

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2006

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

Absent: Susan Cholakis

Vestry Business:

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in opening prayer.
- 2) **Eagle Scout Project Proposal from Sean Donahue (Labyrinth)** – In an email from Sean: He has met with Scott Dryden and has basically decided on using a sod cutter to cut the path and fill it with crushed slate. Further discussion surrounded what to put in the center. Suggested: Bench and small perennial garden.
- 3) **January 31st Meeting Minutes** – voted on and unanimously approved by the Vestry.
- 4) **Copier Lease** – Ruth presented a proposal from the vendor to lease a refurbished machine. Vestry approved:: 30-36 month lease at \$153 month
- 5) **Reports:**
 - a) **Sunday School** (Ruth) – Marchelle Haws (SP) has volunteered to provide nursery coverage. Roxanne Donahue and Ruth have offered to cover occasionally so Marshal can attend service.
 - b) **Property** (Ruth) – NE Fire Protection issued new certificate. Discussed installing CO detector downstairs because of tenants. Exterior lighting: Jim Warner to install another motion detector light out front after checking with the fire dept. regarding any possible regulation changes. Scott's Landscaping sent a reminder for us to determine our Spring/Summer needs. Dumpster: We are customers-at-will and content to stay that way. Board of Health asked if we were going to go ahead with the modifications to the kitchen that need to take place in order for us to sell food at any functions. They are:
 - Install a divider between the 2 sinks
 - Put a sign in the bathroom instructing on hand washing
 - Address dishwasher water temperature
 - c) **Hospitality** (Gretchen) – Already have a list of people that have expressed interest in hosting coffee hour. Would like a parish list to call on. Will be talking with people at coffee hour to push hosting. The Vestry is formally invited to attend Tyler Wilson's Eagle Scout ceremony at St. Paul's on April 8 at 10:30. There will be a luncheon after the ceremony.
 - d) **Financial** (Phil) – Financial statements for the month distributed. The church received several donations in memory of Ed Dumais. Mike's computer died. Communications grant likely has enough money to fund purchasing a new one. Peter will donate a monitor to the office. Overall, we're doing well financially. Susan Cholakis considering stepping down as Asst. Treasurer because she doesn't feel she can fulfill her responsibilities at this time. Dave Spengler a potential replacement
 - e) **Communications** (Jay) – New office stationary. To assist in membership and transferal process, Fr. Mike suggested we purchase a "Church Annual" which is a directory of Episcopal churches in the country. Cost approx. \$45. Jay is going to look into the new signage discussed in December. Composing an ad to be placed in the Upton Town Crier to reach potential new parishioners.

- f) **Outreach** (Ralph) – Keeping up with taking donations to Serenity House. Discussed speaking with a Walmart associate about their willingness to donate to Serenity. They can't donate money but maybe could donate items. He will speak with them again, if possible, about them making donations-in-kind to the church (ex: paper towel, kitchen items)

Motion to include a \$50 donation to the Hopkinton HS Scholarship Fund. Motion tabled after discussion which centered on the appearance of donating to a town-specific fund (when we have a multi-town parish) and on the only indirect religious affiliation of the fund (i.e., "Where is God in this mission"). Discuss "Community Outreach" vs. "Missions Outreach". Should we donate to other towns in the spirit of our church family coming from out of town?

- g) **Fund Raisers** (Ruth) – Rummage sale set for April 29th. Parking for Marathon again this year. Volunteers needed for both.
- h) **Stewardship** (John) – We should go through the "time and talent" questionnaires that were turned in.
- i) **Fr. Mike's Report**
1. Attendance Report
 2. In order to describe our parish growth potential, Fr. Mike presented "Some numbers" representing percentage of potential Episcopalians with their potential pledges.
 3. The 1999 Parish meeting report as compared to the 2000 Parish profile are wildly different. Possibly an example of "irrational exuberance". To expect St. Paul's to support a Full-Time rector without help from the diocese is not financially realistic, in the near future. Mike discussed a "Cluster Arrangement" which is an arrangement whereby clergy is shared by 2 or 3 area churches. In discussing the Medway and Millis Episcopal churches it would be ideal to have 1½ rectors between the 3 parishes for probably 5 years. Then possibly St. Paul's could move into a "Pastoral Church" category and support a full time rector of its own. What would be necessary keep Fr. Mike at St. Paul's for an extended time would be either a Grant for 2007 from the diocese or for our pledge base to increase significantly.
- 6) **Old Business** – Sue R. has done the research for St. Paul's to host a seminar/class on being a "Safe Church". The earliest possible date is November 2006. Sue will make the arrangements to move forward with this. Follow up: Sue hasn't had any feedback and will make contact again.
- 7) **New Business** – Fr. Mike has begun an initiative to create a more realistic and sustainable vision for the parish, one that is centered on worship, fellowship and a non-judgemental environment. A kickoff meeting was held at Fr. Mike's on 3/3. The next meeting will be held March 14th at 7PM at the church. Question to think about: What did the church you grew up in mean to you and to the community?
- 8) **Next vestry meeting** – Tuesday, April 4, 2006
- 9) **Closing prayer** – Fr. Mike led the vestry in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.