



to ask parishioners to pay for these activities as part of their annual pledges. Another option would be to include the funds for these activities in the annual budget, but continue to ask for voluntary contributions to defray their costs.

Including these activities in the annual budget would cut down on the number of ad hoc fundraising appeals in the course of the year, reducing the risk of parishioners feeling "nickel and dimed." However, cutting back on fundraising appeals during the year might result in a lower level of overall contributions to the church. That's because there's clearly a lot of additional capacity for financial giving in the parish that isn't being fully realized in what people pledge.

Over the past several years, there have been major fundraising campaigns in addition to the annual canvass -- a capital campaign to retire the mortgage in 2002 , a supplemental canvass in 2002, and the tower fund campaign in 2004 . Last year , an additional \$143,000 was raised *with out a major campaign* . This is illustrative of a financially healthy community, but it makes it difficult to effectively plan a budget . Also, the special gifts are not always consistent with needs / priorities identified by the Vestry in its long range planning.

Recommendations that arose from the discussion included a thorough review and classification of fundraising activities (some should probably be funded through a line item in the budget, e.g. greening and brass repair); development of a wish list approved by the Vestry to reflect specific priorities; and a disaster relief contingency fund, perhaps as a part of Outreach. The existing fundraising policy should be reviewed and more clearly communicated to the community through the *Gospel* as well as other vehicles.

## **Planning Items**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Income and expenses are on track with past years. However, plate income reached a record high in December 2006 and continued to peak in January and February – possibly a reflection of giving by newer members in the community who have not yet begun to pledge. Expenses are down and Diocesan payments will move from a 12 to a 10-month cycle. The Finance Committee has invested roughly \$ 200,000 with an expected annual yield of \$15,000.

### **Junior Warden's Report**

Construction in the undercroft library is scheduled to begin on April 2 and is expected to be completed within two weeks. After careful review, there are potentially some cost-saving measures that can be taken with the columbarium. We have received one bid to date, of \$40,900 for construction + \$39,000 for niche units. There is a current balance of \$54,000 in the columbarium fund.

## **2007 Annual Meeting**

Planning is on track. Joe Tarantolo has withdrawn his name from consideration for Diocesan Delegate in order to support Bill Dickinson's candidacy.

### **Youth Director Search Update**

Nancy Van Scoyac and Bobbie Smith have been appointed as co-conveners of the search committee which includes the following members: Bruce Sherman, Marilu Sherer, Christina Herman, Steve Dalzell, Leslie Allen, Joe Calizo, Frank Lloyd, and Miranda Ossolinski. An overview of the breakdown of youth reveals the greatest concentration in the nursery, kindergarten, and elementary grades.

Committee members have been tasked with specific activities in order to develop a job description in anticipation of hiring a director during the summer, although there is no target date for publishing a job description. Consideration is being given to the Diocesan interest in those with Spanish proficiency as well as possible musical abilities since there has been no progress made on identifying a children's choir director, an issue to be resolved by May 2007.

### **Administrative Structure Study**

With the resignation of our Human Resources officer, the Senior Warden has agreed to identify potential people who can conduct this study before April 15.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes from the meeting of the Vestry on February 25, 2007 were approved unanimously, with two minor corrections.

### **What's New**

- **Keith Reas' Sabbatical Replacement** strategy will be led by David Wellman, Choir President. The Senior Warden will meet with Keith, Paul and David later this month to begin formulating a process.
- **Episodic Rental Policies and Prices** for space is still in progress; Ed Green has recently submitted a schedule of his fees.
- **Spring Vestry Retreat** will be scheduled in town, in May.
- **Paul's Reintegration into the Community** was discussed in light of an article he shared that describes his sentiments, including a sense of disorientation and the tension between the inward focus of a capital campaign and growth vs. the outreach into the larger world he yearns for.

**Closing Prayer:** Susan Thigpen *see text attached.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Thigpen

Member of the Vestry  
Acting Register

**Opening Prayer offered by Mike Townsend, Senior Warden**

Oh Lord, as we come together for one final meeting, we ask that you continue to guide us as leaders so that we make decisions in the best interests of the community we all love. For those coming to the end of our service, we thank you for the privilege of serving, for the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with each other and with this community. We ask that you help us remember our successes, to learn from our failures, and to grow from our experiences as leaders. And, recalling today's children's reflection, we ask you to help us, both individually and collectively, to be less wasteful, not only of the earth's resources, but of each other – of each other's time, energy, friendship and love. We ask that you bless our final meeting with energy, wisdom, creativity, grace, and camaraderie.

We ask all these things in your name. Amen.

**Closing Prayer offered by Susan Thigpen**

Oh Gracious God,

Creator and Sustainer, who travels with us during this time of going out and coming in, during this time of endings and new beginnings, let us be still...let us hear your spirit...let us feed on it in our hearts.

We give thanks for the wisdom of our rectors and wardens, who have provided a beacon throughout our service and an ever-present reminder of whom we serve.

We give thanks for those who are leaving this Vestry; their leadership, energy, and talents have enriched our work and advanced our communal journey.

We give thanks for those who are remaining as members of this Vestry whose many gifts will enable them to meet new challenges, realize new visions, and sustain our collective work; and we give thanks for those who will soon join them in service, for they will refresh.

As we celebrate endings and turn towards new beginnings, let us be still...let us hear your spirit...and let it fill us with wisdom and grace so that it manifests itself in all that we do.

Amen.