

## VESTRY MEETING MINUTES October 5, 2005

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

**Absent:** none

### **Vestry Business:**

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in opening prayer.
2. Letter of Agreement –The letter of agreement between Fr. Mike and St. Paul’s was distributed for review. Fr. Mike discussed the highlights of the agreement, pointing out the differences between a Rector and a Priest-in-Residence. The main differences are in the responsibilities and the relationship with the vestry. Typically a Rector presides over the vestry meeting, and with an Interim Rector, the Senior Warden presides over the meeting. A Priest-in-Residence is between these two positions, so Fr. Mike asked the vestry which is preferable. The general feeling was neutral with a slight preference towards the Senior Warden. It was decided that the Senior Warden with therefore preside over the vestry meetings.

The letter of agreement was unanimously approved and signed by Fr. Mike and the required vestry officers. Jay Jacobson will mail 2 signed copies to the Diocese.

3. September Meeting Minutes – The September meeting minutes were voted on and unanimously approved by the Vestry.
4. Sunday School – We are still short 4 teachers. There has been no change in status from last month. Chris Estey emphasized that we need to resolve the J2A teacher situation or it will likely have an impact on parish membership.
5. Property – Ruth Warner reported on the following property items from September:
  - Ida called and reported a broken fence. Ruth checked it out and the gate was completely knocked down. Jim Warner repaired it. Ida agreed to keep watch on it to try to avoid the children riding their bikes into it and damaging it.
  - Jim Warner replaced a faulty light socket in the narthex. The wire was found to be very brittle. He will check the other light sockets in the narthex as a result.
  - Ruth will put plastic on the high windows in the parish hall to insulate for the winter.
  - The parish hall was rented twice in September.

6. Hospitality – Vicki Jacobson and Ruth Warner plan to do a Halloween party for the St. Paul's youth. It will be held the Saturday night before Halloween. They will involve the children in the party decorating as much as possible.

The Pot Luck dinner will be held on October 15 at 6:00 pm. Fr. Mike will speak a few minutes on growing St. Paul's and the direction we are heading.

7. Financial – Phil Robidoux and Susan Cholakis reported:
  - We will need to switch to different financial software as the current one is not working as needed.
  - There has been an increase in the rate of offertory donations.
  - The rate of pledge collections is running behind the projected budget rate.
8. Communications Grant – The communications grant work was suspended until Fr. Mike started at St. Paul's in order to involve him in the process. It will commence again in October.
9. Outreach – Ruth Warner needs a volunteer to bring clothes twice a month to Serenity House. Ralph Edwards volunteered to do this.

The vestry voted and unanimously approved that the giving tree used for St. Nicholas Day be from Project Just Because.

10. Fundraisers – The rummage sale is scheduled for October 22. The September golf tournament raised \$3,600 for Project Just Because and \$1,100 for St. Paul's.
11. Services – Fr. Mike reported that in the past, the attendance numbers for the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Rite 1 Eucharist has been dismal. He proposes the following schedule for St. Paul's services:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month be 10:00 a.m. Rite 2 Eucharist.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month be 10:00 a.m. Rite 1 Eucharist
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (once a quarter) be Morning Prayer Rite 2 Service with a sermon and no communion.

When attendance numbers increase significantly, if desired we can add the 8:00 a.m. service again. The quarterly Morning Prayer service will provide both variety and the opportunity for the LEM's to become adept at leading this service so that St. Paul's can save funds when Fr. Mike schedules his time off. I.E., we can avoid hiring supply clergy for a service when he is on vacation or sick.

The vestry voted on and unanimously approved Fr. Mike's proposed plan for Sunday services.

12. New Business discussed:

- The vestry voted on and unanimously approved that Fr. Mike's entire 2005 salary be put toward his housing allowance.
- The 2006 working budget needs to be put together for the upcoming stewardship drive. November 20<sup>th</sup> was chosen to be scheduled for "Pledge Sunday" (previously called Commitment Sunday).
- The vestry proposed holding a welcome brunch on November 6<sup>th</sup> for Fr. Mike and Judy Billingsley. The budget will come from the communications grant as there are funds for 2 catered events, including newspaper advertising.
- Susan Cholakis is having knee replacement surgery the end of October/beginning of November. There will be at least a 6 week period of initial recovery.

13. Fr. Mike's Report – Fr. Mike discussed his plan to help St. Paul's come to grips with the recent unpleasant events and to grow the parish. In general, his plan includes meeting with people individually and hearing their side of the story. Then he will meet with groups and have them tell the story together. A person will be commissioned to write the story down as part of the "history of St. Paul's". The goal is to take what has happened and make it parish history so it does not dominate our present. Wounds will not heal if they are not acknowledged. This is a 3-6 month process.

Fr. Mike presented and discussed the models of a family type parish and a pastoral type parish. The program and corporate type parish models do not apply to us at the present and will not be discussed now. The models presented included discussions on how the clergy, church "pillars" and the congregation fit in and interact.

Fr. Mike suggested that the vestry set measuring goals for the remainder of 2005 and for 2006. At the next vestry meeting, we will begin to discuss these goals.

Fr. Mike explained that he is our partner and that when his time as Priest-in-Residence is complete, we should be ready to call a Priest-in-Charge or an Interim Rector.

14. Closing Prayer – Fr. Mike led the vestry in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.