



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY
COMFORTER

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on Jan. 22, 2008

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 Upper Room for its regular monthly meeting Jan. 22. The meeting was called to order by Denise Noll, senior warden, and opened with prayer by Sam Davis at 6:05 p.m. Dinner was provided by Ann Gearhart.

Present (10): Janice Gordon-Barnes, rector; Denise Noll, senior warden; Susan Escobedo, junior warden; and Ed Hewitt, registrar; Vestry members Bob Ash, Sarah Craig, Sam Davis, Ann Gearhart, Shirley Lindsey and Bill Pheil.

Absent: (4): Charlie Franz, Al Johnson, Fran Kephart and Robin Vahle.

There was a quorum for conducting official business.

Administration

Minutes -- The minutes of the November Vestry meeting with the addition of some discussion of the budget were approved.

Liaisons --- Denise Noll called our attention to the list of Vestry liaisons to the church committees and asked that we sign up for the appropriate assignments.

Retreat follow-up – Denise asked us to review the “goals and deliverables” that we had agreed upon at the Vestry retreat in November and to let her know of any changes.

Scanning documents – The rector distributed information about a scanning feature for our office copier that would allow us to store documents by scanning them into a computer file. The cost would be \$17.25 a month, and Janice asked us to consider this at the February meeting.

Letters --- Denise Noll received letters from the Virginia Theological Seminary, thanking us for our donation of \$1,000, and from Helen Fallon, on behalf of ACTC, also thanking us for our contribution from the proceeds of the book and yard sale.

Meeting space --- Ed Hewitt requested that we resume our practice of meeting in the Parish Hall rather than in the cramped quarters of the Upper Room. Currently, the Handel Choir meets on Tuesday night in the hall.

Extravagant Generosity

Finance committee --- Bob Ash said the committee is waiting for the final accounting of the 2007 surplus before meeting to finalize plans for the new roofs. He anticipates the cost of replacing the roofs and the gutters of the church and the chapel at between \$75,000 and \$78,000. Work would begin in the spring.

Bob said the 2008 budget may have a deficit of about \$10-11,000. He said the non-pledge checks may be low, and the plate cash may be lower because the IRS is not accepting cash donations without receipts. However, Bob said we will be able to cover our operating budget.

Bob said he anticipates that the church will have to borrow \$30,000 to pay for the roofs. Susan Escobedo, the junior warden, said there are no more big maintenance or repair issues for this year after the roofs and gutters are done. Lightning rods for the church will cost about \$3,600.

Treasurer's report --- Shirley Lindsey, who had already distributed several end-of-year financial reports, said that interest on our CDs was good in 2007 and that extra cash would likely go toward paying for the new roofs.

Questions were raised about the Endowment Fund, and Laura Wiesler will be asked to report to the Vestry.

Congratulations were offered to Shirley for a "fabulous job" in her comprehensive reports.

Jill Roach --- The church's administrative assistant, Jill Roach, has asked that the church pay for her medical insurance. Denise Noll and Ed Hewitt, members of the Human Resources Committee, reported that when Jill was hired a little more than a year ago, she was told that there was a lump sum payment for that position and that she could divvy up the funds in any way she wished, among salary, medical insurance or pension. For 2008, that lump sum payment has been increased, and she again has the choice of how she will receive it. The Vestry concurred with this policy, and the HR committee will report the decision to Jill.

Handbells director --- There was discussion of whether to compensate Kathy Shannahan for directing the new handbells choir. One position was that as a member of the parish, she might contribute her skills and talents to the choir, just as other parishioners give of their special abilities without financial compensation. Another position was that this was a professional position and that she was entitled to be paid.

On the recommendation of the rector, the Vestry voted to pay Kathy \$2,600 a year for directing the handbells choir and for assisting Dean Krieger on occasion during services. The money this year will come from memorial funds. If Kathy conducts the choir and plays the organ during a service in Dean's absence, she will be paid additionally from the budget item of "music supply."

Shirley Lindsey will determine if Kathy will be paid as a W-2 employee (requiring a FICA contribution from the church and the employee) or as a 1099 contractor.

Passionate Worship

There was a Bible study of Psalm 27.

Pastoral concerns, intercessions --- Peg Smith and Ginnie Phipps had successful surgeries . . . Keith Lusted continues to be up and down . . . Marty Hartman is doing well after some heart problems . . . The rector asked for prayers for safe travel for the 10 parishioners who are traveling to Pearlinton, Miss., to help with construction of houses for Katrina victims. In addition to the rector, those volunteering are Susan Escobedo, Linda Snyder, Tom and Bev Simpson, Richard Taylor, Pat Middleton and her sister Sharon, Nancy Fenton and Gwen Spicer.

Ann Gearhart led us in prayer.

Intentional Faith Development

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries --- Ed Hewitt, a member of the Human Resources Committee, reported that currently we have two candidates for the position, and that they will be interviewed that week.

The rector, who has taken on the responsibilities of the DCYM in the interim, said she has been working very hard, especially by keeping in contact with the parents and teachers.

Radical Hospitality

Junior Warden's report --- Susan Escobedo said there was a report of the smell of gas in the kitchen. She said the stove was inspected and that it is fine. The pilot light is always on, and there is a residual smell. Baltimore County regulations allow us to use the stove for our use only; outside groups, such as the Lutherville Garden Club, may not use the stove.

Risk-Taking Mission

Outreach --- Ann Gearhart reported on the various activities of the Outreach Committee (or the also-named Christian Responsibility Committee). The ACTC, the Episcopal Appalachian mission and the trip to Pearlington are beneficiaries. Ann told of a CHC group's recent visit to Sara's Hope. The group plans to go once a month to provide dinner for as many as 150 women, children and men. Almost 90 churches in the area support Sara's Hope.

There is an historical tour in Lutherville in October of homes and buildings, and the committee will inquire about getting our chapel on the tour.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m. with prayer.

Edward Hewitt
Registrar

Food schedule

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