

VESTRY RETREAT OF ST. PAUL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The annual Vestry Retreat of St. Paul Episcopal Church was held Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25, 2014 at Saint John Herr Estates Retirement Community. In attendance: Father Patrick Peters, Teresa Allen, Joanne Berntheizel, Peggy Donnan, Mary Lynn Geltmacher, Lester Kauffman, Kelly Murphy, Rebecca Murphy, Beth Runkle, Evelyn Martin.
Absent: Cle Berntheizel

The Friday evening session began at 7:00 p.m. with Bible Study.

Following the Bible Study, the Vestry discussed the parish's formal response to the two audit reports issues by Greenawalt & Co., P.C. that were a result of an audit of five-years of parish finances. Both reports contained multiple errors and the Vestry wanted to set the record straight.

The Vestry went through the response to the initial report (dated February 4, 2013) item by item. Minor wording changes were made to the draft response.

The evening ended with Compline at 9:10 p.m..

The Saturday meeting opened at 9:00 AM with morning prayer and a period of meditation.

Discussion continued regarding the Vestry's response to the audit reports from Friday evening. Following further discussion and minor editing, the Vestry's formal response was completed. The final document required a vote of approval by the Vestry that would be done at the formal Vestry meeting later in the day.

MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATE

Tracy Witmer, Chair of the Mission and Ministry Committee, presented an update of our 2013-2017 Mission and Ministry Plan. She stated that during the past year we have made some progress in accomplishing what we intended to do but there are a few areas where we have not met our timeframes. The Mission and Ministry Committee will meet to adjust some of the timelines that now seem over-ambitious.

Leadership -- We have not done the time/ talent survey to determine what skills parishioners can offer to benefit the parish. It will be difficult to create a "perfect" survey. An option would be to do a one-on-one verbal inquiry. Additional help is needed to accomplish these tasks. The goal is to get it done in the next six months.

The vergers program has been in place since last February and is working well. There are three vergers for the Sunday 10:15 services and two for the Sunday 8:00 services. We could use an additional vergers, especially for special services.

Job descriptions for persons in volunteer leadership positions have not been completed.

Our Youth program under the leadership of Beth Runkle has been providing opportunities for young people of St. Paul and the Rim Parishes to participate in various programs. Nine children attended an event in December. A craft event was successful. More activities are scheduled.

Spiritual Growth -- We are no longer offering the "Prayers of Healing" on Sunday mornings due to lack of participation. The prayer partner program has not started. Two Bible Study sessions have been held in the past six months with good participation.

The Monday night Adult Forum Program is very well attended and includes participants from Saint Paul Episcopal, Saint John Lutheran, Saint James Lutheran, Concordia Lutheran, and Saint John Herr Estates Retirement Community.

Outreach -- The monthly free community breakfasts under the direction of Les Kauffman are well attended. The monthly community free dinners under the direction of Bill Weinberg have been very successful with adequate volunteers for both events. The proposed daily hot lunch program goal is on hold for now.

Our newly designed logo is now on all marketing materials and our website. We are encouraged to look at our newly-designed website showing all worship services, sermons, minutes, photos, activities, etc.

We are looking into additional methods of publicity.

The Cultural Committee has had three excellent Fourth Friday events. One included “Dances from Around the World” performed under the direction of parish member Valerie Henry. More art shows are scheduled.

Property – More volunteers are needed in the Garden Club to do a better job with all the work that is necessary during the summer season.

The group paused for lunch at noon and resumed at 1:00 PM for a formal meeting of the Vestry. (See minutes of January 25, 2014)

The remainder of the time was spent with an informal discussion of what is working in our parish and where we could have some improvements. Part of the discussion included a Mutual Ministry Review.

The Vestry Retreat ended at 3:00 PM.