

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry  
Of Trinity Church, August 30, 2009  
(including committee chairs)

This meeting of the Vestry, the first after the departure of Fr. Clements, included the chairs of Parish committees who are not also Vestry members as well as other parishioners who are active in parish affairs. Vestry members present were: Linda Lloyd, John Lloyd, Al Dorf, Roy Bickley, Bob Reid, Jane Canfield, Martha Baer, Pat Barton, and Geoff Brown. Absent was Janet Walker. Committee chairs present were: Alexis Dorf, Jane Lipton, Gretchen Hachmeister, Christine Gevert, Alice Tweed, Martha Nesbitt, and Judy Brown. Absent in the latter category were Sue Kozlowski and Ginny Dildine.

Linda Lloyd discussed the clergy transition process we anticipate. She noted that the Rev. Heidi Truax, from Sharon, will be the supply priest through September and into October, and hopefully until an interim is in place. She noted that there are not many interim priests available, so we may find ourselves choosing between two, or even having one assigned to us. Linda noted that Alexis Dorf, who was Junior Warden at the time of the last transition, will be assisting her in this time as well.

With regard to parish administration, Linda noted that Lisa Brennan, the present part time bookkeeper, will be engaged for an additional hour per week to prepare the order of service. She noted that items for the order of service must be in by Thursday latest, and that she will meet with Christine on Thursday with regard to music. Linda noted that incoming parish e-mail addressed to clergy is now being routed to her, while e-mail to the general e-mail address is being routed to the clerk for further disposition as appropriate.

Gretchen announced that Sunday School would start on September 13. She has obtained the password to download the curriculum, and Marian Browning and Cheryl Duntz will assist her. She also asked that anyone else who would like to fill in occasionally is invited to see her.

It was determined that John would meet with Christine in order to determine if there are funds available to hire musicians for Christmas. Christine asked that everyone please post upcoming parish events to the calendar on the main bulletin board so as to avoid inadvertent conflicts. Martha Nesbitt asked if a new parish directory could be published and distributed so that, in the absence of a regular presence at the church, parishioners could contact each other more easily. Linda will arrange for Lisa to do this.

Linda reminded the committee heads and the Vestry that during this time of transition one of our more important duties is to keep the congregation calm. At times like this, rumors spread quickly, and both Vestry members and committee heads can nip them in the bud with accurate and up to date information.

At this point, the committee heads were excused and the Vestry meeting itself began.

Pat Barton moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as circulated. Martha Baer seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

John Lloyd presented the Treasurer's report. Notable in the report was the information that Sunday collections have fallen below even the usual low levels of summer, and that we are now spending approximately \$200 per week on a supply priest as opposed to nearly \$1600 per week for our Vicar, which eases what would otherwise be a deteriorating financial condition. Pat moved that the Treasurer's report be approved, and Bob seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Roy presented the Wardens' report, noting that at this time we should all pray for the right person to find Trinity, and for Trinity to find the right person to lead us.

The following matters were discussed under Old Business:

--Buildings and grounds: The status of the narthex roof repair, which was being handled by Fr. Clements is uncertain as nothing has been communicated to the Wardens or to the Buildings and Grounds chair. Linda will contact Fr. Clements to determine the status. With regard to removal of the dead tree in the parking lot, the Buildings and Grounds chair is in touch with Jeff Silvernale, who will obtain a bid from Root Tree Service.

--Emergency services Sunday: after discussion of schedules of the various volunteer services and the possibility that an interim rector might have views that needed to be considered, it was the consensus of the Vestry that we will postpone further discussion of this event until next year, when we will discuss it in the spring.

--Prayer garden: Martha Baer reported that the landscape architect consulted made a proposal for approximately \$7500 for design and plantings, not including site preparation, stone pavers, and three stone benches. Martha will discuss the proposal with Jane Cooke with an eye to developing a proposal that is more within the financial capabilities of the parish. It was emphasized that this was for ashes of companion animals.

--Outreach: results of backpack project: Pat Barton reported that the collection of backpacks was extraordinary, with around 25 packs donated. She reported that parents were waiting to receive the packs when she delivered them, and that the social workers from Salisbury, North Canaan, and Falls Village were all involved. A letter of thanks from Salisbury Family Services is expected shortly.

The following matters were discussed as New business:

--Linda announced that the main parish phone number was inoperative, but that one of the other numbers appears to be functioning. Neither analog line is working, however, so John Lloyd and Gordon Gustafson had jury-rigged a hookup to the Rectory so that the credit card terminal could be used for the art show. Geoff reported that the existing phone system is an IBM PS/2 computer, with a vintage of approximately 1996, and thus well past its useful life. Linda noted that Lisa Brennan had obtained a quote from ATT that would save approximately \$60/month, as long as we bundled internet service. One line is definitely needed for Crescendo, and one for Trinity, but, as long as there are at least three voicemail boxes, it was not clear why any additional lines are needed at this time. Pat moved that Linda,

John, Al, and Geoff be empowered to replace the existing phone system. Roy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

--Regarding the computers in the volunteers office, Linda requested that the Dell donated by Randy Orzano be used for Crescendo business, and the existing PC in the office be used for Trinity business. This will require movement of files and applications between computers, and both organizations will undertake this.

--Regarding a request by Crescendo to rent more space from the parish, perhaps taking over the nursery for their use, Linda reported that she and Christine had discussed rearranging the present volunteers office, including moving the safe that belongs to the Lime Rock Cemetery to the library (where that organization customarily meets and does business with purchasers of plots). The consensus of the Vestry was that we do not want to give up the Nursery, but that the agreement between Christine and Linda regarding more efficient sharing of the present volunteers office was the most desirable alternative.

--Jane Canfield noted that she has been mailing out the birthday cards for the parish, but that she is now running out. She and Linda will meet subsequently to arrange a resupply.

There being no further business to come before the Vestry, the next meeting date was set as September 27, following the visit of the Canon for Clergy Deployment. Roy moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Al seconded the motion for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown, Clerk of the Vestry