it with a nice wooden rose trellis
8. Signs directing people to restrooms
9. Placing a nice Welcome sign at the main church entrance
10. Consider putting an awning over the double doors to the Narthex entryway
11. Change the colors of the door signs from white to something readable
12. Use greeters to welcome people at two entries instead of just one
13. Sign by the back (south) entry door directing people to the church/parish hall etc

When the group reassembled, Fr. Kelsey noted that a task group needs to be formed to take care of the projects, and then disband. Don G. replied that members need to prioritize the various needs, and then decide which things to do first.

Volunteering to form the **Task Group**: Don Gable, Bob Manasek, and Don Eigenberg.

Discussion on “what needs to be done to make St. Francis more visible in the community”, was tabled for the next meeting. Brad added that someday we may need to consider coming up with a P.R. person to meet the marketing needs of the church.

In **Other Business** the men will prepare & serve a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The ladies will do the P.R. work & get the advertising out. Members agreed to promoting it as a “free will offering”, instead of a set fee.

With no further business, the meeting was closed, at 8:35 p.m., with Fr. Kelsey offering the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Sayre  
Secretary to the Vestry