



STA Site Committee Semi-annual Report

September 8, 2010

The STA Site Committee continues to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are held in the Thomas House living or dining room and are open to all interested persons. Kay Williams continues as chairperson, Bob March as secretary, and Helen

Baumann as volunteer coordinator; Lorraine Dabney represents the Site Committee on the PSC. Stalwart members include Anna Jaklitsch and Mario Voloro; others attend occasionally.

The Site Committee publishes a monthly newsletter, *Steeple Talk*, on the Sunday before the 4th Wednesday. It is inserted into the parish bulletins that are delivered to STA each week, and it is also posted on the parish website. Volume 4 of this publication began in February 2010. Besides news about the St. Thomas site, *Steeple Talk* often includes reports from the PSC meetings, news from each of the 6 Mass communities that celebrate at the church, and announcements of parish events.

Church interior:

The Church Interior Task Force meets every third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the SAG Hospitality Center. Judy Foley is chairperson. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

The interior committee has continued to meet and refine suggestions for the interior remodel. A plan by an architect for the altar has been prepared. Many carpet samples have been viewed. A budget for the various suggested alterations is in preparation and will be presented to the Finance Committee this fall.

Church Exterior:

From this prior to September 3.....to this after September 4:



Homer St. side bare since last fall.



Helen Baumann, Veronica Duluk, and Terry Atkinson labor lovingly. Others included Dick Freeman, Tom & Kay Williams, Anna and Rudy Jaklitsch, and Patti Robison.



Little Gem magnolias, rhapsodie, echinacea, princess flowers, iceberg roses, silver lace, pee-gee hydrangea, day lilies, aster...



...and sod!

Deke Rowell of Landscape Group Inc. prepared the design for the garden; his crew prepared the ground and the sprinklers on Sept. 2 and 3, and on September 4 nine parishioners volunteered their day to help plant the many varieties of bushes and trees that Deke had picked out.

Bike rack: a surplus bicycle rack from Seton School was installed in the back of the church alongside the driveway in mid-August. The ground was prepared by parish facilities staff so that the rack could be sited flat on the dirt.

Thomas House renovation project:

Bids from contractors for the renovations to the Thomas House came in quite high. The City of Palo Alto denied permits for the design as submitted, requiring the installation of firewalls between the main floor and the upstairs apartments. To execute the plan with the city-required retrofits would have increased the cost of the renovation beyond the parish budget. The scope of the project was therefore reduced, giving up the plan to have completely separate apartments with kitchens on the second floor, but keeping all the infrastructure upgrades and handicapped facilities and ramp to the main floor. The revised plan was submitted to the City at the end of July. The low bidding contractor selected in the first round of bids re-did his proposal in August based on the revised plans, but this bid was still higher than the budget approved by the Finance Committee in April. At a special meeting of the Finance Committee on August 31 the Site Committee requested and the Finance Committee agreed that Chuck would ask the contractor to itemize how the August budget was derived. This will allow another review where specific work could be added or deleted for a net reduction in the scope of work. In addition, the conceptual architectural drawings were not in sufficient detail to confirm that the rewiring and other core upgrades of the house were actually included in the budget. At the time of this report, we are waiting for the detailed bid from the contractor.

Events:

June 19 Dinner:

Thanks to Ted Baer, who took the lead on the Italian-themed fundraising dinner at the Thomas House, just over \$1000 was raised and 80 people enjoyed a delicious dinner of spaghetti and/or polenta with marinara sauce and a chance to wander

through the Thomas House and offer suggestions on what they would like to see happen there, once the renovations are complete.



Fr. Thierry well-fed.



The basement decorated.



Chef Jerry Martinson



Joe Kinsella and Ted Baer

August 22 Welcome Party:

Fr. Matt Stanley and Deacon Daniel Hernandez were feted at a Welcome Party held in the Memorial Garden, which lies just between the Thomas House and the church building. About 60 parishioners enjoyed champagne and strawberries on a warm Sunday afternoon and chatted with Fr. Matt and Deacon Daniel, as well as with Fr. Franklin Epie, a priest visiting from Cameroon in Africa.



Deacon Daniel Hernandez



Fr. Matt Stanley



Fr. Franklin Epie (in center)



Helen Baumann poured.



Fr. Thierry Geris



Tree-shaded garden welcomed all.