

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Of Trinity Church, November 22, 2009**

Pastor Heidi offered an **opening prayer**. Present were: Pastor Heidi, Linda Lloyd, Al Dorf, John Lloyd, Bob Reid, Martha Baer, Jane Canfield, Pat Barton, and Geoff Brown. Absent were: Roy Bickley and Janet Walker.

John moved that the **minutes** of the previous regular meeting of the vestry and the more recent special meeting be approved as circulated. Martha seconded the motion, which was passed by voice vote.

John presented the **Treasurer's report**, noting that we are somewhat behind last year, but that the situation should improve shortly. Pastor Heidi reported that going forward, the Altar Guild will continue to maintain its own checkbook, but that the Flower Committee would be handled by the parish treasurer as a separate account, funded initially by the \$2000 CD and subsequently by contributions for memorial flowers. John is to advise the Flower Committee chair of donations received and they will coordinate on expenditures. The line of demarcation between Altar Guild expenses and Flower Committee expenses will be such that candles will be an Altar Guild expense, while growing (or recently growing) materials will be a Flower Committee expense. Separately, Pastor Heidi will be furnished with a key to the thermostat in the church by the Buildings and Grounds chair. Linda moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, and Jane seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

Linda presented the **Wardens' report**. The current plan is for John to order stationery, office supplies, etc., while the Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee will order maintenance supplies. Pat recommended an alternate vendor for supplies that may be less expensive than Staples.

Pastor Heidi presented the **Vicar's report**. She noted that she would like to begin Vestry meetings with a Bible study session. Several Vestry members commented on the proposal. She noted that she has visited 16 parishioners and families so far and plans to continue. She noted that, as reported in the Order of Service today, the Christmas Pageant this year will have only one rehearsal and will be able to accommodate latecomers. The Stewardship letters went out as scheduled, and, although some have reported non-receipt, several pledges have already been received. Martha commended Pastor Heidi on the letter. The subject of getting the parish mailing list updated was presented, and the Clerk volunteered to take on the additional responsibility. However, discussion revealed the possibility that one of the parish's stay-at-home moms might be able to do it. Some discussion ensued regarding whether the Servant Keeper was capable of maintaining parishioner records or whether it was preferable to maintain several separate sets of lists of parishioners using different software products. The acolyte program was reported to be doing well. The Vicar invited the parish to attend a New Years Day tea at her home in Sharon. Her letter to the parish inviting all of us will also be her Christmas letter to us.

Committee reports:

--Geoff presented the **Buildings and grounds report**. He noted that the Buildings and Grounds Chair expects to meet with a possible vendor for the roof repair this week, and noted that it was

time for the floodlights in the church to be replaced as three of the bulbs are now out, one of which is broken off in the socket. Pat requested that the Buildings and Grounds chair contact her with regard to a possible electrician to undertake the work who may donate his services. It was added that the light in the narthex is non-functional and that several people have tried to repair it, so it needs an electrician.

--Pastor Heidi reported that **Sunday School's** children's chapel appears to be going well and that she intends to continue it. Also reported at this time was that Beth Ritter-Guth has an ongoing Sierra Leone project that may be of interest to the Sunday School.

--Pastor Heidi noted that the **Worship committee** has not yet met. After discussion, it was concluded that the optimal time to meet would be after church on Sunday. In this connection, she noted that on December 6 she will conduct an Adult Education session after church to speak to the question "Whom are we waiting for?" She noted that she will be conducting Bible study following the 8AM service going forward.

--Pastor Heidi noted that Pat had stepped down as the head of **Outreach**, and that Bill Kellett had agreed to assume the responsibility for getting food collected at Trinity to OWL's Kitchen. Pat suggested that the sports program be expanded to include an inter-church softball tournament in the spring, and indicated an interest in organizing it.

Old business:

--**Candidates for office** for next year: Pastor Heidi reported that Alexis Dorf is willing to replace Roy as Junior Warden for the next year. With Al and Martha's terms on the Vestry expiring, they were charged with identifying replacements and presenting a list of candidates for the Vestry's consideration at the next meeting.

--**Status of prayer books and hymnals:** Jane reported that she has completed her survey of hymnals, prayer books, and Bibles, and noted some pews that need repair. She removed the damaged or worn out books from circulation, and circulated an inventory of each that included memorial bookplates, if any, in each. She will advise the Buildings and Grounds chair of which specific pews require repair. It was suggested that we could solicit memorial donations for replacement books via an announcement in the Order of Service.

--**AA payment status:** Pastor Heidi noted that she had visited one AA meeting. John reported that one payment had been received since the last meeting.

--**Internet access in Vicar's office:** Pastor Heidi indicated that she and Al are working on achieving this.

--**Crescendo** update: Geoff noted that Crescendo had completed two successful concerts and a successful master class. He noted that several of the professionals had remarked about the excellent acoustics at Trinity.

--**First Responder Sunday** in May: Jane noted that there will be an EMT week in May, and that we should have our First Responder Sunday at that time. She will report at the next meeting which week it will be held.

--**Stewardship** program status: John noted that fewer than 10 pledges have been received to date. It was noted that some did not receive the stewardship letter, and Geoff was asked to put a note in the Trinity Update asking that anyone who did not receive it notify the church so one can be provided to them. Pledge ingathering will be held on December 6, so a more complete picture of our financial position for next year should be available for our next meeting.

New business:

--**Christmas bazaar:** Linda reported to the Vestry that Ginny Dildine needs someone to prepare a door prize basket, and that she hopes that all Vestry members will appear at the bazaar and volunteer at least an hour of their time.

--**Adult education:** (see Worship Committee under Committee Reports)

--**Budget additions:** Pastor Heidi inquired whether committee heads customarily submitted budget requests for the coming year. It was determined that this is normally done. In this connection, the Vestry approved a \$50 honorarium for a Vietnamese tenor who will present a solo shortly.

--**Christmas services:** Pastor Heidi announced the following schedule for Christmas services: Advent 4 will include the Christmas Pageant in the 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist. On Christmas eve, there will be a special service for young people at 3 PM that will include carols and a children's homily. At 7 PM the choir will present a short concert, followed at 7:30 PM by Holy Eucharist. On Christmas, there will be one service, at 10 AM, with vocal soloists.

--**IRS resolution:** Inasmuch as the IRS requires an annual resolution passed by the Vestry to specify the portion of the Vicar's compensation that will be handled as a housing allowance, Pat moved, and Al seconded a motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote that the Vestry resolves as follows:

"Resolution of the Vestry meeting of 11/22/09: Whereas the Rev. Heidi Truax is employed as a minister of the Gospel by Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock, CT, which does not provide a residence for her, the vestry resolves that the total compensation of \$40,680.00 to be paid to the Rev. Truax during 2010 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986 as amended,"

December meeting date: Sunday, December 13

Pastor Heidi led the Vestry in a **closing prayer**.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Brown, Clerk