



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY
COMFORTER

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on April 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 Parish Hall for its regular monthly meeting April 22. The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. by a prayer from the rector. Dinner was provided by Denise Noll.

Present (10): Janice Gordon-Barnes, rector; Denise Noll, senior warden; Susan Escobedo, junior warden; and Ed Hewitt, registrar; Vestry members Sarah Craig, Sam Davis, Charlie Franz, Al Johnson, Shirley Lindsey and Robin Vahle.

Absent (4): Bob Ash, Ann Gearhart, Fran Kephart and Bill Pheil.

There was a quorum for conducting official business.

Minutes -- The minutes of the March Vestry meeting were approved.

Agenda --- The agenda was approved with the addition of two items – the newcomers' incorporation and supper and discussion of this year's Vestry retreat.

Radical Hospitality

Church History --- Braxton Mitchell is writing a history of Holy Comforter, and there was discussion of how many copies should be printed, how many we might sell and what we should charge. It was decided that we should order 500 copies and sell each for \$7.50. To print 500 copies, there is a \$500 cost for the layout and design and shipping, and a fee of \$2.50 per copy for a total cost of \$1,750. We will have to sell 250 copies to cover our costs.

Church Club tour --- The Church Club will be leading a tour of area churches. This year the tour is May 10, and Holy Comforter is included. Braxton Mitchell will be asked to be the "tour guide" that day from 9 to 9:45 a.m.

Book Sale --- The book sale will be held June 8-14 with the book drop-off June 1-7. The committee, headed by Ann Gearhart, suggested some recipients for the proceeds. The Vestry will make its decision at the May meeting.

Lutherville tour --- The annual Historic Lutherville Tour will be Saturday, Oct. 4. Our church will be on the tour from noon to 4 p.m.

Newcomers --- Another incorporation service on Sunday, June 22 after a supper the previous night will be held for new members. The last such service and supper was held in June 2007. Robin Vahle will head the planning committee. The rector said that about 10 families have joined the church in the last year.

Vestry retreat --- Our annual retreat will be either Oct. 31-Nov. 1 or Nov. 7-8. Denise Noll will inquire about either the Claggett Center outside Frederick, Md. (site of the 2007 retreat) or the College of Preachers at the National Cathedral in Washington (site of the 2006 retreat).

Extravaqant Generosity

Treasurer's report --- Charlie Franz reported that the pledge collections for January and February were under budget, but the amount for March was over budget. Year to date, pledge collections are 3.8 percent under budget.

Total income is up 1.6 percent for the first quarter. The 2008 budget called for an increase in the monthly rent we charge the Pastoral Counseling service. The rent was to go from \$250 to \$275 a month, but no one notified the counseling service of the change. Shirley Lindsey will so notify the service of the increase, effective June 1.

Charlie said that we are holding the line on expenses, which are slightly under budget for the year.

New roofs --- Charlie also reported on replacing the roofs of the church and the chapel. Of the cost of \$65,000, we have paid a deposit of \$20,000 from existing church funds and have \$5,000 on hand. The remaining \$40,000 will be paid through a loan from our endowment fund.

Pete Hartman, who is heading the project, explained the need and the cost to parishioners at both services on April 20. Already, \$8,900 has been raised, the result of one very significant donation and the contributions of Vestry members. Pete will report periodically to the parish on the campaign. We hope to have all pledges in by Sept. 1.

One parishioner has agreed to pay for lightning rods for both buildings and the office area, at a cost of \$3,500.

Risk-Taking Mission

The rector said that Sarah's Hope, a shelter for families, is our primary focus right now.

Al Johnson continued our meeting with a prayer.

Administration

Junior Warden's report --- Susan Escobedo reported that all of the replacement windows have been installed in the parsonage . . . that hornets have been discovered in the chapel's steeple and that the roofing people have sprayed and will spray again . . . and that she is asking Vestry members to help her weed the property on June 7.

Secretary --- Our search for a new church secretary, conducted by the Human Resources Committee, resulted in 16 applications. The committee met with two candidates, and later the rector interviewed the two. A job offer was made to one of the candidates, and we await a response.

Paying parishioners --- The rector suggested that we need a policy addressing payment to parishioners, who take on extraordinary tasks or ministries at the church. Denise Noll, the senior warden, offered to write such a policy and to present it to the Vestry at the May meeting.

Intentional Faith Development

There was a discussion on how we can be more aware of discovering Christ in our daily lives through everyday objects and experiences.

Passionate Worship

There were these concerns, intercessions and thanksgivings: for Fran Kephart, who broke her wrist . . . Ann Gearhart, suffering from bronchial infection . . . Cindy Parks, who had gallbladder surgery . . . a celebration June 15 of the 50th anniversary of Herb Lodder's ordination . . . for Robin Vahle's colleague, whose son, in his 20s, was killed in Baltimore City . . . for safe travel for Sam and Carol Davis (traveling to Germany), for Ed Hewitt (traveling around the country and Canada for six weeks), for Denise Noll (to Myrtle Beach) and Susan Escobedo (to Oklahoma) . . . for Robin and Gerry Vahle being able to attend his aunt's 90th birthday celebration in Missouri . . . for Sarah Craig's friend, Alexis, who has been in and out of the hospital with an immune system problem that is baffling her

doctors . . . for Paulette Spriggs . . . and for the May 22 seminary graduation of Martie Johnson.

Also, prayers were asked for the worship committee, which at its last meeting discussed offering different types of services, such as contemporary or modern. The rector is willing to do this if people who are interested in such an alternative service are willing to be involved in the planning and execution. One parishioner has ideas for a different approach, and a brain-storming meeting has been scheduled.

The meeting was closed at 7:59 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

Edward Hewitt
Registrar

Food schedule

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