



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on Feb. 26, 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 Parish Hall for its regular monthly meeting Feb. 26. The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. with prayers by the rector and by the Rt. Rev. John Rabb, bishop of Maryland. Dinner was provided by Sarah Craig.

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, Al Johnson, Fran Kephart, Shirley Lindsey, Bill Pheil and Robin Vahle.

Absent: None.

Guest: The Rt. Rev. John Rabb, bishop of Maryland.

There was a quorum for conducting official business.

Administration

Minutes -- The minutes of the November Vestry meeting, with the addition of two minor adjustments, were approved.

Agenda --- The agenda, with the removal of discussion of scanning software, was approved.

Liaisons --- Denise Noll called our attention to the list of Vestry liaisons to the church committees and said there are some assignments that still need to be filled.

Vestry Goals ---

Radical Hospitality: Robin Vahle said a Newcomers Program is likely to be held in June . . . Bob Ash is working on a Parish Retreat in late October.

Passionate Worship : Fran Kephart will ask the Church of the Redeemer how its alternative service, Faith at Five on Saturdays, is doing.

Risk-taking mission: Our visits to Sarah's Hope and our trips (four in three years) to the Gulf Coast to work with victims of Katrina will be added to our list of mission projects.

Extravagant Generosity: Ann Gearhart reported that a book sale will be held in early June. It was agreed that the Vestry should decide in May where the proceeds will go . . . Susan Escobedo said that any work on the kitchen at the parsonage will be delayed until 2009. She also said that when the Ladders vacate the property (no date has been established), some work, such as remodeling the kitchen and painting, will be required. Plumbing in the house appears to be fine.

Administration: The rector commended the Human Resources Committee for its work on finding a new Director of Religious Education. (Ann Rowe starts March 1.) . . . There was discussion of a succession plan for the rector's position, although there was no indication that such a time is imminent. Bishop Rabb commented that it is good for a vestry and a parish to be able to think and talk about such a succession plan, saying that it actually brings less anxiety . . . The rector asked that at the May meeting we present names of people interested in serving on the Vestry and various parish committees.

Extravagant Generosity

Finance committee --- Bob Ash said that Pete Hartman, who is leading the project to replace the roofs and gutters on the church and the chapel, has met with contractors and has found a new vendor who may charge about \$10,000 less than the others. This would put the cost at about \$65,000. About one-third of the cost would be due when work begins in March; the remainder would be due at completion in late April or early May.

Treasurer's report --- Shirley Lindsey had previously distributed several financial reports, which all appreciated even if all didn't understand them. The only item of concern was that pledges were almost \$6,000 under budget for January.

Passionate Worship

There was a Bible study of Ephesians 5:8-14.

Robin Vahle led us in a prayer of intercessions and thanksgiving.

Intentional Faith Development

New DRE --- The rector announced that Ann Rowe will become our new director of religious education (formerly the director of childrens and youth ministries) on March 1. Ann feels really called to do this and is excited about this opportunity. The rector has formed a Christian Education Committee to help and mentor Ann in the various activities. Initially, Ann will focus on the Sunday school.

Radical Hospitality

Lutherville tour --- The Historic Lutherville Tour will be Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and our chapel and church will be part of it.

Junior Warden's report --- Susan Escobedo reported a problem with the furnace at the parsonage (first, it was too cold, then it was too hot), but that all is well now . . . Susan said she has tried with no success to contact the new owners of the house behind the church to discuss the big tree that hangs over the parking lot behind the chapel. Two very large branches have already fallen down, and should another branch fall on a person or a car in the lot, it would be the responsibility of the homeowner . . . A new locking system for the back door is under discussion.

Risk-Taking Mission

Al Johnson reported that the needs at Assistance Center of Towson Churches are "tremendous," according to Helen Fallon, our representative.

Bishop's comments

The Rt. Rev. John Rabb offered his affection and respect for the congregation of the Church of the Holy Comforter and for our rector, Janice Gordon-Barnes. He said he enjoyed his annual visit to our parish on Jan. 27. He liked the goals the Vestry has established and said he is very pleased with what is going on at Holy Comforter. "Well done," he said. The bishop said he will be having surgery, probably in April, and he asked for our prayers.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m. with prayer by Charlie Franz.

Edward Hewitt
Registrar

Food schedule

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