

Vestry Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2008

Attendees: Fr. Mike Billingsley, Dianne Belamarich, Steve Pelletier, Sue Ramsley, Mary Arnaut, David Spangler, Ruth Warner, Sally Snyder

Absent: John Pavlov, Gretchen Carr, Frank Chase

Vestry Business:

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike lead the vestry in opening prayer.
2. 5/7/2008 Vestry meeting minutes unanimously approved by the vestry.
3. Notes from meeting with guest speaker: the Rev. Maggie Geller, Deacon. Maggie serves on the Jubilee Task Force and has been to Africa on behalf of the diocese of Mass ministry to AIDS orphans. Specializing in Mission and Outreach. visited the vestry to tell us how the “Church of the Good Shepherd”, in Acton achieved their mission goals.

Mission isn't us (the church) doing this or that. It's not our mission it's God's mission. Mission has a biblical goal. We're invited to be God's partners. Bishop Shaw says “We're Holy partners in a heavenly calling” Ubuntu is an African term meaning we're all connected...my joy is your joy. My sorrow is your sorrow. You can't think about ubuntu without thinking about justice, abundance and the 85-90% of the rest of the world that doesn't have what we have. Once you engage in mission you can't help but feel closer to God. It's a partnership. We have biblical imperative to respond to the invitation to be involved in mission and outreach. Never forget that you're not in it alone. Expect to be uncomfortable some of the time while being involved in mission. God will take you out of your comfort zone. When you accept that invitation and step out of your comfort zone you end up “changed” and a better person for it. As we get closer to people we also get closer to God. The Millenium development goal (MDG)... developed by the UN in response to poverty. They tried to come up with measurable goals to be achieved in a specified amount of time.

Living into your relationship with God through mission.

The 5 marks of mission.

Listen to your passion. Passions are a gift from God.

What they did at Good Shepherd in Acton.

200-250 people – 3 services.

Positive Deviance – when you go into it not thinking you know what they need but listening to them to find out what they need.

Undie Sunday.

We have to have community outreach ministries in addition to individual missions like undie Sunday. Part of the need is funding and making it a budget line item. What does a parish ministry look like. You have to have a plan and it has to have an opportunity for all members of the parish to participate from the very young to the very old. It needs to be something you can be involved in at all levels. Maybe you just want to write checks, maybe school kids can make cards, maybe a parishioner wants to do a face to face visit. All levels of involvement are important. How do you choose mission... listen to your passion. Maybe not just international like Jubilee, maybe need to include the needs close to home. Local/Regional/National/International.

4. Eagle Scout Projects Update: Nick Dittman and Matt Dry

- ◆ Matt – just took the cross over to the contractor to have the cross filled (it's hollow) and have the bracket made to hold the cross in place. Cross will be waterproofed with boat sealer. The work dates will be posted on the Bulletin board – planned for mid June.

- ◆ Nick – needs letter of approval. Other than the mulch, is there anything else we want him to do? The brick company will be setting up a website for Nick and future brick orders can be done there. Bricks can still be ordered.
5. Reports:
- ◆ Sunday School (Ruth) – Closed, all is well
 - ◆ Property (Ruth) – Ida has decided to stay and will sign the contract with a slight increase. The contractor discovered that the roof was not sealed properly last time work was done to it and this is what is causing the buckling and leaks. He may be able to do a repair job that could last us about 6 or so years. We should be planning to replace the rubber roof after that time. Scott will start the clean up next week. We have raised half the money and Grace has thankfully raised the other half.
 - ◆ Hospitality (Gretchen) – Help is needed for the pancake breakfast on Sunday.
 - ◆ Finance/Budget (John/Mary) – We're good... We're on solid ground. All bills are current except for the Scott's bill. Ruth will call him to get the exact amount we now owe. \$17K in checking, 10K in savings. Our assessments are current. Stokes loan is current. Fr. Johnston is paid through June.
 - ◆ Outreach/Fundraisers (Ruth/Dianne) – Fall Rummage set for Oct. 4 and Polyarts is Sept. 27
 - ◆ Stewardship (Steve) – nothing to report. Topic to visit another time: planned giving.
 - ◆ GUMC General Update – Steve is in regular contact with Dave Dry.
 - ◆ Shepherd's Report (Fr. Mike) – Attendance is stable no alarming trends. Christ church has sent a letter to their congregation to get caught up on their pledges. They are presently 5K below predicted.
Mother's Day went well, do we want to plan anything for Father's Day? Fr. Mike is on vacation July 2 – 8.
6. Old Business
- ◆ Preschool Rental Update – see above
 - ◆ Pancakes, Prayers & Breakfast – see above
 - ◆ Mutual Ministry Review – Delayed until Fall
 - ◆ Vestry Retreat – Sept. 12 & 13th. Friday night and Saturday. Fr. Mike and Steve will discuss.
7. New Business
- ◆ Communications – Sally is going to pursue working on this with Peter.
 - ◆ Deanery luncheon – an internet security guy talked about newsletters published on the website. If your newsletter is posted you have to be extremely careful that there is no personal information in the newsletter. For ex. Don't publish..."call so and so" at this number to protect members of the parish from predators on the internet. We should investigate "best practices" for how we publish our stuff on line.
 - ◆ Dave needs to pass along the list of people needing rides and the people who have volunteered to anyone else for the summer while he is away.
8. July Meeting: Wednesday, July 9.
9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment – Fr. Mike led the vestry in closing prayer.