

STATE OF THE PARISH Second Quarter 2011

This is the second of four reports intended to keep the Parish Family informed of how we are **“Taking Care of God’s Business at Advent in 2011.”** It is the intent of the Vestry to keep all of our action transparent so all of you will know what we are doing as your representatives.

Financial Update

After five months our performance against Budget is about what we expected. Our income has been \$170,222 against expenses of \$175,569. Our expenses are high due to several things; Prepaid pledges in January made our Diocesan assessment higher than normal, Quarterly insurance premiums, and payment for newspaper ads that rolled over from last year. As the year goes on, these expenses will balance out. The Vestry is diligent about watching expenses.

Altar and Sanctuary Refurbishment.

At our June meeting, the Vestry took a positive step forward and approved a “Not to Exceed” budget of \$200,000 for the Altar and Sanctuary refurbishment. As we explained to you in the first quarterly report we issued, this money will come from Bequests and not the operating budget. The project will include the following items.

1. A new tile floor for the Sanctuary that will include the Narthex. Terrazzo tile will be used on the Altar and as baseboard trim in the Sanctuary.
2. Repainting of the Sanctuary interior as well as the offices.
3. Upgrade of the lighting in the Sanctuary with LED lighting for more economical and efficient operation. The office area will also be upgraded and we will receive an 80% rebate from APS.
4. Upgrade of the Air-conditioning system with the latest “state of the art” equipment for more efficient and quieter operation.
5. Expansion of the Altar/Choir area to allow easier flow during worship by the Clergy and Lay Ministers. New cabinetry, tabernacle, and altar rail woodwork will be added. The pulpit will be put back in place. The organ will be moved to the rear of the choir area and the choir seating will face the altar.

As we went through a year of planning that included a detailed consultation with an architect, we were given an estimate \$354,000 to complete this project. As you see above, we approved a “Not to Exceed” budget of \$200,000, which includes painting that was not part of the original estimate.

Bill Mendonsa, our Jr. Warden has worked very hard to get competitive bids for all of the aspects of this project. He expects to have all of the work completed for \$177,000. Please take time to thank Bill the next time you see him. His dedication and hard work have saved us lots of money.

Work will begin July 10 and take three to four weeks to complete. We must remove all of the pews from the Sanctuary to complete the floor, the painting and the lighting. During the time the work is being done, our Sunday Worship will take place in Paine Hall.

We feel that once the work is completed, our Worship space will be more inviting to members and newcomers. We must move forward and take positive actions. We cannot stand still if we intend to grow. This project is a first step.

Vestry Actions and Discussions

The Facilities Master Plan and the prioritization of Projects as recommended by the Facilities Study Group were approved by the Strategic Planning Committee and the Vestry.

Don Cox's Growth Study Group meets monthly and has forwarded some initial action items for the Vestry to consider. They have defined and prioritized Advent's potential growth in three phases: 1. Seniors living in surrounding retirement communities, 2. Young families/children (Advent location) 3. Satellite Location. The Vestry discussed a "Door Hanging Campaign" for Phase 1, and for several reasons decided against it.

Paula Bachman's Newcomer's group is very active. They pass out a Welcoming packet to all new members. It includes an Advent Coffee Cup, a welcoming letter from Father Gabe, an updated brochure, letters from the ECW and the Men's Club, a copy of the latest Luminary, a Helping Hands letter and schedule plus a copy of all of Advent's ministries. A membership request form is also included. We have added 10 new members since January.

We are actively pursuing development of a 3-year rolling marketing plan. We have interviewed one outside consulting group and are looking for others to talk with. This work is being done with the Strategic Planning Committee with input from the Growth Study Group.

The Member Needs Program under Glenn Gullickson has expanded to include "Neighbor to Neighbor Links". Sharon Mather, Nita Martin, and Claudia Stewart helped to develop a map that shows where every Parish Member lives. They are also building a computer data base so we will be able to create a listing of the neighbor to neighbor links of those Parish members that live in close proximity. We believe that this approach has many benefits. Those Parish members that need assistance will have folks close by that can help them. Members can let their neighbors know of fellow parishioners who live close by. New folks can be included in social functions and then invited to attend church.

Tom Carroll chairs the Stewardship/Pledge committee. His committee is currently emphasizing year round Stewardship with weekly reminders in the service bulletin, articles in the Luminary, and a monthly "Financial Snapshot" in the Luminary. The committee is also planning the fall pledge campaign.

Emily Peterson has accepted the responsibility of outside communications for the parish. Assisted by Margaret Cwieka, she has been in touch with local newspaper editors. Perhaps you saw the article on our July 4th potluck. She is also writing a "Blog" about our Altar/ Sanctuary

refurbishment project to let the community know about the positive forward direction we are taking.

Have you seen our new Website? It recently went on line thanks to the efforts of Nita Martin and Rich Raszkiewicz. We are working to fill in some of the areas that are not yet fully covered. Take a look at www.adventepiscopalaz.org

Your Vestry works very hard “Taking Care of God’s Business at Advent 2011” Please continue to give them your encouragement and support.

Say “Thanks” to our Clergy

We are very fortunate to have such a thoughtful and caring Clergy team under the leadership of Father Gabe. He meets with the group weekly and they collectively decide the tasks each will perform. Geoff and Janet assist Father Gabe in teaching and preaching the Gospel of our Lord in interesting and varied ways. Deacon Dick Studley and his group provide Pastoral Care to those in need. Dick is also teaching a series on the first 300 years of Christianity in the Roman Empire to Parish Members.

Father Gabe and his staff are our Spiritual Leaders, helping us to better understand our Faith and our relationship to God.

Father Gabe also meets with me every week to be updated on all of “Gods Work” that is going on at Advent. He believes strongly in the process we use for planning and program. All major programs start at the Committee or Study Group level, move up to the Strategic Planning Committee for review and recommendation to the Vestry, and then to the Vestry for final approval. This Leadership style empowers a large number of parish members in the process.

The parish family is blessed to have the Clergy team that we have. Let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

Conclusion

The Vestry remains committed to “**Taking Care of God’s Business at Advent in 2011.**” Our direction is Positive and Growth oriented. We need your continued support and encouragement. We also need your input. Tell us your ideas and concerns. Together we can build a bright future for Advent!

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Andrews, Senior Warden
Approved 6/23/2011 by the Vestry of Advent Episcopal Church

The Vestry, Advent Episcopal Church