

Minutes of the May 25, 2008 Vestry Meeting

Fr. Clements opened the meeting with a prayer. Present were Fr. Clements, Linda Lloyd, Martha Nesbitt, Tom Schindler, Roy Bickley, Al Dorf, Jane Canfield, Bob Reid and Geoff Brown. Absent were Martha Baer and Mary Anne Carley

Roy moved that the minutes of the April meeting be approved and Linda seconded the motions. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Reports:

--Treasurer's Report: Martha distributed financial statements for the year to date. Our net income year to date is positive, and nearly \$6400 better than this time last year. Much of the improvement is due to revenue from the building for the movie production. The lease for the copier expires in July, and it was the sense of the Vestry that a less expensive alternative ought to be available. The needs of the parish are for less than the present copier provides, although Crescendo seems to need most of its capabilities. Martha, Al, and the Vicar will seek a replacement solution that will satisfy all users and save the parish significant money. Linda moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Jane seconded the motion, and the report was approved by voice vote.

--Wardens Report: Linda had nothing to report. Roy reported at this time about the Episcopal Church sign. He noted that the double-sided version of the sign is available for \$155, including shipping and handling. The Vicar will review the material that Roy has obtained and make a proposal, likely involving the purchase of two signs. We will review and approve the proposal on line so we can move forward on this before the next meeting of the Vestry.

--Buildings & Grounds: Geoff reported for the Buildings and Grounds chair.

--First, thanks to Jeff Silvernale for patching the driveway. He undertook this without being asked.

--Secondly, with regard to a date to clean out the garage, the Vicar noted that there appears to be only a limited amount to do, and recommended that the Men's Group undertake the task.

--The Vicar noted that more investigatory work needs to be done with regard to the source of the leak in the rear of the church, although the ground for the lightning rods has been relocated to help prevent ice dams.

--The Vestry concluded that the existing handicapped ramp, which has been unusable for several years due to a loose handrail, is too steep to meet code and would be a legal liability to the parish even if the handrail were replaced. After noting that handicapped access is now easy via Walker Hall and the addition, noting that the area in front of the altar of repose is an ideal site for wheelchairs, and reviewing a drawing of the

church prior to the construction of the ramp, the sense of the Vestry was that it was appropriate to consider demolition of the ramp and restoration of the limestone steps that had originally been there. The Buildings and Grounds chair was asked to investigate this project and confer with Linda with regard to her findings.

--Long Range Planning Committee: The committee has not met, and the Vicar will discuss a meeting with Martha Baer, the committee chair. Jane suggested to the Vestry that the field might be loaned to the VoAg program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School as a site where they could practice what they learned. It was noted that the soil is very poor, possibly as a result of the topsoil having been sold many years ago, but the possibility was added to the list of possible uses for the committee to consider.

Continuing Business:

--Vestry retreat: The Vestry retreat will be held on Saturday, September 6, in the parish hall of St. Michael's Litchfield. All Vestry members are requested to clear their calendars for that date.

--Light box above altar of repose: Gordon Gustafson is fabricating a light box that will be illuminated by LEDs and battery powered so that no extension cord will be needed. Tom will meet with Linda to make up a pattern.

--Building rentals: Geoff and Linda will confer regarding presentation of Walker Hall as a potential site for wedding receptions, showers, etc. on the website.

--Choir chairs/dedication: The choir chairs are expected to arrive this week. At the Vicar's suggestion, the chairs as well as the new Sanctus bells will be dedicated at the service on September 7, the date that Sunday School resumes.

--Pet cemetery: The design for the pet cemetery is still awaited. No action was taken at this meeting.

--Tag sale/bake sale results: Linda reported that the tag/bake sale had netted \$1600. This was down from last year, mostly due to the fact that the usual contingent of bicyclists did not materialize this year. All Vestry were asked to keep alert for news of bicycle clubs that might tour in the area so that we can invite them to come next year.

--The Episcopal Church road sign: (see Wardens' reports)

New Business:

--Bob spoke highly of a charity called "Cellphones for Soldiers" that collects old cellphones, recycles them, purchases phone cards with the proceeds, and donates them to armed forces personnel serving overseas. It was suggested that possibly the young people who attend Summer Soccer might be made aware of this program and their families asked to donate old cellphones for this charity. Geoff will place a link to <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com> on the Outreach page of the parish website.

Vicar's Report:

--At the Vicar's suggestion, we will consolidate the July and August Vestry meetings, not meeting in July but instead combining that meeting with the one we would normally have August 17.

--The Vicar notified the Vestry that a Trinity parishioner, Danielle Gaherty, has informed him of her intention to seek holy orders. The clearly demarcated steps in this process will initially require that a committee within the parish meet a number of times with Danielle. No Vestry involvement in the process will be required until several steps, including the work of Danielle with this committee, has been accomplished.

--With regard to Emergency Services Sunday, Jane Canfield will provide a "recruiting speech" for those assembled.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be held Sunday, June 15.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Fr. Clements led the Vestry in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown
Clerk