

## Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2008

**Attendees:** Fr. Mike Billingsley, Dianne Belamarich, Steve Pelletier, Sue Ramsley, John Pavlov, Gretchen Carr, Mary Arnaut, David Spangler, Ruth Warner

**Absent:** Frank Chase, Sally Snyder

### Vestry Business:

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike lead the vestry in opening prayer following a brief meditation on the life of Brother Lawrence.
2. 4/2/2008 Vestry meeting minutes unanimously approved by the vestry.
3. Reports:
  - Sunday School – Teacher’s meeting 5/18 after church. 6/1 Last day of Sunday School. Discussion about J2A continuing.
  - Property
    - Jim built a new sandwich board for signage.
    - Furnace – should we find out about a service agreement? Ruth will pursue pricing for service plans from NStar and Flaherty Heating and Plumbing.
    - Landscaping – Proposal from Scott’s for Clean up/Spruce up presented by Ruth. This would cost \$1000; Mary suggested we do a “No clean up, clean up” where we ask for money instead of helpers.
    - John Pavlov will discuss the outstanding winter bills with Scott.
  - Hospitality – Gretchen called Talvy Florest in Ashland and 30 Carnations will be available for Mother’s Day at a cost of \$45. Same people seem to be signing up for coffee hour. Grace UMC has starting paying us for 1/3 of the kitchen supply cost/year. Need to renew BJ’s tax-exempt card for \$45 (Ruth and Gretchen need to be on the card). Pancake/Prayers/Breakfast – June 8<sup>th</sup>. Mike suggested gathering the old “kitchen crew” to cook. We will make pancakes and ask people to bring the rest of the food.
  - Finance/Budget/Treasurer’s Report
    - Scott’s Landscaping winter bill is still outstanding.
    - Pledges are up, loose plate is down – to be expected.
    - Mike’s pension fund payment appears to be ahead, but Mary just paid early.
    - Tufts health insurance through diocese has been cancelled as Mike is now on Judy’s plan.
    - Supply clergy all set for Summer. Richard Brown and Jane Hendricks will be filling in.
  - Outreach/Fund Raisers – Rummage sale brought in \$1600.
    - Linda Lee said the girl scouts would like to donate time and \$ toward the flower beds around the signs. Steve will let Dave Dry know.
  - Stewardship – nothing to report
  - Shepherd’s Report – Attendance not bad. Baptism, Pentecost and Mother’s day all this Sunday. Frank Chase is doing well. Ginny Starkis is doing well. Mabel Magee is about the same. Bob Gimske is doing well but has had a bit of a rough spell. Thelma Graves is doing well. Pastoral care: Ruth has a sign up of people willing to pick up shut ins but we need someone to coordinate it. Dave Spengler is willing to coordinate during the school year months.
  - Grace UMC Update – every other week Steve is meeting with Dave Dry. The Grace congregation wants to be a part of the things we do. Such as clean up and other misc. gatherings. Grace would like to use one of the classrooms for choir practice. They’d like it to be somewhat formal with a sign up sheet on the door or something along those lines.

4. Old Business:

- Preschool Rental Update – Ida reports that she may not be able to afford a full year lease. We will look for another tenant and offer Ida a month to month lease. Discussed lease amount, need to plan on fixing bathrooms. Ruth will discuss with Ida.
- Vestry Contact Information – has been updated and emailed to the group.
- End of School Year Events – are being worked on.

5. New Business

- Mutual Ministry Review – 2 parts. One is a self evaluation by the leadership of the parish of the programs of the parish. The second is the evaluation of the clergy roles. The clergy who most need ministry review are the ones least likely to want it to happen. The parish review is generally pretty public while the clergy one is done in a small group. While Fr. Mike was discussing it with the diocese they said there is an upcoming graduating class who could be good candidates to be our consultant for Mutual Ministry Review. There would not be a charge to have one of the graduates hold this position.
- Summer Facility Project –Ruth will obtain an estimate for roof repair over the church office. This information will be presented to the parish as soon as possible so a fund raising effort can begin.
- Vestry Retreat Brainstorming – dates discussed and focus changed to Evangelism as a result of Dave discussing his reasons for joining the vestry. Could we use the retreat to discuss how to incorporate people into the parish not just get them through the front door. Mary wondered if we couldn't do something on H-cam... A discussion group, a Soup for the soul or something focused on reaching out to the community and putting St. Paul's out there as a place to come to be spiritually fed. How to be a Southerner in New England. So the vestry will hold a retreat starting on a Friday night and then regrouping for a full day Saturday. Date to be determined.

6. Next Vestry Meeting—Weds, June 4

7. Closing Prayer and Adjournment – Fr. Mike led the vestry in closing prayer.