

VESTRY MEETING

December 5, 2007

Attendees: Fr. Mike Billingsley, Dianne Belamarich, Ruth Warner, Steve Pelletier, Jay Jacobson, Gretchen Carr, Sue Ramsley, Phil Robidoux, John Diercks, Mary Arnaut, Peter Dittman

VESTRY BUSINESS

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike led in opening prayer
2. Safe Church Manual Discussion – Christine Barron joined the vestry to discuss the manual that Jay put together. She commended Jay on a job well done.
3. November vestry meeting minutes unanimously approved pending the attachment mentioned in item 6 of the minutes.
4. Eagle Scout Project Update:
 - Nick Dittman presented a cost estimate for the project of replacing the paved walkway to the main entrance to the church. Discussion surrounded how he intends to raise the funds for the project.
5. 2008 Diocesan Grant Funds – After thorough checking with the diocese, it has been determined that the funds don't exist. Bishop Bud apparently used the funds intended for us for the matching grant he offered us for the stewardship campaign.
6. GUMC Signage Update – The sign design and location has been unanimously approved by the vestry via email communication.
7. 2008 Vestry Nominating Committee Update – The committee consists of Ruth, Phil and Jay. They have been speaking with parishioners about joining the vestry. Phil will make an announcement this Sunday regarding the exact needs.
8. Collaboration Work:
 - Report of Collaboration Clergy Team (Jay) – There's been a meeting of the subcommittee working on the covenant. Fr. Mike handed out the draft of the covenant for review. We should look for a resolution from the vestry recommending adoption of the covenant agreement to their parishes at their annual meeting this January.
9. Reports:
 - Sunday School – Rose Bertucci-Bissonnett has signed up to co-teach Rite 13 and Ann Bertucci-Bissonnett has volunteered for Altar Guild service as has Pam Main.
 - Property –
 - Ruth, Dianne and Mary went for a walk downstairs on Saturday and discovered bad conditions in the daycare. Ruth has spoken with Ida and will follow up in writing.
 - Ruth was in the window when Scott's Landscaping came after the snowstorm on Monday. The plow took approx. 4 sweeps thru only the parking area. She took photographs a half an hour after they left and the pictures clearly show the work was not completed.
 - Hospitality – Nothing new... people are volunteering. Bishop Bud is visiting the first Sunday of February School vacation. Fr. Mike is suggesting we hold a combined service/luncheon with St. Paul's and Christ Church held at St. Michael's in Holliston as a centrally located spot.
 - Financial/Budget –
 - \$692.50 made on the baskets, baked goods, and raffle on the day of the nativity display.
 - In order for us to get the match money from the diocese we have to be current on our assessment. Mary has the check ready to mail to get us current.
 - The diocese has us as having an outstanding amount due on the pension fund, but Phil and Fr. Mike said we are current. Phil will investigate.
 - The checking account balance is in good shape.

- 2008 Budget – because of the loss of Playhouse at midyear the budget looks like it will have a significant shortfall by year end. With possible cuts in strategic areas the shortfall can potentially be reduced a great deal. See Stewardship below.
- Communications Grant Report – Jay has completed the report which will be posted on the bulletin board and submitted to the diocese.
- Outreach/Fund Raisers – There were 50 names on the giving tree and 55 gifts were rec'd and delivered to PJB. The December fundraiser made \$692.50 as reported under “Financial” above. The event was filmed by HCAM for broadcast later in the month. The antique appraisal night is scheduled for February 2008.
- Stewardship – 29 total pledges totaling \$58,004. There are still 17 units that haven't pledged yet this year. They have a potential for approx. \$11K if they pledge but don't change their amount.
- Safe Church – see Item 2 above.
- GUMC General Update – Nothing to report other than a location has been agreed upon with their organist for them to practice their music while our service is in session.
- Priest in Residence Report – Attendance graph presented which shows no real trends. There was a newcomers dinner held on 11/16, which the vestry was invited to but none of us actually rec'd the email. Fr. Mike and Ruth said it was well attended.

10. Old Business (continuation of Priest in Residence Report):

- Downstairs rental – Fr. Mike cited examples of churches he knew of who had long time tenants that provided in the range of 40K and 60K of income for the church where they were housed. It appears that the crux of the problem of having an outside tenant is that they have no vested interest in the church itself. They stay and make enough money to become independent and move on. If they're able to make enough profit to do this, then the location/rent amount is viable for them to be able to branch out on their own. Maybe we should consider putting in a business that is our own. ie: a daycare or outreach facility of some sort...something that is in line with our mission. Other examples mentioned were a music school or a counseling group. Whatever we come up with, the undercroft will need cosmetic work before it's used. Playhouse school has really worn the area down.

11. New Business –

- Annual meeting scheduled for January 27th. Dianne will send everyone the word document of the annual report so it can be updated.

12. Next vestry meeting Wed., 1/3/08, 7:00 PM. We'll have a last meeting party for the members that will not be returning to the vestry in 2008.

13. Closing prayer and adjournment – Fr. Mike lead the vestry in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.