

Vestry Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2009

Attendees: Fr. Mike Billingsley, Dianne Belamarich, Sue Ramsley, Mary Arnaut, John Pavlov, Steve Pelletier, Frank Chase, John Pavlov, Mitch Palmer, David Spengler, Ruth Warner

Absent: Sally Snyder

Vestry Business:

1. Opening Prayer – Sue read an excerpt from Sacred Thirst by Craig Barnes
2. January 2009 Vestry Meeting Minutes approved by the vestry.
3. Reports:
 - Sunday School – Going well... there hasn't been any feedback from the Sunday School Coordinators.
 - Property/Prescho01 – The preschool rental agreement is being negotiated, our research indicates that \$15/Square foot is reasonable. The rate the school is requesting is not. Expenses are increasing so we cannot justify a decrease in what we charge the preschool. The vestry discerned very carefully and prayerfully what we would agree to for a 3 year contract. The vestry made a motion and unanimously approved to initiate a contract March 1, 2009 at \$2,333 per month for 2009, \$2,433 for 2010 and \$2,533 for 2011. Concessions... Nap space will be included, no rodents allowed, and we add a termination clause to the contract. Frank Chase has agreed to negotiate the rental agreement representing St. Paul's.
 - Hospitality – next 3 Sunday's are covered for coffee hour. March 1st is open. We do need desserts for the appraisal night.
 - Treasurer's/Finance Report – We're in good shape. As of today our checking balance is \$48,412, this includes the preschool check for \$2,500. Savings is at \$10,138. We have an outstanding pension payment (approx. 4,000) for Fr. Mike and an outstanding income (approx. \$900) from Grace church. We received the year end statement for the investments accounts...they lost around \$13,000 last year. Tithes and offerings are higher than budgeted for January due to a one time donation from a family who has left the church.
 - Emergency Fund Analysis – John did research on this and looked for biblical reference on the subject and balanced what he found with life in the world today. The number he came up with is to have 2 months worth of expenses (approx. \$27,000) in the bank...and to use a bank that pays a better rate than a local savings account. Sue suggested tithing on the balance of the excess in the account to a Christian initiative. A motion was made and unanimously approved to establish a savings account with ING Orange Savings in the amount of \$27,000.
 - Mary made a motion to boost the building fund to \$10,000, the increase would come from the excess \$ in the checking account. The motion was unanimously approved.
 - Outreach/Fundraisers – Antique Appraisal Night, Feb. 27. The vestry unanimously approved that the proceeds from the event go to the new "Help Your Neighbor Fund". Dave discussed the idea of having a Spaghetti Supper night to help those in need in the community who might need a meal. Mary expressed concern regarding whether or not we could keep the process going. Dave will research this idea.
 - Stewardship – The average pledge for 2009 has increased over last year.

- Shepherd's Report – Attendance was negatively affected by two snowy Sundays. Collaborative Counsel meeting, Feb. 24. Main activity for the collaborative is going to be to provide clergy support for the year.
4. Old Business:
- Discernment Process – During the annual meeting, parishioners were invited to review and update the vision statement. The vestry is in the process of choosing the best wording for an updated vision statement based on the feedback. Parishioners were also invited to envision how St. Paul's might look 5-10 years in the future; components of this include the following:
 - Establishing a Caring committee
 - Youth / rep on vestry / alternative service / "drug free" focused events
 - Monthly events / Chicken Bar-B-Q / chili cook off / etc.
 - Adult Ed
 - Mission work in the world
 - Prayer groups
 - Increase in membership; shared responsibility
 - \$ for office staff, etc.
 - Fund raising
 - Survey of why people stay and why they leave
5. New Business
- Pastoral Consultation – Rose and Ann Bertucci-Bissonette will be married in a civil ceremony and Fr. Mike has been asked to do a blessing. He is not permitted to officiate per the Diocesan rules. If the ceremony were taking place at St. Paul's he would need vestry approval. Even though it is not taking place at St. Paul's Fr. Mike asked the vestry to discuss. We had a very loving, caring discussion and gave Fr. Mike our blessing.
6. Calendar Review – The calendar was discussed and dates recorded for the newsletter. The spring rummage sale is "up in the air". We really need some new leadership for this event.
7. Next Vestry Meeting – Wed., March 4, 2009
- Joint vestry meeting with Christ Church – March 25, 2009
8. Closing prayer and adjournment – Fr. Mike finished with a closing Prayer.