

**Minutes of the meeting of the Vestry
of Trinity Church, February 18, 2007
[Last Sunday after Epiphany]**

The Rev. Dr. Robert P. Clements, Vicar of Trinity Church, opened the meeting with Noonday Prayers (BCP, page 138). Present were: Fr. Clements, Alexis Dorf, Tom Schindler, Roy Bickley, Martha Nesbitt, Jim Conzo, Cheryl Duntz, and Geoff Brown. Absent were: Linda Lloyd, Martha Baer, and Mary Anne Carley

Fr. Clements welcomed Roy Bickley and Martha Baer (*in absentia*) to the Vestry, noting that the Vestry had been commissioned at the preceding Holy Eucharist not only as Wardens and Vestry, but also as Evangelists, and noted the importance of the commissioning as Evangelists.

Alexis Dorf moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting as circulated, and Jim Conzo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Martha Nesbitt presented her report. She distributed schedules comparing January 2007 with January 2006, and an additional schedule with month-by-month comparisons for 2004, 2005, and 2006. She noted that January 2007 results are positive, but cautioned that this is attributable to early payment of 2007 pledges. She recommended that Trinity investigate electronic pledge payment options. Roy Bickley moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, and Geoff Brown seconded the motion. The report was accepted unanimously.

Alexis Dorf presented the Wardens' Report, beginning with Fr. Clements' announcement that he had been approached by a SCCA racer who competes at Lime Rock Park who desires to have Trinity's sponsorship. Several Vestry members commented favorably about the proposal, noting that this is consistent both with our ministry to Lime Rock Park as well as our desire to have our name out in the world. No negative comments were voiced, and although there was no vote taken, the sense of the Vestry was strongly supportive of the proposal.

Fr. Clements also reported that Christine Gevert would like the Vestry to attend a house concert at her residence to hear the new portable organ and as Christine's way of thanking us for our support of the ministry of music at Trinity. After considering the available dates, the Vestry concluded that March 18, following the Vestry meeting, would be the preferred date for the concert.

Finally, Alexis reported that the American Boys' Choir had approached Trinity to perform an Evensong at Trinity in conjunction with their current tour. The performance would occur sometime around Pentecost. Housing for the choir would be required. **Alexis moved that we proceed with this project, and Jim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Tom Schindler agreed to coordinate the visit.

Alexis then presented the Buildings and Grounds report. She noted that Judy Brown will coordinate installation of the new locking thermostat in the church on Thursday. She noted as well that Judy is obtaining bids for a new air handler to replace the old furnace in the church, and will also obtain a separate bid for installation of hot water baseboard heat in the church, observing that it was unlikely that Trinity could afford this level of investment at this point. Finally, she reported on the process we will need to follow to obtain permission to enlarge our sign, which includes permits from the State Department of Transportation, and the local Zoning Board of Appeals. Fr. Clements stated that we will not attempt to bypass any required approvals, and will have a sign that is memorable, tasteful, and elegant.

Fr. Clements noted that the telephone system is now only marginally operable, that he has no phone or intercom service in his office, and that the cost of making the present system, which would have been suitable for a parish many times our size, again operable, would be prohibitive. It was the sense of the Vestry that this familiar topic should be resolved without wasting further funds on the present system. Accordingly, when she returns, Danielle will be asked to determine actual needs, and SNET will be asked to install a system that meets but does not exceed actual needs.

With no formal Stewardship report, Martha Nesbitt noted that we have received approximately \$36,000 in 2007 pledges so far this year. The IRS policy change with regard to contributions in currency was mentioned, although it was also noted that we do not tend to receive large currency contributions in the plate. So that we can ensure that our donors of plate cash receive the tax deductions to which they are entitled, Alexis will mention in the *Trinity Times* the importance of using envelopes for currency contributions so the Treasurer can correctly attribute plate contributions in currency.

With regard to Outreach, Cheryl Duntz will contact the social worker for the Town of Salisbury to see what sort of project the parish might undertake for Easter.

Continuing Business:

Fr. Clements reported that his training by Sterling, the vendor that is providing Safe Church screening, has now been completed. After April 1, handling of Safe Church interactions with Sterling will be conducted at a parish level. Since this will simplify the process and reduce unnecessary workload for the Diocese, it was the sense of the Vestry that the Safe Church checks should be deferred until after Easter.

Geoff Brown noted that Richard Kirby and Shirley Jenks had agreed to help him with Summer Sunday School Soccer, and to be screened accordingly. While Geoff would like to see more volunteers screened to ensure that there would always be two screened volunteers present for any Sunday soccer was conducted, having three volunteers lined up was adjudged to be sufficient to go ahead with plans for Summer Soccer for this year.

New Business:

Fr. Clements advised the Vestry that a new Suffragan Bishop would be elected on March 10. Geoff noted that the form officially designating our delegate had been mailed in the day following the Annual Meeting.

Determining the viability of on-line donations from the website was already on the agenda for this meeting, and the request of Martha Nesbitt earlier in the meeting to prioritize not just accepting donations on-line, but also such services as EFT deductions for pledgers were added to this discussion. Geoff noted that in his recent study of church websites, it appears that on-line donations are considered very much mainstream at this point. He was asked to undertake investigation of alternatives on a priority basis, with the caveat that we must make the process easy both for donors and for Trinity administration.

Vicar's Report:

Fr. Clements noted that we are making progress both in terms of attendance and in terms of money. Inclusion of attendance and donation figures in the Sunday Order of Service will be undertaken when Danielle returns from medical leave.

Further to this, he requested that we use the term "Order of Service" instead of "bulletin" going forward and explained the reasoning behind such a choice of words.

Fr. Clements observed that while announcements at the 10:30 Holy Eucharist are less disruptive than they had been when he was last with us, further improvement is desirable. After discussion, it was concluded that announcements would be moved to the beginning of the service commencing in the summer.

Fr. Clements noted that Bibles in the pew racks would be preferable to use of inserts in the Order of Service, and that readers should consider reading directly from the Bible, certainly in preference to using inserts for this purpose. Roy Bickley noted that it was possible to obtain inexpensive Bibles with a picture of the church on the cover and offered to investigate obtaining them. Jim Conzo noted that there is a shortage of copies of *Wonder, Love, and Praise* and that when it is used there is always confusion in distributing copies to people who will actually sing. It was his observation that at least 10-20 additional copies would be needed. At the request of Fr. Clements, Jim will inventory our copies of *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, Prayer Books, and Hymnals, taking note of condition, and report back to the Vestry with his findings.

With regard to Intercessions, Fr. Clements noted that the list has again grown to the point that not all those being prayed for can be identified. Accordingly, with Lent, we will wipe the list clean and begin again. He also noted that it is desirable that these prayers permit ample silence so that intercessions can be offered spontaneously by the congregation.

Fr. Clements noted that he would like to institute rotating prayer leadership at Vestry meetings. He also noted that the Oratory of the Little Way, in Gaylordsville, conducted

training sessions on healing prayer, and suggested that the *prie dieu* in the undercroft might be brought up and placed in the organ niche for healing prayer during the 10:30 Holy Eucharist. Tom Schindler expressed an interest in this program.

Finally, he noted that the Purpose Statement will be taken up by the Executive Committee so that we can move forward with our next objectives.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be on March 18th.

There being no further business, Alexis moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Fr. Clements offered the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown
Clerk of the Vestry