

STATE OF THE PARISH Third Quarter 2011

This is the third 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

At the end of August our income was \$238,754 against expenses of \$262,771. Each year we experience a reduction in income during the summer months because many of you travel for two or three months. We expect that we will end the year with a deficit in the General Operating Budget as we predicted at the beginning of the first quarter. We are taking steps (Cowboy Night, emphasis on delinquent pledges) in an attempt to shrink the predicted deficit. Please do your part by supporting Cowboy Night and remaining current on your pledges.

Cowboy Night and Silent Auction

October 29th will be our inaugural Vestry hosted Cowboy Night and Silent Auction. This western-themed evening will be full of fun with western music, a cowboy dinner, beverages, and great Silent Auction items. Included are golf outings, restaurant gift certificates, autographed sports memorabilia, resort hotel weekends, original artwork, sporting event tickets, and rides in the flight simulator at Luke AFB.

Music will be provided by Country and Western Band, “Cottonwood Stash”. Proceeds from this event will go to help off-set our anticipated deficit. We ask your support and you can expect to have a fun filled evening. Be sure and wear your Western Outfits.

Reverend Doctor Dennis Maynard

Dr. Maynard will be our guest Priest and Speaker on Sunday November 6th. He has authored 11 books. Well over 100,000 Episcopalians have read his book, “Those Episkopols” Several denominational leaders have called it the unofficial handbook for the Episcopal Church. He is also the author of, “Forgive and Get Your Life Back.”

We plan to have one service on November 6th at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Maynard will Preach and Celebrate. A Forum lead by Dennis will follow the service, in the sanctuary. We will then gather in Paine Hall for refreshments, book sales and book signings. This event promises to be inspirational and uplifting. The Vestry heard Dennis speak at our Diocesan Retreat in Prescott and we all wanted you to hear him as well.

Altar and Sanctuary Refurbishment

Our refurbishment is almost complete. We chose to wait on the air conditioning upgrade until mid October when it was cooler. Work will begin October 17th, and be complete in a week to ten days.

You have all seen the large cross on the rear wall of the Church by now. There is a story that goes with it. When we started our project many altar guild members said we must be able to use our kneeling cushions when the work is complete. They were hand made needle point cushions done by some of the founding members of Advent. We made an effort to match the angles and lengths of the cushions, but it didn't work out. The altar guild was very unhappy.

Father Gabe to the rescue (as requested by Bill Mendonsa) and he came up with the idea for the cross. We now have a lasting tribute to those early members who did this beautiful work.

We've said it many times before, but it is appropriate to say it once more. "THANK YOU BILL MENDONSA" for bringing this project in ahead of schedule and under budget. Bill would add to be sure and thank Glenn Gullickson as well, "because I couldn't have done it without him."

Vestry Actions and Discussions

During the summer months travel and vacation schedules inhibited Vestry action since we only had one meeting.

At our September meeting we adopted a recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee and from the Growth Committee that we hire a Marketing Consultant to help us develop and put in place a 3-year rolling marketing plan. We will start with a Marketing Workshop led by consultant Aimee Yamamori in November. She will then help a Marketing Study Group chaired by Don Cox develop a Comprehensive Marketing Plan. That will be followed by an Implementation/Review that will include a core Organization Structure to facilitate the plan. Reviews will take place at three and six months. This initial work will be complete in the first quarter of 2012. Our ultimate goal is of course Growth of our Parish Family.

Paula Bachman's Newcomers group met in September. They addressed and mailed 75 post cards to new home buyers in Sun City West. Janet Adams provided us with a list of May sales. More will follow. The group is also planning a Newcomers welcoming party on November 13th. The Vestry will attend and get to know these folks better and help them to feel welcome.

The computer data base for "Neighbor to Neighbor Links" is complete. Thanks to Sharon Mather, Nita Martin, Rich Raszkievicz, and Claudia Stewart for this work. The Member Needs Program will soon get to work organizing and implementing groups of Parish Members that live in close proximity. We see many benefits to this program going forward.

Emily Peterson is having success getting articles published in local Newspapers. Margaret Cwieka is helping her. Perhaps you have seen one of the four or five articles. They started in July, promoting our Party on the 4th.

A committee headed by Father Gabe and Choir Director, Yvonne Reed is searching for a new organist. Helen Brotemarkle, a member at All Saints of the Desert has been filling in until we find one.

Pledge Chairman, Tom Carroll will soon kick off the Fall Campaign. We encourage your support when his committee's work comes to fruition.

Conclusion

Your Vestry continues their commitment to **"Taking Care of God's Business at Advent in 2011."** We emphasize and encourage positive attitudes by every member of our Parish Family. Please continue your support of our efforts. Together we can build a bright future for Advent!

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Andrews

Senior Warden

Approved 9/30/2011 by the Vestry of Advent Episcopal Church.

The Vestry, Advent Episcopal Church