

Joint Meeting  
Bishop Committee of St. Paul's (Warsaw)  
Vestry of St. John's Episcopal (Keokuk)

July 24, 2008

Present: Keokuk -- Susie Messer, Bill Vorhies, Felecia Daniel, Richard Bowers, Chris Roost, Meg Oliver-Mills, Janet Fife-LaFrenz and Warsaw -- Rich Heisler, John Bleuer, Lynn Coburn, Janet Nicholas and Father Snyder

Father Snyder offered the opening prayer;

The purpose of the joint meeting was to get acquainted and to plan for the future. Both churches have similar problems – to save the congregations and to expand the ministries. Questions posed to create conversation were: “What’s working?”, “What can we do better?”, “How can we work together?”, and “What should we be doing the we are not doing?”

Listed are comments relevant to opportunities, problems, and outreach.

- Father Snyder is attending the Ministerial Association meetings in Keokuk and although not a resident of Keokuk will serve St. John's interests.
- A golf outing is scheduled with a picnic to follow on August 31.
- How can the size of the congregation be increased?
- What kind of community mission do we have? Examples were Tuesday afternoon after school program (Warsaw), food pantry for God's Way Church (Keokuk), Loaves and Fishes with First Lutheran (Keokuk), Share program (Warsaw), mission to New Orleans being developed by Karen Snyder, medical mission to the Dominican Republic
- Consider alternating services to save on energy costs – mid-week service may be the best option
- Review the liturgical calendar and set up alternating locations of services but keep the three services to serve the needs of the current congregation.
- Should money be spent to publicize the church activities?
- Youth concert
- “Hymns, Hotdogs, and Hamburger” hymn sing
- ECW have joint meetings to find similar interests i.e. knitting prayer shawls
- Create a resource book noting talents of the people
- Develop an executive committee to keep the activities organized. Susie and Rich volunteered to work on this project.
- The joint news letter has been well received.

Father Snyder led the group in closing prayer.

The Vestry convened for a short meeting.

Susie informed the Vestry St. John's would pay \$750/month to assist with the benefit package for Father Snyder. This is in addition to the \$1,000/month salary and \$500/month transportation allowance.

Bill reported he had secured bids from Precision Tree Cutting and Fenton Tree Removal. The lower bid was \$1600 to remove 12 bushes and some dead branches. It was recommended to secure another bid from Hawkin's Tree and Stump Removal.

Bill reported Enderle had quoted \$3,600 to \$4,000 to repair the boiler.

Bill replaced a starter and tightened the belts on the AC unit and has completed some painting. Additional bids will be sought to repair the louvers in the tower and to refinish and apply polyurethane to the floors in the Rectory.

Bill reported Jack Fader is retiring and that a replacement currently is being sought through newspaper advertisement.