

**Church of the Good Samaritan**  
**Vestry meeting agenda**

Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6.30 p.m.

Opening prayers

Apologies for absence

Visitor's comments

Minutes of the last meeting

Karen Stevens – “Believe out Loud”

Report from our School

*Reports – written please*

- *Recommendation from Finance Committee*
- *Recommendation from Sacred Spaces Committee*

*New Business:*

*Old Business:*

2009 Financial Audit

Mission Statement & Vision goals – Capital Campaign discussion

For the good of the order

**Next meeting:**  
**May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6.30 p.m.**

## **Rector's Report – April 2011**

Dear colleagues –

### **Holy Week & Easter**

Holy Week is upon us. Despite Easter coming about as late as it possibly can this year, I don't feel quite ready. As a former roommate of mine used to say in these situations, 'I'm not emotionally prepared.' Perhaps that's as it should be. Easter, the Resurrection, is so improbable, so unimaginable, that I wonder if we can ever be fully ready, really emotionally prepared. For Jesus to rise from the dead... who has heard of such a thing? And yet it is. Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Praise be to God!

So... we are busily preparing for Holy Week and Easter. This year will be a very special one. We will be joining our brothers and sisters at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Good Friday for the Ecumenical Good Friday Service @ 12 noon. On Holy Saturday we have been graciously invited to join our Lutheran friends for the Easter Vigil @ Grace Lutheran Church on Harrison. The service begins @ 7.00 p.m. Easter Day will be full! Highlights include the Sunrise Service in the Courtyard, the Easter Brunch and then Hayden's Missa Solemnis with orchestra @ the 10.30 a.m. Service. If you still energy left you can round out the celebrations with our Easter Egg Hunt in the Courtyard following the service!

After Easter Fr. Lance and I will be away from May 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> attending the annual Diocesan Clergy Conference at the Oregon Garden in Silverton.

### **Capital Campaign?**

It's a constant source of surprise to me how the Holy Spirit works. A clear indication of the Spirit is when different people, unrelated to each other, start to hear the same message. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Maria, our Director of Music and the Music Committee** have been thinking and praying about a couple of issues recently. First is the question of allowing people with disabilities to sing with the choir. Being situated in the choir loft, it is not possible for people with mobility issues to sing with our choir. This is something we should consider very seriously. Also... the organ is 50 years old. Added to which is the fact that the instrument was never completed as originally designed. With this in mind bids have been sought to find out what it would cost to refurbish and finish the organ. Also to perhaps move the organ into the sanctuary, if that is what the congregation should wish.

Unrelated, our **School** has been trying to figure out how to manage their increasing space issues. Registrations for the next academic year have broken all previous records for this time in the cycle – Kindergarten is full with a waiting list and the Grade School is already near to capacity. What a wonderful problem to have! Some of you might remember that in 2007 we were approached by the current owners of Reuel Walter's home – now affectionately called the 'green house' – which abuts our property behind our playground. There is a possibility that this home might come up for sale again. The School Board

sees the possibility of housing our pre-K program there, freeing up space in our Ed Wing for the K and Grade school programs. This could be a good investment opportunity for Good Sam Church – the market is favorable for buyers. It would be useful in the long-term to have extra property adjacent to our church campus. Something to really think about.

Our **Sacred Spaces Committee** has long seen the need for renovation and refurbishment in a number of places all around our church buildings: Simpson Hall, the hallways, Simpson Hall kitchen, the courtyard. They would love to see their dreams fulfilled!

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1961 the cornerstone of our church – the ‘new church’ was laid. A service of dedication was led by The Rt. Rev’d Carman on October 1<sup>st</sup> the same year. The old church was de-consecrated on August 27<sup>th</sup> and released for use as the City Arts Center on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1962. Our church is now 50 years old. Indeed this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of our church buildings! What a legacy we have received from those who have gone before us! I am wondering – praying and discerning – if this might not be the time the Spirit is prompting us to celebrate the 50 years that we have enjoyed here at Good Sam – all of the ministries that have taken place here, the worship that has been offered, marriages, baptisms, funerals, and the countless lives that have been touched, blessed and transformed here. And not only to celebrate the past, but also to look to the future, the next 50 years of our church – the Lord’s church. What legacy do we want to pass on to future generations in this community, our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren? Is this the time for us to consider starting a Capital Campaign to see our dreams and the dreams the Lord has for us take shape and become a reality?

I would ask all of us to think and pray deeply about this. If we did decide to move forward I would think that we would need the rest of this year to discern and pray and to get our plans in order. This year would also be a time to really celebrate the last 50 years. We could then see our way in 2012 to begin the Campaign.

I think that this could be a wonderful and exciting time for us; a time when the whole church could come together and work on a common project – a great dream. It has the potential to bring us closer together and give renewed focus and energy to our mission: **“To love each other and the world as Christ loves us.”**

Let’s think and pray about this and talk about it on Tuesday.

With my prayers, *Simon*