

**The 14th Annual Gathering of Church of Apostles
Sunday, January 28, 2007**

The 14th Annual Gathering of Church of Apostles was called to order by Rev. Liz Simmons, following a Mexican Fiesta lunch. The meeting began with a prayer and was well attended per approximately 100 persons, including 38 new members. The new members were introduced and incorporated into the congregation.

Reverend Liz gave the Vicar's "State of the Parish" address which focused on the membership growth and the future of the church. Rev Liz acknowledged the persistence and tenacity of the congregation for the many years it took to own our own building. She acknowledged that within the year we might be out of debt for the first time in this congregation's existence with the sale of several acres of our land. She spoke to the struggle to reorganize without the assistance of a parish secretary and with the change in both the vicar and choir director. She acknowledged the growth and success of the Rite I service. And, she spoke to our need to reexamine who we are now. Our original character has been inclusive and diverse. We need to maintain that while embracing new members who may be rooted in tradition and the Book of Common Prayer. The sense of hospitality and warmth along with sincere, honest expression of who we are is of great value. She spoke of ancient and future faith. Study of both traditional and intellectual topics is at hand with class offerings and group sessions. We are encouraged to be involved, come and encounter and experience God through these groups. The requirement of life cells has been relinquished but the need for close sense of community is clear. Class opportunities can help to replace the life cells but attendance is crucial. We are encouraged to get to know one another, feel responsible and share community as we grow. The address was well received by all present.

Diann Neal was appointed Clerk for the Annual Meeting for the Vestry.

Minutes of the January 2006 Annual Gathering were provided and accepted as written.

Thank you to the retiring vestry: Marcie Merritt, Erin Harrigan, Laurie Delmastro and Phyllis Davis. Phyllis Davis received special recognition and thanks for 3 years as Senior Warden. Recognized as Senior Warden Emeritus, a special parking place has been awarded Phyllis along with the gift of a special angel. Jon Skaug (People's Warden) presented Phyllis with flowers & expression of appreciation for her dedication and hard work.

Phyllis Davis responded by giving the outgoing Senior Warden's report for 2006 to those present & handing the master key to Apostles to Bill Krauss. Phyllis spoke for the Vestry, thanking all including special thanks to the Search Team lead by Teri Martindale, Fr. Bob and Rev. Wendy. She spoke to the growing

attendance at Apostles, the congregation's goals and action plans. The Website is up and available to the public now. New members are linked with existing members. Rev. Liz accepted her position and joined us in June, '06. Liz was welcomed with a series of COTA desserts to meet and greet her congregation. The "all church survey" was studied and an action plan designed. The plan includes increased adult education, the termination of the "cell group" requirement for membership, & a new music director was hired. The church building is now used more like a community center which includes: Yoga on Weds and Sat; EFM on Weds and Thurs; Daughters of the King on Tues evenings; "Living on the Border of the Holy" Study Group on Thurs; and Meditation on Thurs. The Church is also functioning more as a community center for several social service groups.

Selection, election, and introduction of new Vestry members included Stan Newton for the 2 year term needing to be refilled. Selection and election of the members for the 3 year terms included Sue Fehniger and Jane Heffelman. Bill Krauss was appointed Vicar's Warden (The "VW") representing the Vicar and Jon Skaug is the People's Warden, representing the people to the Vestry. Wil Harri was introduced to serve as the Treasurer. The Vestry consists of six elected members, the Vicar's Warden, the People's Warden, the Clerk and the Treasurer.

Stan Newton reported as chair of the Finance Comm. Laurie Delmastro presented the 2007 budget and took the congregation through the posted 2007 Income Budget and 2007 Budgeted Expenses. See Report.

Sue Fehniger was introduced as the Team Leader for the Transition Team and the chair of the Stewardship Comm. Jane Heffelman was introduced and has been the Membership Comm Secretary and input attendance for Apostles. The nominated Vestry was approved by acclamation.

Bill Krause spoke briefly concerning the plans recommended by the Land Advisory Comm. He presented two land sale option plans, A & B. These were posted for review by all and explained to those present. The church sits on approximately 30 acres of land and is planning to sell 6 acres. Profit from the sale is planned for use to pay off the Church mortgage. This would allow Apostles to markedly reduce the deficit budget and with the debit retired, we would have a balanced budget for the first time in our history. Sale of some of the land is critical to this accomplishment. All present are encouraged to email their questions concerning the sale. A balanced budget will open many new opportunities for Apostles.

Selection of delegates to the Diocesan Convention in October was deferred to the Vestry meeting in March. Anyone wishing or willing to serve is asked to let a member of the Vestry know before March 15th. Dates of the Convention are October 19 & 20. This is a Friday & Saturday.

A new Incoming Vicar's Warden survey was provided to all present. We are encouraged to complete this survey and return within 10 days for tabulation. The Vestry will review the results at the next Vestry meeting. Timeliness of response is appreciated.

A pancake dinner will be held on February 19. Mark your calendars.

The meeting was adjourned following a closing prayer.

Respectfully recorded,

Diann Neal