

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2006

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

Absent: Susan Cholakis

Vestry Business:

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in opening prayer.
2. December Meeting Minutes – The December meeting minutes were voted on and unanimously approved by the Vestry. Several grammatical corrections will be made for the final copy.
3. Sunday School – Ruth Warner reported that the Epiphany Pageant rehearsal held on 12/31/05 went well. There was a strong turnout of children.
4. Property – Ruth Warner reported on the following property items:
 - Jim Warner is continuing to install insulating plastic over the drafty high windows in the parish hall.
 - The ceiling in the office is showing increased signs of bowing. The flat roof above is problematic. The vestry discussed the option of periodic shoveling of snow off the flat roof. The final decision was not to do this since the roof would be easily damaged by a snow shovel, and this would likely cause further problems. The vestry voiced the strong opinion that Ruth should not go onto the roof any further for safety's sake. John Diercks suggested constructing a false peaked roof in the spring to eliminate the problems associated with flat roofs. The vestry will consider this option at a later date.
5. Hospitality – Due to Kathy Bradley's illness, Ruth will coordinate the annual meeting food and beverage with a caterer. As this is a special event, the funding will come from the communications grant.

Ruth Warner has talked with a few volunteers who are interested in doing a monthly brunch after the 10:00 A.M. service. She will coordinate beginning this on a once a month basis in place of coffee hour.
6. Finances – Phil Robidoux handed out the 2005 yearly financial report. The several positive news items include the pledges collected were within \$666 of those pledged (the best collection rate in years), and the final numbers result in St. Paul's being in the black \$7,900.

The scratch copy of the 2006 budget expense items was distributed to the vestry for review and comment. It appears that St. Paul's will come close to breaking even for 2006. This includes having Fr. Mike aboard on a full-time basis.

7. Stewardship – Chris Estey distributed a report of the status of the stewardship campaign. Currently, 35 families have pledged a total of \$52,906 for 2006. This is up significantly from last year. He feels that we still may have several families pledging before the campaign is completed. John Diercks noted that the average pledge per family is larger than during the recent successful financial years.
8. Communications Grant – Jay Jacobson reported that he ordered 3 new Episcopal Church signs to be installed at the locations discussed during previous vestry meetings. The signs should arrive approximately in 2-4 weeks.
9. Outreach – Ralph Edwards reported that he acquired numerous clothing items that were available at the Hopkinton Senior's Center. They were donated to Serenity House.

Ruth Warner discussed a revised rummage sale schedule. Typically there has been a spring and fall rummage sale. The proposal for this year is to have a spring rummage sale as usual, have the St. Paul's members who did the successful yard sale last year do a fall yard sale (in place of the fall rummage sale), and then a holiday fair will be held during the Christmas holiday season.

10. Fr. Mike's Report – Fr. Mike discussed the following items:

- He feels that the pledge drive has been encouraging. Combined with a Christmas Eve service attendance which was the largest of the year and a larger than usual Christmas Day service attendance, the important trends are very positive.
- He received an unclear telephone message from the Diocese with regard to the Congregational Development Grant. It appears that the Diocese requires one more item from St. Paul's before the funds can be distributed. He will call the Diocese and find out what is needed.
- St. Paul's will need to re-apply for the Congregational Development Grant in 2006. However, it is now clear from our 2005 experience what the Diocese requires for the application in order to process the grant funds without much delay.
- He has completed 21 interviews with parishioners. The nature of the interviews is now taking on a new direction toward the future and not focusing on the past. He feels it is time to wrap it up and have the history recorded. Lori Robak will be asked to do this.
- Last week he visited Susan Cholakis who is recovering from surgery. She is currently going through a painful and difficult rehabilitation. Now that he has

stared on a full-time basis, Fr. Mike will be making increased visits to other parish members. He asked that if any vestry member knows of anyone who needs a visit, to let him know.

11. Priest-in-Residence Letter of Agreement – A note to the meeting minutes regarding Fr. Mike's letter of agreement:

As St. Paul's Episcopal Church does not provide Fr. Mike Billingsley with a rectory to use as his primary residence, we the vestry have agreed that \$30,000 of his \$60,000 in annual compensation shall be designated to be his housing allowance. This amount is to be applied to 2006 & all future years unless otherwise specified.

12. Old Business – Fr. Mike distributed a proposed schedule of adult education classes and topics for the Epiphany and Lent seasons of 2006. The current plan is to have classes held on Wednesday evenings. He would like to try to do something different after Lent so that more adults are freed up to participate in the Sunday School program without missing church service, the children can spend more time in church and the adults can have more free time for adult Christian education. At the annual meeting, he will discuss developing something creative to accomplish this, soliciting opinions, ideas and attempt to get more people involved with youth and adult education.

13. New Business – The following new business was discussed:

- Peter Dittman was asked to begin attaching the latest approved vestry meeting minutes to the Epistle. Ruth will also begin to post a copy on the main bulletin board.
- Ruth Warner passed out the meeting minutes from the January, 2005 annual meeting for review and comment. The final minutes will be included as part of the annual report prepared for the parish annual meeting.
- All reports to be included in the annual report need to be submitted to Ruth by January 10, 2006.
- The next vestry meeting was changed from February 7, 2006 to January 31, 2006 to eliminate scheduling conflicts. There will be no meeting held during February.

14. Closing Blessing – Fr. Mike gave a closing blessing for the vestry and the meeting was adjourned.