

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES November 8, 2005

Attendees: Fr. Mike Billingsley, Janet Moorman, Ruth Warner, Phil Robidoux, Jay Jacobson, Chris Estey, Sue Ramsley, Peter Dittman, Ralph Edwards, John Diercks

Absent: Susan Cholakis

Vestry Business:

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in opening prayer.
2. Stone Wall Rehabilitation Project – Tyler Wilson made a presentation on his scout project to rebuild St. Paul's stone wall. He showed before and after photos of the wall. All vestry members present agreed that the wall looks wonderful and thanked him for his hard work. He gave the vestry a copy of his report to the scout troop committee.
3. October Meeting Minutes – The October meeting minutes were voted on and unanimously approved by the Vestry.
4. Hospitality – Ruth Warner reported that the October rummage sale brought in over \$1,000. Also, she conveyed that the Halloween party was also a success. Over 20 children were in attendance and had a wonderful time.
5. Property – There were no property items to report on from October.
6. Sunday School – Chris Estey is going bowling with the Rite 13 class next Sunday. Teachers are still needed. Fr. Mike and Jennifer Timpany have volunteered to help out. The Rite 13 classes will now be held on Sunday nights.
7. Fundraisers - There were no fundraiser items to report on from October.
8. Financial – Phil Robidoux reported:
 - St. Paul's is now current on all outstanding bills.
 - There has been a significant increase in the rate of offertory donations.
 - The rate of pledge collections is now back on track with the projected budget rate.
 - Susan Cholakis is having surgery and Phil will be handling the receivables and payables during her absence.
9. Stewardship – Chris Estey and John Diercks will distribute the pledge forms by email, and have hard copies available at church. November 20 is scheduled for

“Pledge Sunday”. A finance meeting was held in October and the projected 2006 budget was discussed.

10. Communications Grant – Jay Jacobson passed around a sample newcomers welcome package for the vestry to see. 30 packages have been made to distribute to newcomers and visitors. More will be made when the 2006 vestry is in place. The vestry expressed their appreciation of his work on the packets.
11. Outreach –Ralph Edwards will be making the Serenity House deliveries from St. Paul’s. They currently have a need for pillows, pillowcases and warm jackets.
12. Old Business – Phil Robidoux received the final loan payment from Fr. Admire Cleeve and will now be able to send St. Paul’s final commitment to his pension fund.
13. New Business – The following new business was discussed:
 - Phil Robidoux suggested that the vestry write a letter of thanks to Bishop Cederholm for his help with the clergy assignment resolution. Jay Jacobson will write the letter.
 - Janet Moorman asked Jay Jacobson to write a letter of thanks to Tyler Wilson for his hard work.
 - The nominating committee for the 2006 vestry needs to be formed. Fr. Mike suggested to address the 2 Warden positions and see what other vestry positions need to be filled as a result/or in conjunction.
 - The December vestry meeting will be Janet Moorman’s last as she is moving to warm and sunny Florida. The vestry acknowledged the great loss St. Paul’s will feel as a result of her moving.
14. Fr. Mike’s Report – Fr. Mike discussed the following items:
 - He gave a summary of the 2 day diocesan convention which he and Frank Chase attended. He thought that it was one of the best he has experienced. The diocese is spending 20% of their budget on the parishes.
 - Most of his time expended has been on meetings. He has attended the diocesan convention, a fresh start meeting, a deanery meeting, a clergy conference and has made numerous visitations and interviews with parishoners. Fr. Mike finds the lack of office time difficult.
 - The parishoner interviews have been slowing down, and the next step in the healing process is nearly here. He has found nothing but good intentions with the parishoners he has spoken with and feels confident that redemption and reconciliation is likely.

- Fr. Mike has found that the membership data for the parochial report is not up to date. Ruth Warner is working with him on it to get an updated and accurate member list to work with. Bishop Cederholm has said that we need to get a good member count to start with and continue keeping the record current and file timely parochial reports.
 - Fr. Mike discussed what is needed to become a welcoming family. There are 2 significant parts:
 1. *Greeting* – This is a “gate keeper”. There needs to be a person who enjoys meeting people and is good with names and introducing people around. We need to identify these people and get them in place on Sundays.
 2. *Enfolding* – This has 2 parts. The first is at coffee hour where we should not jump on people so to say but do bring them into the fold. The second is to bring newcomers into our family by letting them do things and not doing everything yourself. Entrust them with responsibilities.
15. Closing Prayer – Fr. Mike led the vestry in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.