

Vestry Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2009

Attendees: Fr. Mike Billingsley, Dianne Belamarich, Sue Ramsley, Mary Arnaut, John Pavlov, Steve Pelletier, Frank Chase, John Pavlov, Gretchen Carr, Sally Snyder

Absent: David Spengler, Ruth Warner

Vestry Business:

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike lead the vestry in opening prayer
2. December 2008 Vestry Meeting Minutes approved by the vestry.
3. Reports:
 - Sunday School – helpers are needed for the epiphany pageant to be held on 1/11
 - Property – The new contract from Scott's Landscaping, for the new year reflects a slight increase. The vestry unanimously approved accepting the new contract.
 - Preschool: Their licensor visited and said a branch outside needs to be removed from a fence outside. Also, the ceiling tiles in the toddler sleeping area need to be painted or replaced. They would like to initiate a 3 year lease with a reduced rate scaling up over the 3 years. In a letter, citing the inflation rate, they proposed \$2200 for year one, \$2300 for year two and \$2400 for year three. The vestry decided to have the space evaluated by a rental agent and then discuss again before getting back to the preschool.
Property rental: The vestry revisited our rental pricing and decided no adjustments were needed. Office Copier: Christ Church has a copier they could give us which would enable us to give up our lease on our copier. Christ church has another copier they would use and they have negotiated a price with a local printer for there major printing needs. We have to look at the lease on our copier and determine if our lease is almost up or if there's a penalty for breaking it.
The bathroom in the basement needs to be assessed for a complete overhaul. Fr. Mike will ask the sexton/vestry person responsible for property to get us some quotes to do this.
 - Hospitality – The cost of the luncheon with the Bishop visit was less than \$300. Dave Spengler has expressed interest in taking over hospitality for 2009.
 - Outreach/Fund Raisers – the money the vestry approved giving to Heifer International was use dot purchase a water buffalo, llama, honey bees, and chicks.
The Nativity display has become a fundraiser instead of a community event. The money made on the baskets doesn't adequately make up for losing the meaning of the nativity display. The two really need to be separated.
 - Treasurer's Report – We ended 2008 with a balance of \$45,916.72 in our checking account. Our 2005 and 2008 assessments are paid in full along with the Stokes loan. We'll start 2009 with money in the bank and carrying no long term debt. Praise God.
Sadly, Andy and Ginny Starkis are leaving the congregation and gave a generous donation "with great gratitude" for their time with us.
The treasurer's presented the details of a 2009 Good Faith Budget which the vestry unanimously approved as presented with the agreed upon changes. Details of the budget can be found in the annual report.
The treasurer's will assess what we should have in reserve for emergencies.
 - Stewardship – Pledged so far \$67,174. There are still a couple of prior pledges outstanding. Look for details in the upcoming annual report.
 - Shepherd's Report – Attendance: Overall attendance at the Christmas Service is declining. We need to rethink this next year. Christ Church is still awaiting an outstanding check from the diocese. They've taken a leap of faith that the check will come and have re-roofed the building.
 - Calendar Items "New Item" – It's really important that we, as a vestry, set a calendar for the year determining dates in advance that events will be held and advertise them and have chairperson's assigned. This item will now be a regular part of our vestry meeting.
4. Old Business:

- Nominating Committee – There's one person interested in joining the vestry. No delegates have been determined. The Nominating committee didn't know they were to also be looking for HMCM members. A new Nominating committee will convene and take a fresh look at the list of nominees.
 - Annual Meeting – Sue and Steve are taking part in the discernment process. It has been suggested by the diocesan representative for them to sit down and do some exercises including the parish to help with this.
 - The concern presented by the HMCM committee regarding Christ Church not "getting to know" Mike because he has to run immediately after service to Hopkinton, still needs to be discussed and addressed.
5. New Business – Sue handed out our job descriptions for us to review. We should each make sure we are attending to the tasks associated with our positions.
 6. Next Vestry Meeting – Wed., February 4, 2009
 - Joint vestry meeting with Christ Church – March 25, 2009
 7. Closing prayer and adjournment – Fr. Mike finished with a closing Prayer.