

Minutes of the February 17, 2008 Vestry Meeting

Fr. Clements led the Vestry in the Opening Prayer. Attending, in addition to Fr. Clements, were Bob Reid, Martha Baer, Martha Nesbitt, Mary Anne Carley, Al Dorf, Linda Lloyd, Geoff Brown, Roy Bickley, Tom Schindler, and Jane Canfield. No one was absent.

Linda Lloyd moved that the minutes of the January Vestry meeting be approved. Martha Baer seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Martha Nesbitt presented the Treasurer's report for the month of January, circulating the financial statements for that month. Noteworthy are that 2008 pledges so far come from 41 families and total \$104M. Several additional pledges are expected. An important financial event also occurred in January, as the Parish repaid the \$22.9M loan that had been taken from the Harwood Fund with a portion of the generous gift from Bob Reid to retire the indebtedness on Reid Field. Roy Bickley moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved, Al Dorf seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Wardens Report: Linda Lloyd presented the Wardens' Report. She noted that the Jaguar Club of America has verbally committed to rent Reid Field and Walker Hall for Friday night of Memorial Day weekend, and will erect a large tent in Reid Field for 200 or so guests. John Fitch is reported to be pleased that we are making our facility available, and we anticipate that he will refer us to other similar organizations. Stuyvesant Bears will be involved in drawing up a contract for the rental.

Today at coffee hour we had several visitors who are producing a dramatic movie who wish to rent Walker Hall for a portion of it. The sense of the Vestry was that this was appropriate.

Linda and her husband had visited the Tuttle in Charlotte a week or two ago, and Linda reported on their current situation. Their 50th wedding anniversary is May 24, and some form of greetings will be arranged from us to them in honor of the event.

The Wardens will meet with the Vicar the weekend before each Vestry meeting going forward.

Buildings & Grounds: Geoff Brown had no buildings and grounds matter to refer from Judy Brown, Buildings and Grounds Chair. However, Fr. Clements noted that the lights in several of the organ stops have burned out. Since these are soldered connections, Christine has been asked to get an estimate regarding the cost of repair. It was noted that the freezing and thawing has resulted in a partial recrudescence of "Lake Trinity" in the

parking lot, and that it appeared that the snow plower had not prepared as wide a parking area as last year. Judy will be asked to make sure that he plows a larger area, and will also commend him for the excellent work they have done this year in sanding and snow removal. The Vicar noted that the latch on the gate in the communion rail has broken. While Gordon Gustafson will likely repair it, the possibility of doing away with the rail entirely was discussed, with no significant objections raised to the possibility. In response to a question by Martha Baer, the pet cemetery plan will be reviewed after the snow melts and we can get a good view of the area to the west of Walker Hall as a possible location for it.

Continuing Business: Under continuing business, the Vicar discussed the concept of forming ad hoc committees to fulfill a particular task, without the intention of keeping the committees around on a permanent basis. These are referred to as “covenant relationships” wherein a group undertakes a covenant and once it is completed moves along to other things. With regard to the proposed Vestry retreat, Fr. Clements would like to hold it during the day some Saturday in April or May at Camp Washington, a facility located between Litchfield and Washington, CT. There would be no charge to Trinity for the use of this facility, although it will be necessary to employ a consultant for the retreat. Fr. Clements will ascertain availability of the facility as well as an appropriate consultant.

With regard to Stewardship, the consensus of the Vestry was that we ought to begin the campaign in late August.

New Business: The following items were discussed as part of New Business.

--The Vicar noted that we are about the only Episcopal entity in the area that does not have one or several of the “Episcopal Church Welcomes You” road signs out. There was little appetite within the Vestry for spending money on such signs, but in the event that some might be donated, Al Dorf will ask Alexis for information on the signs and on restrictions that might apply to them.

--With regard to Vestry assignments for committees and activities at Trinity, the Clerk was asked to send out a list of current responsibilities along with the draft minutes. This list, as it currently appears on the website, was attached as an appendix to the draft minutes. Vestry members are asked to evaluate the assignments in conjunction with their own interests so assignments can be finalized at the next Vestry meeting.

--Long Range Planning Committee: A motion was made and passed at the Annual Meeting that a Long Range Planning Committee was to be established to study the future of Reid Field at Trinity and make recommendations. To implement this motion, the Vestry appointed Martha Baer, Bob Reid, and Jane Canfield as the Vestry members of this committee. The Vestry further determined that Cheryl Duntz, Arete Warren, Grace Burns, and Cynthia Conklin will be requested to serve on the committee, which will elect its own chair once

constituted. The Vicar will serve as an *ex officio* member of the committee. In this regard, the Clerk was asked to send a draft of the Annual Meeting minutes to all Vestry members.

Vicar's Report: The Vicar reported progress on the Chapel of Repose that will be established in the former organ niche. He noted that the furnishings will be removable but that it should be available for healing ministries following the Eucharist and for Morning Prayer and other liturgies that normally attract small groups.

He noted that we will have a liturgy every day of Holy Week this year, adding Evening Prayer on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday to the usual array of Holy Week services. Linda and Mary Anne may conduct these services in their capacity as Lay Eucharistic Ministers. The sense of the Vestry was that all evening services in Holy Week ought to be held at 7 PM. Fr. Clements will arrange to have a hanger made for the sign, painted red, indicating that the services are at 7 PM.

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on March 16.

There being no further business to conduct, Linda moved that the meeting be adjourned. Fr. Clements closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown, Clerk