

Vestry Minutes, July 15, 2007

Fr. Clements led us in prayer to open the meeting. Present were Fr. Clements, Martha Nesbitt, Martha Baer, Alexis Dorf, Jim Conzo, Roy Bickley, Mary Anne Carley, and Geoff Brown. Absent were Linda Lloyd, Cheryl Duntz, and Tom Schindler

There being no changes to the minutes of the June meeting, Alexis moved that they be approved as circulated and Martha Baer seconded the motions. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Martha Nesbitt presented a year to date summary of revenues and expenses compared with the full-year budget numbers. She noted that we are more or less in line with budget, but that this means that we will have a financial shortfall. She noted that we will be receiving approximately \$2000 for parking from Lime Rock Park shortly, reflecting Memorial Day and ALMS parking; more is expected later this summer from LRP and related sources. Martha Baer moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved, Jim Conzo seconded, and the motion passed.

Wardens' report: Alexis presented the Warden's report in Linda Lloyd's absence.

- Summer ECW book sale is currently in progress, with interest noted by many who are in the area. Financial results are not yet known.
- Sign status has been and will continue to be discussed via e-mail.
- We will be modifying the organ alcove into a "Lady Chapel" with moveable pews and a stained glass window illuminated from the rear.

Buildings and Grounds report: Alexis presented the Buildings and Grounds report.

- Rectory progress report. Alexis read an e-mail from Buildings and Grounds chair Judy Brown containing an action plan for insulating the rectory and an estimate of expenses entailed in doing so. It was the conclusion of the Vestry that it was appropriate that we undertake this work as stewardship of the environment as well as of a long-neglected church building. To accomplish this, two enabling motions were presented:

Alexis Dorf moved that the Treasurer be empowered to withdraw \$3000 from the Harwood Trust in order to ensure that funds are available to permit improvement of the insulation of the Rectory. Jim Conzo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Roy Bickley moved that we proceed to improve the insulation of the Rectory in accordance with the plan and estimate presented to the Vestry, with an estimated outlay of between \$2700 and \$3000. Jim Conzo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Painting progress – no update was available
- Extermination progress – no update was available

Continuing Business:

- Art Show status: Martha Baer reported that the invitations are being printed and that the artists have been engaged.
- Appointment of Stewardship chairperson(s): The appointment of Stewardship chairpersons was deferred following discussion. Small dinners, with music, as a venue for encouraging generosity were discussed.
- Assignment of committee/ministry liaisons from Vestry: The following liaisons were determined:
 - Adult Education, including EFM: Fr. Clements and Roy Bickley
 - Altar Guild: Fr. Clements
 - Arts, including Art Show: Linda Lloyd
 - ECW: Linda Lloyd
 - Finance: Martha Nesbitt
 - Flowers: Alexis Dorf
 - Hospitality: Cheryl Duntz
 - Lime Rock Park: Geoff Brown
 - Worship Committee: Fr. Clements
 - Music (including Crescendo and the Trinity Wall Street choir visit): Martha Baer
 - Buildings and Grounds: Alexis Dorf
 - Outreach: Cheryl Duntz
 - Prayer Chain: Tom Schindler
 - Shared Ministry (including Northwest Cluster): Mary Anne Carley
 - Sports/Recreation Ministry: Geoff Brown
 - Stewardship/Annual Giving/Fund Raising: Jim Conzo
 - Communications (including Trinity Times, Trinity Update, Rota, Website,. Etc.): Fr. Clements and Geoff Brown
 - History: Geoff Brown
 - Cemetery liaison: Fr. Clements
 - Welcoming and newcomers: Alexis Dorf
 - Nursing homes: Fr. Clements
 - Office volunteers: Fr. Clements
- Status of Sunday School: The importance of providing Denise Lancto with support in conducting the Sunday School was discussed. Several individuals were identified who might be helpful in this regard. Fr. Clements asked the Vestry to suggest possible candidates for this role to him.
- Status of nursery care: None of the candidates for this position were available. The Vestry was charged with identifying candidates who might be interested.

New Business: The following items of new business were raised:

- Authorization of EFM expenditure: In order to ensure that Mary Anne Carley can continue to lead EFM at Trinity, the expenditure of \$250 for her license was necessary. **Alexis moved that the expenditure be approved, and Roy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Vicar's Report (circulated via e-mail earlier): The report as circulated appears herewith:

Vicar's Report for July

1. Review the role and service of ushers and greeters
This seems to be an effective ministry as the ushers have been very good about getting the correct materials to the worshippers, greeting newcomers in a friendly and natural manner, and getting the names and other information of those visiting or "church shopping".
2. Review the effectiveness of the Sunday bulletin/program
While a work-in-progress still, the appearance, usability, and cost of the Sunday order of service continues to be addressed and refined. Expect this to continue for as long as I'm your vicar. [Note: three other parishes in Litchfield County are now copying our tri-fold format.]
3. Review or institute parish visits to those who have shared worship.
Whenever feasible, there has been a follow-up call or visit to those who have visited us for worship. Remembering our purpose statement, not all visits by the curious will result in the creation of a new member, but we recognize that there is a reason that they have visited us and that is honored in the vicar's attention.
4. Review the participatory ministries of the parish and edit a complete list of active ministries within the parish.
We very much need to coordinate the vestry with the ministries of the parish. The only way to accomplish this is to assign each individual vestry member liaison duty with one or more of our active ministries. This needs to be completed as soon as possible.
5. Assess the quality and quantity of BCPs and Hymnals [with other related materials] in the pews.
This has begun and, in part, been addressed in the purchase of new copies of Wonder, Love, and Praise and some replacements for worn Books of Common Prayer and Hymnals. For \$500 we can fully supply the pews with Bibles, thus furthering the preaching and teaching possibilities in the liturgy. [Perhaps you will agree with me that one of the things that must

be done in contemporary evangelism is to break away from the soporific standard of the three-point sermon (plus joke!) read at a congregation.]

Two additional matters were also discussed:

- Status of delegate to Convention: This matter was tabled pending resolution of our current status with regard to a delegate. Should we need to elect a new alternate delegate to Convention a special parish meeting would need to be held; Martha Baer may be able to assume this responsibility if needed.
- Fr. Clements notified the Vestry that we will need to establish a parish policy with regard to civil unions, which are now permissible under Connecticut law. In the fall we will hold a parish meeting for discussion of the subject, and based on the outcome of that meeting, and consultation with Fr. Clements, the Vestry will promulgate a policy.

Next Vestry meeting: The next Vestry meeting will be August 19.

Fr. Clements led the Vestry in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown
Clerk of the Vestry