

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry  
Of Trinity Church, January 10, 2010**

Pastor Heidi led the Vestry in an opening prayer. Present were Pat Barton, Bob Reid, Al Dorf, Roy Bickley, the Rev. Heidi Truax, Alexis Dorf, Martha Baer, John Lloyd, Janet Walker, Linda Lloyd, Jane Canfield, and Geoff Brown.

John moved that the minutes of the December meeting be approved as circulated, and Roy seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

John presented the Treasurer's report, which included the restatement requested at the last meeting. Provided for vestry review were full year financials for 2009 as well as a tentative budget for 2010. It was noted that 2009 results, while not entirely complete, indicate that we did better than budget and broke even for the year. Alexis noted that a statement from the custodians of the securities accounts is needed, and John indicated that this is furnished quarterly with one expected shortly. With regard to the \$4M still left unpaid in the Diocesan Assessment, Martha moved that we pay it, and Al seconded the motion which passed by voice vote. The by-laws, which had gone missing, have been located by Alexis and copies were furnished to each vestry member.

After brief discussion, the Vestry concurred that the loose plate offering from Pastor Heidi's installation should be donated ½ to a charity of Bishop Ahrens' choice and ½ to the Cathedral in Honduras.

The budget for 2010 was the next subject. The vestry concurred that the salary of the music director should be increased by 2%. The vestry also concurred that we should increase the amount we pay on the Diocesan assessment by \$1M. Linda moved that the Treasurer's report including the budget for 2010 be approved, Martha seconded the motion, and the report and budget were approved by voice vote.

For the Warden's report, Alexis noted that this year we will be distributing the Annual Report via the website, but will have a few printed copies available at the meeting for the few without internet access. It is hoped that this will not only save money and resources, but also permit parishioners to review the report before the meeting and formulate question. Pastor Heidi thanked Roy for his service as Junior Warden. Roy noted his perception that the parish is better served if the Wardens reside locally and are available during the week.

Pastor Heidi presented the Vicar's report. She noted that the Vestry retreat March 20 at the Salisbury School has been confirmed, with an outside speaker. This retreat will include the vestries of all area Episcopal churches; all participants are to bring a bag lunch. Pastor Heidi reported that she had entertained the Sunday School teachers for lunch, and that she and they have plans for the kids going forward including a bowling trip to Great Barrington, a day helping in a soup kitchen in Torrington, and an overnight visit to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. In addition, Pastor Heidi would like to begin the practice of the young people filling most of the roles in worship one Sunday a month: ushers, readers, etc. Finally, Pastor Heidi noted her interest in being actively involved with Lime Rock Park.

Geoff will contact that organization, advise them that we have new clergy at Trinity, and express her interest in meeting with them to plan for ways she can work with their organization.

Committee reports followed:

--Geoff provided the Buildings and grounds report. He noted that the vendor status for the roof repair has not changed due to one vendor delaying his bid; this will be followed up this week. Thanks were given to Pat for arranging for the lighting in the sanctuary's repair and addition, as well as the improved lighting in the parking lot. Pat noted that the vendor believed that he could improve the lighting in Walker Hall considerably for around \$2500, but this was deferred due to more pressing buildings and grounds issues. Linda noted that John was successful in repairing the vacuum cleaner. Geoff noted that Jeff Silvernale has been working on pew repairs, and Al mentioned that he was aware of some others that were needed; he will advise Judy Brown, Buildings and Grounds Chair, of specific pews needing repair. Geoff noted that the well pressure tank had been replaced on an emergency basis this past week; evidently Jeff Silvernale had repeatedly performed emergency repairs on it previously. Judy Brown was asked to get a quote for eliminating the 80 gallon hot water heater and replacing it with on-demand heating for the two front bathrooms and kitchen (we already have on-demand in the two new bathrooms) as several vestry members believed that the replacement would quickly pay for itself. She was also asked to investigate approaches to lighting the Trinity sign in front of the church and attendant costs. It was noted that the new Trinity sign at Route 7 and Lime Rock Road is now in place. Some discussion ensued regarding placement of signs elsewhere in the area.

--Most of the Sunday School report was included in the Vicar's report, but with regard to the outstanding item of a new bulletin board for the classroom, the suggestion was received that cork strips be used instead.

--Other than the previously plan that the young people conduct parish worship one Sunday a month (except for the clergy and MOC roles), there was no worship report.

--With regard to outreach, Alexis commented on the success of the Christmas gifts for the Cobble residents at Noble Horizons and requested that the Webmaster get the thank you note onto the website. Geoff indicated that he would do so. In response to a question, Pastor Heidi noted that she would shortly begin attempts to pay for a well in Honduras following our rebuff in Africa.

--With regard to Sports, Pat reported that the Salisbury Recreation Commission will lend us bases and bats for the inter-church softball challenge this coming April 24. Various suggestions were received as to how we can make this into a fund raiser for Trinity, and a bake sale or other food concession appeared to have the most support. There was also discussion of the Bishop's 5-K for Kids, which will be held in West Hartford on Saturday, May 15.

Old business:

--Candidates for office: With regard to this topic, the new candidates for parish office were announced. Alexis Dorf will be the new Junior Warden, and Al Swide and Lynn Gaffney will become the Vestry class of 2012.

--Internet access in Vicar's office: Geoff hopes to be able to try a high gain antenna this week.

--First Responder Sunday in May: This event will occur as planned on Sunday, May 16. At Jane's suggestion, Trinity may sponsor a CPR training session one Saturday following First Responder weekend. Sign-ups can be accepted on First Responder Sunday.

--Stewardship program: John reported that we now have in excess of \$108M in pledges, some of which are prepaid. Linda will send a follow-up letter to those who have not yet pledged this week.

-- New ushers: A list of duties for new ushers, prepared last month, has gone missing. It will be replaced shortly.

#### New business:

--It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk send a letter of appreciation to Bishop Smith on the occasion of his retirement.

--With regard to a greater emphasis on renting out meeting space at Trinity, it was proposed to discuss this at the next Vestry meeting.

--Geoff announced that we now have located blueprints for Walker Hall, and Linda noted that blueprints for the new addition have likewise been located. It is Diocesan policy that blueprints be kept in the Diocesan archival vault. Al moved, and Roy seconded a motion that Geoff arrange to transfer these blueprints to that location. The motion passed. With regard to the blueprints for the church itself, it was generally agreed that these have been missing for many years and are not likely to be located.

--Martha raised the issue of the Companion Animal Memorial Garden, on which progress seems to have stalled. She will take charge of accomplishing this following her retirement from the Vestry, attempting to reduce costs and use local trades people as far as possible in the project. The subject of using Reid Field for housing was broached and discussed informally, with the sense being that there were many possible courses of action here ranging from doing absolutely nothing to extensive development. It was the sense of the vestry that opinions within the parish vary widely on the subject, that proceeding with any development of the field requires near unanimous agreement of the parish as well as someone willing to be personally invested in getting the project defined, completed, and then managed.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be Sunday, February 21.

Pastor Heldi led the vestry in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown

Clerk of the Vestry