



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY
COMFORTER

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on March 25, 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 March 28. The meeting was opened at 6:07 p.m. by the rector with a prayer by Sam Davis. Dinner was provided by Robin Vahle.

Present (11): Janice Gordon-Barnes, rector; Denise Noll, senior warden; Susan Escobedo, junior warden; and Ed Hewitt, registrar; Vestry members Sam Davis, Charlie Franz, Ann Gearhart, Al Johnson, Shirley Lindsey, Bill Pheil and Robin Vahle.

Absent: (3) Bob Ash, Sarah Craig and Fran Kephart.

Guest: Pete Hartman

There was a quorum for conducting official business.

Minutes -- The minutes of the February Vestry meeting, with the addition of one minor adjustment, were approved.

Agenda --- The agenda was approved.

Administration

Parochial report --- The parochial report, as required by the Diocese of Maryland, was approved and signed by the rector, the treasurer and the registrar.

Annual meeting --- Because of a conflict with the planned Parish Weekend, the annual meeting will be held Oct. 19, rather than its usual date of the fourth Sunday in October.

Martie Johnson --- All Vestry members signed the certificate of approval for the ordination of Martie Johnson into the Diaconate in the Diocese of Maryland.

Interim registrar --- Robin Vahle volunteered to fill in during May and June for registrar Ed Hewitt, who will be traveling out of state.

Protecting records --- At the request of the rector, Sam Davis reported that the parish needs to safeguard the official records of the church, such as births, marriages, deaths and burials, in addition to architectural drawings of the church and parish legal documents.

After discussion of several options, a motion was made and approved to purchase a fireproof safe to hold the critical documents. A Sentry safe with a capacity of 3 cubic feet, at a size of 28"x22"x21", can be acquired for \$350. Also approved was the purchase of a flat bed scanner for \$150 to accommodate scanning pictures and other items into church bulletins and monthly communications.

Extravagant Generosity

New roofs --- Pete Hartman reported on the need to replace the roofs of the church and the chapel. We are no longer losing single shingles, but whole sections. The current roof has lasted 21 years on a 25-year warranty shingle.

Pete received four bids, ranging from \$65,000 to \$132,150. The low bid, from Turner Roofing, offers a 50-year warranty on the shingles and two years on labor. The work would start on the two steeples and proceed to the chapel and church. The job would take about two weeks, depending on the weather.

Lightning rods for the chapel and church will cost between \$3,000 and \$6,000.

We have \$25,000 in the building reserve fund. We will need to borrow the remainder, and the proposal is to do this from the church's Endowment Fund.

A motion to borrow \$40,000 from the Endowment Fund was approved.

A second motion to replay this loan within a year at the market rate of interest was approved.

A presentation of this need will be made to the congregation in late April, with the goal of raising the money by September. Pete pointed out that over

the last 25 years, the parish has responded to the improvements needs of the church by contributing almost \$1 million. This included such projects as parish hall renovations; the re-wiring, carpet replacement and A/C and heating of the chapel; the lighting, sound system, carpet replacement and A/C of the church; the stained glass window repair and restoration in the church and chapel; the Open Doors Campaign; the replacement of the boiler and the roofs; and the addition of the handbells.

A subcommittee of Pete, Charlie Franz and Shirley Lindsey will oversee the project.

Book sale --- Suggestions from the book sale committee on the distribution of proceeds will be presented to the Vestry in April for approval.

Treasurer's report --- Shirley Lindsey presented a new financial report, the Profit & Loss Budget Performance, which was received with appreciation on its clarity and utility.

March's operating income reduced the January-February deficit by half.

Intentional Faith Development

Lenten programs --- Good reactions were received about the five Wednesday evening programs during Lent.

Passionate Worship

There was a discussion on how we can be more aware of discovering Christ in our daily lives.

There was a prayer for these concerns, intercessions and thanksgivings: for Fran Kephart, whose sister died . . . for Denise Noll's cousin . . . for Gerry Vahle, whose uncle died at age 96 . . . for Sam Davis' cousin, 86, who was hit by a car in Austin, Texas . . . for Bill Pheil's daughter's father-in-law, who is improving . . . for Keith Vahle, dealing with an intestinal blockage . . . for Kathy Shannahan, who broke her wrist, yet played the organ at the Easter services.

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 between noon and 4 p.m. Ann Gearhart is spearheading our involvement. She would like Vestry members to be present during the afternoon.

Church history --- Braxton Mitchell, the church historian, is writing a history of Holy Comforter, which might be printed and sold. Further discussion will be held at the April meeting.

Junior Warden's report --- Susan Escobedo reported that a tree fell at the parsonage . . . Shingles on the church roof were replaced.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. with prayer by Bill Pheil.

Edward Hewitt
Registrar

Food schedule

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