

## VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2007

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

Absent: Gretchen Carr

### VESTRY BUSINESS

1. Opening Prayer (Fr. Mike) – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in Opening Prayer.
2. Sunday School Update & Discussion – The highest average in any class was 4 students. The actual highest was 10 students. 3 teachers have decided not teach next year and one young teacher is leaving for college. 2 others have said they would be disinclined to teach again next year. Our numbers are small. Vicki to come again to the next vestry meeting after Fr. Mike puts out a communication regarding where we're at. We're proposing a parish meeting for welcome back Sunday in lieu of Sunday school starting on that day to explain the teacher predicament we're in.
3. 6/6/07 vestry meeting minutes unanimously approved.
4. Congregational Development Work:
  - Next meeting is Monday 8/20/07 at St. Paul's
  - Tentative Collaboration Retreat 9/29/07
  - Finance and Progress Meeting with Bishop Cederholm 7/12/07 to discuss financial numbers. The numbers, themselves, aren't encouraging. We lack a "focus" ministry, which is part of the life of a thriving parish. These are areas where this discussion could go.
  - Report of Collaboration Clergy Team – Clergy team is on board. Fr. Richard Brown will be here for Mike's next absence.
5. Reports:
  - Sunday School – Item 2 above.
  - Property – We have enough money to pay the painter with a little extra for the repair work that needs to be done before the painting begins on about August 2. Fr. Mike will approach Rev. Dry about asking her congregation if they are interested/willing to contribute to the building fund as at least one member has told Peter they'd be interested in contributing.  
Nick Dittman looking for an Eagle Scout project. Maybe tearing up the main walk way and installing pavers.
  - Hospitality – nothing to report
  - Financial/Budget – In the black again. We did receive the statement for Mike's pension fund which was previously outstanding. Mary presented an "Alternative Audit Procedure" document for us to look over and consider for discussion at the August meeting. Major expenditures need to be noted in the minutes – this is one of the required items for a passing audit.
  - Communications Grant – report still outstanding
  - Outreach/Fund Raisers
    - a. Lifeline Screening has asked to have their screening at the church. Date to be determined. Vestry unanimously approved allowing them to use the building.
    - b. We have the Poly-arts board of health certificate. On that note...Ruth will not be able to run the table this year. Volunteers are needed in her absence. Steve volunteered to chair.
    - c. Ruth mentioned when we could possibly have another fund-raising committee meeting. Unfortunately, we had many people with ideas and not enough people willing to volunteer to chair any of the ideas.
    - d. St. Paul's day – no one has approached Ruth or Dianne with interest to help or do anything for it. The plan is to have sort of an open house type thing. We really need someone to volunteer to chair this event. Fr. Mike will talk to Rev. Dry about Grace joining us on this event. And ask Frank Chase if he would chair.

- e. Dianne will contact Skinner of Boston to arrange the dates in 2008 for the appraisal event.
  - Stewardship – nothing to report
  - Safe Church – nothing to report
  - Priest-in-Residence Report
    1. Attendance
      - a. 5 of the last 6 months our attendance is less than it was in both 2005 and 2006 for the same month.
      - b. Have had 2 Baptisms for couples who are planning to remain members.
      - c. A couple will be getting married at St. Paul's in the near future but found us to be their church home before actually getting married here.
    2. Collaborative
      - a. Christ Church took the viability stuff from the diocesan document and studied what portions are pertinent to them. The plan is to talk to their entire congregation about what they've come up with before they actually adopt what they've outlined.
      - b. Fr. Mike is proposing an ecumenical service between Grace and St. Paul's on August 26 at 10:30 with Rev. Dry presiding and that we accept their invitation to attend an ecumenical service the following Sunday (Sept. 2) at 9:00 with Fr. Mike presiding. The vestry unanimously approved.
6. New Business:
    - Open Vestry Position & upcoming open positions – Tabled.
    - Community Outreach – Health Insurance Info session – The church received a letter asking us to invite them in to have a public session to discuss the new laws at no cost to us. We'll discuss this at our next meeting.
    - Planning for Welcome Sunday in September to be discussed next month
  7. Next vestry meeting Wednesday, 8/1/07, 7:00 PM
  8. Closing prayer and adjournment (Fr. Mike) - Fr. Mike lead the vestry in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.