

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Of Trinity Church, June 21, 2009

Bishop Smith, Fr Clements, Linda Lloyd, Roy Bickley, John Lloyd, Al Dorf, Pat Barton, Martha Baer, Janet Walker, Jane Canfield, Bob Reid, and Geoff Brown were present.

Approval of May minutes: Linda moved that the minutes of the May meeting be approved as circulated. Bob seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's report: John circulated the current financial statements. It was noted that the price of heating oil has declined materially since the last contract, and that a new contracted price is available. It was determined that Judy Brown, Buildings and Grounds Chair, should contact Hull Oil to determine what the effect will be if the price declines below the contracted price. While the price fluctuations in oil were so great in the past year that it is hard to tell for sure, appearances are that keeping the front doors closed during January and February resulted in a significant savings in oil. A question was raised regarding the YTD pledges amount; it appears to be incorrect, and Lisa will be asked to correct it. Once corrected the financials will be shared with the Vestry via this list. Following up on a question from the previous meeting, John explained that the unrealized gain/loss number is an accounting convention and is required; the Bishop supported his explanation. Al moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted subject to restatement of current year pledges. Martha seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

Wardens' report: There was no Wardens' report.

Old business:

--Stewardship – status: John announced that he will be sending out the report for the first half of the year in the next week or two. Some parishioners will be asked to pay their pledges ahead due to the normal downturn in receipts during the summer months.

--Christine Gevert's letter of agreement: The Vicar and Christine have reviewed this matter, and agreed to extend the agreement for another year, incorporating the salary increase passed earlier. An agreement with regard to Christine's occupancy of the Rectory will also be executed and circulated.

--Fundraiser for 2009:

“Small Donations” progress: Fr. Clements reported that there had been no incremental progress on the Small Donations program. It was suggested that this be incorporated in the stewardship program, which will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Church World Service's “Buy a Blanket PLUS” campaign: Fr. Clements reported that between \$1000 and \$1100 had been raised to date. This will be used to purchase a water well for a village in East Africa. He expects to receive specifics shortly. Geoff was asked to put a link to Church World Services on the Trinity website when it becomes available.

--Buildings and Grounds:

Narthex roof repair estimate: Fr. Clements reported that he has been in negotiations with Arthur Vincent & Sons of Nyack, NY, who are church roof specialists. He anticipates that they will be here shortly to prepare an estimate regarding the roof repair. A competent plasterer is available to repair the plaster once the roof is repaired.

--Sunday School: Fr. Clements reported that Gretchen Hachmeister will be continuing with the Sunday School in the fall. It is hoped that the program will become more formalized this year as it becomes more popular.

Young People's Choir going forward: The sense of the Vestry was that the Young People's Choir that sang this morning ought to be encouraged to continue. A desire to have them sing on "Welcome Back Sunday" and Emergency Services Sunday in the fall was expressed.

Summer Sports: Geoff announced the structure of the summer sports program this year, which will emphasize bat-and-ball sports for the younger children in July and volleyball for the older young people in August. Pat suggested that the program be promoted via the Town Recreation Department, but Geoff asked for one summer to see how this new arrangement would work, and to work the kinks out.

--Prayer garden: Martha reported that elevations of the Prayer Garden are still needed so that the Landscape Architect can proceed with her designs. She will follow up on this prior to the next meeting.

--Discernment committee: Fr. Clements reported that the Discernment Committee will hold its second meeting next Sunday.

--Victory Garden: It was noted that Jose Orraca, who had been the chief proponent of this scheme, had been injured in a fall recently, and thus was not here to provide details of his plan.

New business:

--Fire Marshal's inspection and kitchen inspection: Fr. Clements reported that Daryl Burn, the Assistant Fire Marshal, had walked through the premises recently. While a formal report has not yet been received, it appeared that the plants that currently are in the hallway in the new addition will need to be removed as they represent a hazard in terms of escape. He noted that a kitchen inspection is upcoming, and that at very least we will be required to install handwashing signs. Pat noted that it may be that we will need to install a hand-washing sink as well, but further action will be deferred pending the actual inspection.

--With regard to outreach, Pat reported that she had been in discussion with the Town of Salisbury Social Worker. The Social Worker, who works with the Social Workers of other towns to distribute donated items, favored backpacks and lunch bags (instead of lunch boxes). The Social Worker had also recommended that an effort be made to make the packs age-appropriate. It was the sense of the Vestry that we ought to begin this campaign in mid-July so the bags can be in the hands of the children when they begin school the last week of August.

--Linda announced the "bring your own picnic" picnic for the 4th of July. She explained that the State Police had recommended that we block off our parking lots, and direct people wishing to park in them to Lime Rock Park. Since this will result in increased revenues for the Rotary, it was felt that they might be willing to provide us with a sign to hang in the driveway directing parkers to the Lime Rock Park outfield entrance.

Vicar's report: The Vicar reported that 75 had attended Vi Worrall's funeral. He noted that we have now had two baptisms this year, with the baptism of Alice Tweed's granddaughter slated for July 5. He noted that the average Sunday attendance, as of this morning, was now 70, and that the count had been 104 today.

He also noted that he has been elected Chaplain of the Lakeville Hose Company, and that while his official duties require only that he offer a prayer at the monthly meeting of that organization, it's his intent to expand the role to include appearing at emergency scenes. He expects to attend the Federation of Fire Chaplains convention in Long Beach on October 18 – 22, returning on October 23, and expressed an interest in organizing a pastoral response team of local clergy, to be headquartered at Trinity.

He noted that the Lime Rock Cemetery Association, of which he is an ex-officio board member, will hold their annual meeting on June 29 at 5 PM in Walker Hall.

Bishop Smith then spoke to the Vestry. He noted how happy he was to be here, and provided us with some information about the Lambeth Council.

In response to his question regarding our outreach efforts, Vestry members identified emergency services, OWL's Kitchen, sports, and music as our main efforts, noting that our congregation is always generous when a need arises and is identified. Bishop Smith noted that some parishes were affiliating with parishes in Latin America, and undertaking mission trips to them. He also identified the Diocese of Boga, in the Eastern Congo, which is French-speaking, as a possibility for a parish affiliation.

The Bishop noted that he was satisfied with our financial picture, and was pleased that we are no longer a "P.A.W." (meaning "Parish Against the Wall") which characterized our situation only a few years ago. He encouraged us to continue to increase our Diocesan giving, with the objective of raising it to 12% as our situation continues to improve. Finally, he invited the Vestry to visit Diocesan House on a weekend to see the structure and learn more about the Diocesan staff and what they do.

The Bishop then asked the Vestry for questions.

Al asked what had happened to the six parishes that had essentially rebelled within our Diocese. Bishop Smith replied that four of the six were now resolved, but that two remain troublesome. Martha asked about the dioceses that had left the Episcopal Church. The Bishop replied that the Presiding Bishop had created provisional dioceses to minister to Episcopalians in those areas. Roy asked if there was communication with the renegade dioceses, to which the Bishop replied that the answer, regrettably, was "not really" – but that it was not for lack of trying on the part of the Presiding Bishop and the rest of the Episcopal Church.

Finally, the Bishop noted a comment by a non-Christian Lambeth participant who had noted that he hoped that the Anglican Communion, which has encompassed widely diverse cultures and viewpoints, would continue to do so for the good of the world.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown
Clerk