

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2006

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

VESTRY BUSINESS

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in opening prayer.
- 2) **Sept. 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes** – Voted on and approved, as amended, by the Vestry.
- 3) **Eagle Scout Project** – Dedication to take place October 15, 2006. Completion letter to go to the Scouts.
- 4) **Congregational Development Work**
 - a) **Tri-All Parish meeting 9/19** – All three parishes did a presentation. Plans have been made for a larger meeting including any congregation members that want to attend on November 8 at 7 PM at St. Paul's Hopk. Christ church Medway is moving toward a situation where they are ready for a collaborative ministry. Part of the analysis showed that Medway has been working for 2 1/2 years on what they need to do to stay in business and grow. St. Paul's, Millis, isn't at a point where they are interested in collaborative efforts. Our situation: we had the grant at the end of 2005 and have one coming in 2006 along with the promise of one in 2007 from the Diocese. This has possibly given us a false sense of security. The next meeting on November 8th, at St. Paul's Hopkinton will center around all of the research that Christ Church Medway has done.
 - b) **Congregation Resource Day** – The Warden's meeting: Discussed By-laws and that every vestry member should have a copy. When there's a priest in residence they should be afforded the same privileges as a regular priest such as chairing the vestry meetings, casting the deciding vote in the case of a tie. The vestry discussed this with Fr. Mike and discovered that he is more comfortable leaving things as they are.
"Welcoming Church" meeting: Discussion was around making your church inviting in appearance. Install signs directing people to Sunday School Classes, Parish Hall, etc. Make your bulletin boards attractive. Make your restroom baby friendly by installing a changing table.
Christian Ed workshop: Centered around the Catechism of the Good Shepherd. Do we educate or form people? Education gives kids age appropriate learning tools and finishes with God loves me. Formation teaches God loves me and then you start putting in information. The Godly play program is an example of the formation approach.
Financial Workshop: discussed under 6)d) below.
- 5) **Safe Church Training** – November 18th 8:30 to 3:30
 - Test that VCR works on the projector - Jay
 - Flip charts/easel and markers – Fr. Mike
 - Call in list of attendees, from our church, and send money 2 weeks prior – Fr. Mike and Vicki
 - Coffee/Tea – Phil (Ruth will make Pumpkin bread)
- 6) **Reports**
 - a) **Sunday School** – nothing to report.
 - b) **Property** – Major electrical problem. Fire alarms were going off. Ida left a note in the basket on the office door. Fire dept. shut us down. Phil got an electrician to come that day to fix a broken relay. Fence latch broken again. Jim fixed it again. Hall is rented on 11/4. Fall cleanup 10/22 after service.
 - c) **Hospitality** – Sign up has been good. Breakfast Sundays – Rich Litchfield has offered to do the shopping and major

planning. Rick Correia, Mike Vosburgh, Andy Starkis willing to help but not run the show. Halloween Party – Vicki and Ruth running it. Rite13 and J2A to decorate.

- d) **Financial Report** – Treasury workshop was very helpful. Most people had the same problems we have...not a lot of money. Ideas: Financial statement doesn't have a line item for the Assessment. Going forward, add it on and break it down by month. Abatement also needs to be included. This will give us a more realistic view of where we're at financially. Also, write ourselves a bill for pension payments. Dave Spengler will be the acting Assistant Treasurer for the winter, again. Assessment from the Diocese for 2007: \$8,568. 2006 was \$8,000 and we've paid \$6,000 so far.
- e) **Communications** – Hi-definition screen ordered and going to be mounted above the counter in the parish hall.
- f) **Outreach** – Ralph has decided to resign from the vestry. Project Just Because is going well. Ruth asked her for 60 names for the giving tree.
- g) **Fund Raisers** – Polyarts raised \$315.50 Voted on and unanimously approved to go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. A portion of the rummage sale proceeds potentially to go to the maintenance budget.
- h) **Stewardship** – Stewardship brochure draft presented. We're a little behind budget for pledges. This year's campaign will focus on how to keep pledges on budget. Campaign material to be sent two weeks prior to Pledge Sunday. The letters that go with the campaign material will be tailored personally to those who are behind on their pledge. Will mention the diocesan grant in the letter also. Pledge Sunday set for 11/19.
- i) **Father Mike's Report**
 - 3rd Quarter 2006 better than 3rd Quarter 2005.
 - Sue and Fr. Mike have discussed Sue having space at the church for an onsite mental health practice. A parish priest can meet with a person 3 times, after that he has to refer them to a qualified therapist. Having Sue onsite would enable him to refer them to someone he can trust. The vestry needs to discuss whether it would be feasible to have Sue have space at the church and/or what impact it might have on the church.
 - Outreach into the community. 10/17 at 2Pm St. Paul's is sponsoring a meeting on grief at the Sr. Center. Every 2 weeks for 6 sessions. Transitioning to a spirituality meeting.
 - Adult Ed – Bible study Sunday nights at 5PM.
 - Next Monday, 10/9, starts a book study for adults
 - Need to reinvigorate our visioning process. Starting with rewriting our mission statement. Next meeting October 18 at 7PM. Open to the parish.
 - Regarding Shared Resources – Last week the minister of Grace United Methodist Church discussed with Fr. Mike her desire to use St. Paul's sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The discussion expanded into the possibility of sharing the space on a more regular basis...maybe even for weekly service.

7) **Old Business**

- Checking account signature authority has been updated – waiting for Susan and Paula's signatures to activate.
- Facility Rental Charges – Jay working on it.
- Insurance Policy Review – John

8) **New Business**

- Budget Committee Meeting date tentatively set for 10/13.
- Vestry nominating committee. Gretchen to chair.

9) **Next vestry meeting** – November 1, 2006

10) **Closing prayer** – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in closing prayer and the meeting adjourned.