



## **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on Nov. 27, 2007**

***Our Mission: Following the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the Vestry is called to foster the health of the parish spiritually, physically and financially, in accordance with the Canons of the Church and the Bylaws of this Parish.***

The Vestry and officers met in the Parish Hall for its regular monthly meeting Nov. 27. The meeting was opened with the new Vestry members – Sarah Craig, Sam Davis, Fran Kephart and Bill Pheil – sworn in by the rector. The meeting was called to order by Denise Noll, senior warden, and opened with prayer by Robin Vahle at 6:05 p.m. Dinner was provided by Bob Ash.

***Present (14):*** Janice Gordon-Barnes, rector; Denise Noll, senior warden; Susan Escobedo, junior warden; and Ed Hewitt, registrar; Vestry members Bob Ash, Sarah Craig, Sam Davis, Charlie Franz, Ann Gearhart, Fran Kephart, Al Johnson, Shirley Lindsey, Bill Pheil and Robin Vahle.

***Absent:*** None

There was a quorum for conducting official business.

### **Administration**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the October Vestry meeting and the annual meeting (Oct. 28) were approved as submitted.

#### **Agenda**

With the addition of a discussion of the Outreach funds, the agenda was approved.

#### **December meeting**

The December meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 18, unless the only business we need to conduct is to approve the 2008 budget, in which case we will meet between church services on Dec. 16.

#### **Letter**

A letter from parishioner Cholly Hisle thanked the Vestry for its affirmation of the life and generosity of Margo VerKruzen.

## Extravagant Generosity

### Treasurer's report

Shirley Lindsey discussed the budget through the end of October, which showed us \$16,000 in the black. Still to be paid are pledges of \$1,000 to the Claggett Center and \$1,000 for theological education.

Susan Escobedo said the Episcopal Appalachian Relief fund needs money because of other cutbacks and that she will submit a request to the Christian Responsibility Committee.

### 2008 Budget

Bob Ash distributed a report from Mel Foster detailing the status of the 2008 pledge program. As of Nov. 21 reporting, 127 pledging units (115 renewed and 12 new) had responded for \$275,324; another seven pledges have not been received for an estimated \$9,326.

Of the renewed pledges, 36 percent increased their pledges, 13 percent decreased their pledges, and 51 percent made no change.

Of the pledges received, 39 units pledged under \$999; 35 pledged between \$1,000 and \$1,999; 21 pledged between \$2,000 and \$2,999; and 32 pledged \$3,000 and above.

Bob said the first priority is to break even on the operating budget. An issue is money for replacing the roof in the spring.

There was a discussion around the fact that the budgeted expenses were in excess of pledged revenue, and Bob Ash pointed out that the current cash position in 2007 could be used to balance the budget for 2008.

### Handbell choir director

There was a discussion of creating a salary for the director of the handbell choir. Currently, the choir is led by a professional musician. An annual salary of \$2,600 was suggested.

Because the current director is also a member of the parish, some felt that should be a contribution of her time and talent to the church, the same as other professionals (such as the treasurer) contribute without pay.

It was suggested that the church went "backwards" by getting the handbells before settling the question of a paid director. Shirley Lindsey suggested that we look at the music ministry as a whole. The rector agreed, and she and the Human Resources Committee, and maybe the Worship Committee, will meet and report to the Vestry in January.

**Surplus from budgets**

Some of the surplus from the 2006 budget went toward replacing the boiler this year; some of the surplus of the 2007 budget will go toward replacing the roof in spring 2008.

**DCYM salary**

The salary for the director of children's and youth ministry in 2008 will remain at \$20,000 per year.

**Rent increase**

A motion by Shirley to raise the rent to the Pastoral Counseling Service from \$250 a month to \$275 was approved.

**Budget vote**

The budget for 2008, as amended to include the rent increase for the counseling service, was approved unanimously.

**December meeting**

As a result of that approval, there will be no Vestry meeting in December, unless events require one.

**Rector's housing allowance**

In response to the amount of the Rector's housing allowance, this resolution was approved:

*Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a church-designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and*

*Whereas, the Rev. Janice Gordon-Barnes is compensated by the Church of the Holy Comforter exclusively for the services as a minister of the gospel; and*

*Whereas, the Church of the Holy Comforter does not provide Dr. Gordon-Barnes with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby*

*Resolved, that the total compensation paid to Dr. Gordon-Barnes for calendar year 2008 shall be \$77,800, of which \$30,000 hereby designated to be a housing allowance.*

**Paying bills**

Shirley Lindsey discussed new procedures for submitting bills to be paid and a new list of names with approval authority.

Ed Hewitt led the Vestry in Prayer Two.

## Intentional Faith Development

### *Sunday School*

The rector reported that after talking to parents about the “care and feeding” of the Sunday School that there has been much left undone and therefore much to do in the new year as we search for a new director of children’s and youth ministry.

### *DCYM search*

Bill Boden will be asked to stay on as chairman of the Human Resources Committee as we conduct our search. There will be announcements on our website, the diocesan website and on Craigslist.

### *Discovering God in our daily lives*

Robin Vahle told about a co-worker who is experiencing a lot of guilt in dealing with her daughter . . . The rector spoke of her discussions with two women considering the ministry and how deeply honest they were in the presence of God . . . Ed Hewitt expressed thanksgiving for two successful cataract surgeries on his eyes and for successful surgery for colon cancer for a long-time close friend. He also asked for prayers for a neighbor whose son and husband died within two weeks of each other . . . Bob Ash’s wife, Pat, is recovering and doing well . . . Sarah Craig is happy to have been accepted to the University of Michigan . . . Keith Lusted is not doing well . . . The rector gave thanksgiving for an excellent Vestry retreat Nov. 16-17.

## Passionate Worship

There was a Bible study of Psalm 46 and a recent article in the Vestry Papers.

## Radical Hospitality

### *Junior Warden’s report*

Susan Escobedo reported there is a new projector screen for the Parish Hall . . . Leaf-raking, supported by Bud’s chili, is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 2 . . . Heat for the Parish Hall is still an issue because it is not fully regulated . . . We will defer turning off the gas stove in the kitchen until next year.

### *Vestry suppers*

Members signed up to supply food for Vestry meetings in 2008. (A list appears below.)

**Liaisons**

Denise Noll distributed a list of liaison assignments to the various committees. Vestry members were asked to respond with any changes to Denise in time for the January meeting.

**Vestry goals**

Members were asked to provide feedback to Denise for discussion at the January meeting.

**Risk-Taking Mission****Convention delegate**

Denise Noll will be our delegate to the Diocesan Convention March 29, 2008, when the 14<sup>th</sup> bishop of the Diocese of Maryland will be elected.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. with prayer.

Edward Hewitt  
Registrar

**Food schedule**

<b>January</b>	<b>Ann Gearhart</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Sarah Craig</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Robin Vahle</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Denise Noll</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Susan Escobedo</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Shirley Lindsey</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Al Johnson</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>(usually no meeting)</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Bill Pheil</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Sam Davis</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Charlie Franz</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Fran Kephart</b>