

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2007

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

Absent: Peter Dittman, John Diercks

VESTRY BUSINESS

1. Opening Prayer (Fr. Mike) – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in Opening Prayer.
2. Matt Dry Eagle Scout Project presented. The Vestry unanimously approved Matt's proposal to build a meditation garden out by the labyrinth.
3. 8/15/07 vestry meeting minutes unanimously approved as amended with abstentions of absentee members
4. Jay will write a formal email accepting Roger Mahoney's resignation.
5. Collaboration work
 - Pam Litchfield new HMCM committee member
 - Report of Monday 8/20/07 Youth Programs Meeting: The consultant, Cynthia Hubbard, was a very dynamic, enthusiastic presenter. She spoke very highly of the J2A program and its' counterpart called Youths in Church (YAC). May be able to run the YAC program as one church using our collaboration license. Our plans for the fall are to launch Rite 13 and J2A as part of our Sunday School program. Christ Church is planning the same. Will discuss, with the consultant, whether we move toward the YAC program or just an organized youth group collaborative. The consultant costs \$65/hour. Mike asked the vestry to approve payment of her fee for this last meeting and will see if Christ Church could pay for next time. The vestry unanimously approved paying her for the last meeting.
 - Report of Collaboration Meeting 8/21/07: Frank Chase declined the invitation to head the collaboration covenant. The vestry's have to review the draft of the covenant once it is established. Some discussion centered around the physical plant of Christ Church and some needs they have to address this fall.
 - Report on visiting the Bristol Cluster 8/1/07: talked about budgets and how their cluster works. They've been a cluster of 3 churches for 22 years. The meeting resembled a vestry meeting. There were 2 members from each parish present. All 3 parishes maintain their individual identities while operating together as one.
 - Tentative Collaboration Retreat 9/22/07: at St. Paul's – all day event.
 - Report of Collaboration Clergy Team: Fr. Johnston will be at St. Paul's one Sunday/month and Fr. Mike will be at Christ Church one Sunday/month thru the end of 2007. The collaborative committee will need to discuss how they will address clergy needs for 2008.
 - Fr. Mike's Sunday's in Sept. and Oct. in Medway – he will run a stewardship 101 class and 102 "class/sermon". Fr. Mike will make these classes available to St. Paul's on any other two Sunday's.
6. Reports:
 - Sunday School – Jay handed out the classroom breakdown and teacher roster. Still need a J2A teacher, a Godly play teacher and a nursery teacher.
 - Property – Jim's put the lattice up outside in the playground area and the window in the Sunday School Class room *that needed one*. Ruth had Caroline type a letter for Ida to address the issues Roger brought up in his resignation email. The Islamic Center of Hopkinton has declined the rental of the parish hall. Sept. 30th, Kray Small will do a discussion/class on gardening before we all head out to the church grounds to apply what we learn. Ruth and Mary had a discussion surrounding painting the

doors to the church and maybe putting a sign or verse above the doors in the newly repaired blank space above one of the doors. To be discussed, in depth, at a later time.

- Hospitality – Pot Luck Sunday Sept. 9th. Rite 13 and J2A will get the parish hall set up for the brunch. Gretchen will make an announcement this Sunday regarding the separation of coffee hour. Pot Lucks to be held the second Sunday of each month.
 - Financial/Budget –
 - a. The 2005 audit is completed.
 - b. When you have a capital campaign it tends to be to the detriment of the regular pledges. As a result we are not quite in a position to catch up on our past due assessment bill. This and the fact that we are typically a bit behind in the summer has us in a low cash flow position.
 - c. Mary spoke with Steve Pierce, CFO of the Diocese... we can use any volunteers we want from the church to do the 2006 audit as long as they weren't involved in the finances of the church during that year.
 - d. We rec'd a large donation from the Ed Camille Family Partnership. And we rec'd donations from the ORISSA society and Nick Meshra from the society for the Building fund.
 - e. Sept. 22 – group of vestry members will get together to perform the 2006 audit.
 - Outreach/Fund Raisers – meeting this Saturday to work on Polyarts preparation. Rummage sale: October 20. December 1, Nativity Display will be a mini holiday fair in addition to the display. Planning to have a bake table, white elephant table and gift baskets for sale. PJB back to school collection went okay. Had about 14 back packs and boxes of various supplies.
 - Stewardship – nothing to report
 - Safe Church – Window has been built into the “blue” Sunday school classroom
 - Priest-in-Residence Report –
 - a. Attendance showed a little improvement for the month of August.
 - b. Fr. Mike will be off the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Richard Brown will be the supply clergy.
 - c. Our friends at Grace UMC have never heard of the “Blessing of the Animals” so we might think about doing an ecumenical service with them. Anyone interested in working on this with Fr. Mike and Rev. Dye on this should see Fr. Mike.
 - d. Another time to do something ecumenical would be for a Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve. Service.
7. Old Business
- Community Outreach – Health Insurance Info Session – nothing new to report yet.
 - GUMC Signage – We need to see what they are planning before we can make a decision on this.
8. New Business:
- We should consider using some of the memorial funds in the budget to purchase liquid wax candles. Ruth handed out information on these. The cost is around \$600 to \$700. The vestry unanimously approved the purchase of the liquid wax candles.
9. Next vestry meeting Wednesday, 10/3/07, 7:00 PM
10. Closing prayer and adjournment (Fr. Mike) - Fr. Mike lead the vestry in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.