



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on May 27, 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 May 27. The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. Dinner was provided by Susan Escobedo.

***Present (11):* Janice Gordon-Barnes, rector; Denise Noll, senior warden; Susan Escobedo, junior warden; Vestry members: Bob Ash, Sam Davis, Charlie Franz, Al Johnson, Shirley Lindsey, Fran Kephart, Bill Pheil and Robin Vahle.**

***Absent (3):* Ann Gearhart, Ed Hewitt, Sarah Craig**

There was a quorum for conducting official business.

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

Agenda --- The agenda was approved with the addition of several items – open plate collection, deacon’s reception, D&O Insurance, Safe Church Program.

Radical Hospitality

Church History --- Braxton Mitchell’s history of Holy Comforter has been edited and is with the publisher.

Book Sale --- The book sale will be held June 8-14 with the book drop-off June 1-7. No discussion was held regarding the recipients of the proceeds. Theology books donated by BettyAnn C. – need to be reviewed for appropriateness by our clergy for our library – rest will be donated for book sale.

Newcomers --- The incorporation service has been rescheduled for Sunday July 20th with a supper to be held 7/19/08 the previous night to celebrate our new members. There will be a planning meeting on 6/11/08 (Robin Vahle will send out an email invitation. Sam Davis reminded Robin to include Carol in the invitation for the planning meeting.

Vestry weeding day --- Please plan to join the Jr. Warden in weeding on 6/7/08 10am-12noon – lunch will be provided.

Extravagant Generosity

Treasurer's report --- Charlie Franz reported that the pledge collections continue to be under expected by approximately \$8,000. Mel Foster has weighed in that this is most likely a timing issue.

Expenses for benevolences and office supplies and equipment are timing issues as well.

Charlie said that we are overall looking good regarding budget performance but need to continue to be vigilant in watching expenses.

Reception for Diaconate --- Al Johnson generously has stated that he will provide the \$275.00 contribution expected from CHC to the reception for the ordained deacons on 6/14/08

Symbols of office for our new Bishop --- The rector was asked to check with the vestry to approve a \$200.00 contribution for the diocese towards the purchase the symbols of office for our new bishop. A member of the vestry has graciously provided this funding.

Vestry gift for Martie Johnson --- A gift has been purchased to present to Martie on her ordination to the diaconate. She will be reading the gospel here at CHC at Herb's celebration of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the diaconate the day after her own ordination.

Reception for Herb --- Funding for the reception to celebrate Herb's 50th anniversary of his ordination will come from the reception budget. This budget item will also be used for the Pentecost celebration costs, and the funding for reception for the deaconate ordination on 6/14/08. Herb has requested no gifts.

Tickets to the Consecration --- Additional tickets are available for the celebration of the consecration of the new bishop of the Maryland diocese. Sam and Carol Davis have requested tickets.

Open Plate Collections --- Discussion around the purpose of open plate collections which are held in some parishes to focus on charitable giving. Charitable giving in CHC is a line item in the budget and in addition we request gifts from the church community to support Episcopal Relief and Development, community members who may have experienced a loss (i.e., recent fire in the neighborhood), and other emergency needs.

Risk-Taking Mission

Sara's Hope --- Effective 6/30/08 Baltimore County has terminated the contract with St Vincent De Paul to provide assistance with meals and an overnight shelter at Sara's Hope. Over 150 churches had supported this mission that often served 100 people daily. There is an organization that will be attempting to fill the remaining months of the contract. St Vincent De Paul is looking for another location and hopes to be able to fulfill their mission in another setting. Many of our church members and parishioners at other churches had become involved in this mission and had found this an effective way to give back to those less fortunate in a hands on fashion. The rector requests that the Vestry hold this much needed mission in prayer.

CROP Walk --- Lutherville Ecumenical Group of Saints and Sinners has scheduled a crop walk for 10/5/08. Each congregation needs to provide a coordinator for this project. CROP = Christian Relief Overseas Mission Project – Church World Services. Funds raise are split 25% to ACTC and 75% to CROP. Recommendation to approach Alan and Will Shaw. The next planning meeting is 6/10/08 at 6:30 pm.

The rector continued our meeting with a prayer.

Administration

Junior Warden's report --- Susan Escobedo reported that a numbered key lock will be installed on the back door of the parish hall as this door is too frequently left unlocked. A large tree branch came down several weeks ago and further planned tree pruning has been arranged to minimize any risk to the buildings. All of the replacement windows have been installed in the parsonage . . . 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.

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 at 3.48%.

Most of the roofing work has been completed but there are some issues that require the contractor to correct. The snowguards have been installed incorrectly, nails are protruding into the ceiling of the church through the roof, and wrong color caulk has been used. Pete Hartman has been diligent in his supervision of this project. He has communicated to the contractor the issues in a 5 page letter. CHC is withholding a substantial sum of money until this project is completed to our satisfaction.

So far contributions for repayment of the \$40,000 Endowment Loan at 3.8%, have been approximately \$20,000. The average gift has been \$280.00 with one large gift of \$6,500. We will pay back a lump sum of up to \$15,000+/- for June to the Endowment Fund leaving a contribution balance of about \$5,000 for future monthly payments, should collections slow down.

This is a conservative approach that the Vestry members felt was reasonable. We will continue to make monthly payments, per our payment schedule, and make additional large payments as cash flow allows until all borrowed funds are paid back, which is expected to be less than one year. This will reduce interest costs to CHC and allow the Endowment Fund to reinvest the paid back funds as quickly as possible.

The Vestry approved Pete sending an update and thank you letter to current contributors with a reminder update to non contributors as to where we stand in the fund raising for this effort.

The Vestry has approved a vote of thanks to Pete for his work on this and so many other projects. Robin will draft a letter for review by the rector and we will hope to have signatures from all of the Vestry by the next meeting.

Lightning Rods ---Sam Davis reports that the lightning rods should be installed 6/16-6/17/08. One of the lightning rods was broken on the sanctuary during the roof installation. The replacement of that rod will be charged to the roofing company. Still researching how to safely get this contractor to work on the steeple of the chapel and install a lightning rod there. It will be important to check that the circuit is complete for all of the lightning rods.

Secretary --- Janice Heilman, our new administrative assistant, will be starting on 6/9/08. Janice is an experienced para-legal who has retired from working for a judge in Pennsylvania. Barbara Jean will be working with Janice for 1 week to orient her to the office. BJ also has completed an update to the administrative manual. A big thank you to the HR Committee.

Paying parishioners --- Denise Noll circulated a proposed draft of a policy regarding the compensation of parishioners who take on extraordinary tasks or ministries at the church. The Vestry members will review and provide comments back to Denise for finalization at the June meeting.

Nominating Committee --- Bob Ash has agreed to chair the nominating committee for Vestry members. Shirley Lindsey has agreed to stand for re-appointment. Bob Ash has completed 2 – 3 year terms and Al Johnson will no longer be on the Vestry as Martie will be moving to a diaconate position. Bob anticipates having the names to the rector by the end of August. Bob requests that recommended names be given to him as soon as possible. Two names submitted to Bob tonight.

Mac Manning has volunteered to be the Youth Representative. Shirley has agreed to stand as Mac's Vestry mentor.

Safe Church --- This program is a three hour program designed to ensure that clergy and others working with youth are aware of the signs of abuse of children and cognizant of their own behaviors when working with young people.

D&O Insurance --- Director and Officer Insurance provides for liability insurance for directors and officers serving the church.

Intentional Faith Development

The rector had to leave to return to Good Samaritan Hospital to check on the condition (and hopefully the admission of Betty Schmuck) consequently this discussion was tabled until June.

Passionate Worship

There were these concerns, intercessions and thanksgivings: For those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and continue to serve in our military; for Pat Ash's brother who had serious spinal surgery today; for Betty Schmuck as she faces another admission to the hospital; for Betsy Barclay whose condition while stable is still fragile and whose spirits are low; for Jen Otero's father-in-law's recovery; for safe travel for Sam and Carol, Susan and Joe, Ed Hewitt and his friend on their cross country journey; in celebration of the graduation of Sarah Craig, Ryan Fish, Ann Sokolow from high school; for Martie's graduation from seminary.

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 7:40 p.m. with the prayer.

There are a number of people out of town for the June 24th meeting. Denise will talk with the rector about rescheduling the June meeting.

Robin Vahle for Edward Hewitt
Registrar

Food schedule

June	Shirley Lindsey
July	Al Johnson
August	(usually no meeting)
September	Bill Pheil
October	Sam Davis
November	Charlie Franz
December	Fran Kephart