

APPROVED

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Minutes of Vestry Meeting August 21, 2007

Opening Prayer. Steve Cherry opened the meeting at 6:50 PM. Due to Lucinda's illness, Steve led the meeting. Jim Trimble led us in prayer. Steve then led us in the Building the Spirit Prayer. Those in attendance were Associate Rector Jim Trimble, Pastoral Associate Helen Jones, Steve Cherry, Shannon Frey, Jan Garver, Jim Moyer, Peter Bell, Lee Fletcher, Jay Lambert, Matrid Ndife, Sharon Nesmith, Edie Nixon, Greg Petrites, Linda Wardell, Bev Weis and Mike Lambert. It was announced that Dwayne Watson had been taken to the hospital with chest pain and arm numbness. It was later learned that he did not have a heart attack, and is recuperating well.

Reflection. Michael spoke about faith as being his belief and trusting in God. He reflected, that doing good should be because it is right, not to receive a payback. Much of his summer was spent at Brevard College's Music Center in Brevard, North Carolina. One student's philosophy seemed strange to Michael. She spoke of everything as being in God's hands, or in God's plan, which he felt she was blindly following. Michael believes that we have options, we make decisions, and we are responsible for ourselves, and to a great extent, for what happens in our lives. Michael believes that we have free will and are accountable for our own behavior.

Minutes. Peter moved and Shannon seconded a motion that Revision I Minutes from the July 17 Vestry Meeting be approved as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Youth Report. Ben Linder, Youth Director, and Lynn Miller, Youth Coordinator, presented a schedule of youth activities planned for the remainder of 2007. They plan to meet with the individual youth and their families in their homes as much as possible during the year. Lynn commented on the unbelievable space that is now dedicated to the youth of the parish and how much that shows the importance of youth to the parish. Ben said that St. Matthew's is the largest church in which he has worked. He notes that in comparison to parish size, youth participation is low at St. Matthew's. Ben finds the staff here very helpful. He is also coordinating the Diocesan youth program. Jay Magness is his boss there.

Sexton. Shannon worked with the staff to develop a job description for the position of sexton. Jim, Steve, Shannon and Lucinda have met to figure logistically how the employment of a sexton could happen this fall. The Part-Time Sexton Proposal of August 16, 2007 was discussed. Since the new church is finished there is more work and more space to oversee. A staff member has become injured moving around equipment to get ready for parish functions. The staff is not eager for others to be injured. Sam Bridge has offered to lead a committee to hire a sexton, evaluate appropriate tasks, determine compensation and refine the job description. Our financial picture has improved since 2006. Currently our deficit is \$48,000 whereas it was \$73,000 at this time last year. The

cost of a sexton is estimated to be \$3,600 for four months (Sept. – Dec.). This could serve as an income supplement for a younger person, a seminarian, a college student, or a parishioner. Linda moved and Sharon seconded a motion to appoint a committee headed by Sam Bridge to work with the Part-Time Sexton Proposal, to refine a job description, to hire a temporary sexton for four months to be paid \$12/hour for 15 hours/week, and to evaluate the position. The motion was approved unanimously. Knowledge gained during this part-time employment will help to furnish information regarding details of the position for consideration of a full time position in 2008.

July Financials. Jim gave a positive report. Our Total Income and Transfers for July were \$92,885. We had a nearly \$19,000 surplus in July mostly caused by our Current Year Pledges paid of \$75,956. We had budgeted \$57,200, thus we are \$18,756 above our budget. Our Year to Date July Actual was \$397,911 in 2006. This year that sum is \$490,922. At this time last year we were behind \$73,000. This year we are behind only \$28,000. This July is much better than the past several years. Attendance has been low this summer, but now that the construction is complete, attendance increased by 100 this past Sunday, August 19. The plate offerings are 10 % over budget, and typically this represents visitors or new members who have not made a pledge. In Year to Date Expenses, we are “beating the budget” in Fuel, Light and Water, being ahead by \$7,967. Bev cautions that we should not get too elated about our finances, because many who pay pledges do so once or twice a year and thus July is generally a heavier income month than many.

Building the Spirit Campaign. Lee reported that there is little change in this account. There have been no additional gifts since July 31 at which time the balance was \$2,751,871.60 pledged toward our Challenge Goal of \$2,800,000. Increases to pledges or new gifts received to date in 2007 stands at \$64,507.88. Eighty-one pledges have been completed as of July 31. \$520,000 is the adjusted balance to be paid by pledges.

Construction Financial Report. Linda reported that there had been little change since June 30. We have remaining funds of \$391,244 in our Stock Yards Cash Management Account, which is being drawn down as we finish paying for arriving furniture and equipment. Sports equipment for the youth is still to be ordered. Additional expenses yet to be paid are for the sound system for Saints and Clingman Hall and building art. Our debt remains at \$1,500,000. There was damage done to the sanctuary carpet by a company that was replacing light bulbs. The lift used was too heavy. They have agreed to be responsible for repairs.

Concern was expressed about the appearance of the coat closet and sink in the Narthex. Vestry members are looking into remedying this situation.

Green Team Committee Report. Jan reported that the focus of the committee is on acting out the part of “Prayers for the People” which state: “For the good earth which God has given us, and for the will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.” Attention will be directed toward what we can do as individuals, families and a parish to reverence the

earth. Each committee member has chosen a research area. Our findings and plans will be shared with the staff and parish as they are approved.

Associate Rector's Report. Jim requested that the vestry approve of St. Matthew's joining an Internet congregational network of Faith & Justice Churches sponsored by Sojourners. Membership will cost \$119.95 and will enable our parish to receive national recognition as a partner in the network. It will also allow us to support Sojourners' work to put this national network together. The network will offer tools and resources for clergy, staff, and the parish. The vestry agreed that this is a wise investment.

Wardens' Report. Steve presented three resolutions. Jim moved and Sharon seconded a resolution supporting Helen Jones in her journey to priesthood. Sharon moved and Shannon seconded a motion to recommend Anne Vouga for the diaconate. Sharon moved and Shannon seconded a recommendation for Mary Ann Mertz for postulant. All three motions were approved unanimously.

The vestry was reminded of the retreat planned for September 8 at Bernheim. Lucinda will put copies of a booklet for retreat reading in vestry mailboxes. Carpooling will take place at the church at 9:15 AM. Sharon will bill us for our individual lunches, and we will repay the church.

Shannon suggested that it is time to offer another "Meet the Vestry" session. Jim suggested that she contact Kit Kincade, organizer of adult education and see whether one of the three Millenium Goals sessions could be used for a vestry update instead. People want to know how the building will be used. A session with Parents in Conversation also should be offered.

Through Lucinda, Shannon will supply an updated committee and task force list with the vestry. Sharon also mentioned that parishioners are concerned about the welfare of the staff with so much change being brought on them during the planning, construction, and final building arrangements.

Steve reported that part of the construction process still needs attention. There are three lists being developed. He will share these with the vestry when they are completed.

- 1) Punch list with all items needing to be finished by the construction contractor.
- 2) Items not listed in the original construction contracts, which are becoming evident that may still need attention. These will be at an additional cost.
- 3) Items that can be accomplished by volunteers, some needing immediate attention and some for future work.

Old Business.

Sound Systems. Peter reported that PSG is snowed under with other jobs at colleges and churches. It will be mid-September when they get to us to do ten days of work. The vesting room speaker is coming and will be installed soon. Baffling is needed

to improve the sound in Saints Hall. This will be a separate cost from the sound system of \$48,000, but will help the sound system function better.

New Business. Bev reminded members that it is time to begin thinking of persons to nominate for vestry positions to be elected in January.

Karen Refugees Status Report. Sharon reported that the refugee family of seven would be arriving from New York City on August 30. Two joining apartments are being readied for them. Karen Hill and Jody Fletcher with forty committee members are leading this work. Any extra donated items will be given to Kentucky Refugee Ministries who are closely aligned with the Episcopal Migration Ministry.

Ministry Offices/Community Outreach. Matrid reported that no meeting had yet occurred. They have been receiving suggestions and she will have more to share at the October vestry meeting.

Compline. Michael led Compline in the chapel. Vestry adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Jan Garver
Secretary