

APPROVED

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Minutes of Vestry Meeting May 15, 2007

Lucinda Laird opened the meeting at 6:45 PM with prayer followed by our repeating of the Capital Campaign Prayer. Those present were Rector Lucinda Laird; Pastoral Associate Helen Jones and Barbara Ellis, Organist/Choirmaster. Vestry members present were Steve Cherry, Shannon Frey, Jan Garver, Jim Moyer, Peter Bell, Lee Fletcher, Jay Lambert, Sharon Nesmith, Edie Nixon, Greg Petrites, Bill Stodghill, Linda Wardell, Dwanye Watson, and Bev Weis. Architect, Gibbs Reese, was also present. The Reverend Jim Trimble, our new Associate Rector, was introduced and attended his first St. Matthew's Vestry meeting.

Reflection. Lee Fletcher described how his understanding of the complexity of faith has developed throughout his life. He likened himself to the Disciple Thomas who was also eager to have physical proof for things, which in many cases have none. He talked about a number of people whose personal example or writings have influenced him in his faith journey including Saint Thomas, John the Baptist, Carl Sagan, Mortimer Adler, Dick Humke, his father and women of the parish, especially his wife, Jody.

Lee also shared with the vestry copies of an editorial carried in the *New York Times* entitled, "The Episcopal Church Marking a Milestone, Moving Forward."

Minutes. Lucinda presented a revised section describing the Vestry Study and a spelling correction was suggested. Peter Bell moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. A unanimous vote accepted the April 24, 2007 minutes.

Agenda. No changes or additions were made to the agenda. They were followed as printed.

Staff Report. Barbara Ellis reported on the work of the music department over the past year. She expressed joy at being the first department to move into its spacious new facility. It has made her job and that of the choir and bells much easier to have a large designated space in which to practice and store music and instruments. She described the music library as "state of the art," for which we can thank her and her husband, Steve, who used his computer expertise to set up an Excel catalog program, and thereby saved the church approximately two thousand dollars. Another savings of \$2500 has been made possible through a bell tune-up, which was completed during a handbell maintenance workshop at Christ Church United Methodist. Miller Pipe Organ Company, which rebuilt our organ, will continue to service the instrument as needed. A great addition to the music department is the Children's Music staff member, Charlie Patton. Lucinda complimented Barbara for her outstanding music leadership, community building and collegiality.

Construction Report. Gibbs Reese stated that the construction continues slowly, but many trades-people are still involved at the site. Electrical, cabinetry, millwork, computers and lighting issues remain. Vestry members agreed that the design and appearance of the narthex floor is amazing and that the selection and variety of finishings in the church is appreciated. The elevator is still being checked out and will need to be inspected before it is used. Asphalt work and site grading will be done this week. A session will be planned to instruct parish members on the correct use of kitchen appliances, general operation and maintenance of equipment and instruction manuals for the new building. Jim Moyer moved that the vestry express its appreciation for Gibbs' continuing to help move the construction project to its full completion.

Vestry Study 2007. Lucinda led a discussion of the reading of *This Far by Grace* pages 1-19. Members are to read pages 20-50 by next month's meeting.

Building the Spirit.

Statistical Report. Lee Fletcher reported that pledges continue to come in at a slow and steady pace. There were two new pledges during April. So far this month, two pledges were completed and increased. Seventy-four have now completed their pledges. Approximately \$586,000 are still anticipated to be received from pledges. In addition to this number, there is an estimated \$1,573,000 still required to end the campaign debt.

Financial Report. Linda Wardell reported that we have total assets as of April 30 of \$175,665.91. Our total liabilities are (\$1,645,739.43) which brings us to total net assets of (\$1,470,073.52). Our total collected project income, including the Augustus Bequest, is \$3,243,534.41. Currently we have a Stock Yards Bank loan at a floating rate, which has stayed below prime. At the end of two years the loan will convert to a fixed rate. As of April 30, we have borrowed \$1,550,000 from Stock Yards Bank. We will borrow an additional \$500,000 in May. It is anticipated that we will not need to borrow additional money from the construction line of credit, but have until December 2007 to draw on the line should we need to do so.

AV Report. Peter Bell stated that we would have three estimates relating to audio-visual needs in Saints and Clingman halls. He is still waiting for two estimates. Lucinda requested that Peter have a recommendation for the June vestry meeting.

Phone Report. Edie Nixon, Mark Lewis and Mardi Galvin have been working to get bids and make a decision about the most suitable phone system for the church. They have suggested that the \$12,000 bid from U.S. Voice and Data is the best bid received. Mark Lewis has also done a great deal of *pro bono* work on our computer systems.

April Financials. Jim Moyer called our attention to good attendance and contributions during the month of April. He mentioned that April had five Sundays and Holy Week this year, but that Spring Break was also during Holy Week which tends to lessen family attendance. Current pledges for April are \$72,698 in comparison to \$57,200 budgeted for this period. This is the first month that we have been ahead of the budget in income

received. Our income is up significantly from April 2006. The excess of Staff Salary will change since we now have a new associate rector, Jim Trimble, who arrived on May 15.

Committee Reports.

The *ad hoc* Committee on Saints Hall Usage. This committee consisted of Edie, Bev Weis, Pat Mulloy, Peter, Linda and Mardi. Their report was based on research about similar facility rentals from Christ Methodist, the Episcopal Cathedral, The Olmsted and Clifton Center among others. The staff will discuss the group's report. "Guidelines for Building Usage" includes sections concerning Reservations, Hours, Food and Beverage, Decorations, and Rental Rates for the spaces. Vestry members had questions about the beverages consumed, and number of adult chaperones if a youth event was held. Attorney Gaylee Gillim or other church member attorney may be approached for legal advice before a final draft of the guidelines is published.

Library Committee. Lee shared an article from *The Spirit* and a September 2006 vestry report about plans for the rejuvenated church library with new vestry members. Ordered furniture is to arrive in July and computers will be ordered thereafter. It will probably be 2008 before the library is fully functional.

Old Business.

AED. Bill Stodghill has learned that no gifts are available from hospitals for Automated External Defibrillators. We may want one for each floor of the church. A unit costs \$1500. Jim knows the St. Matthews Fire Department Chief and will talk with him about what specific equipment we should purchase and whether or not their emergency medical technicians would be able to teach us how to use them. Bill wrote an article for *The Spirit* regarding this need at Lucinda's request.

Vestry Retreat. Lucinda brought an email from Wooded Glen Conference Center regarding availability and costs to use their center for the retreat. Because their fee is \$50/person, it was determined that an exploratory committee should investigate alternative, less expensive sites for the proposed September 8 retreat. Sharon Nesmith, Helen Jones and Jim Moyer will serve on this committee.

New Business. No new business was brought before the meeting.

Wardens' Report. Steve Cherry and Shannon Frey mentioned those who had helped to ready the Trimble house and especially praised Dwayne for his continuing expertise and helpful work on the Trimble house as well as the old and new church facility. We are truly indebted to him.

Associate Rector's Report. Jim will be involved with young adults, families, outreach and Millennium Development Goals. He currently serves on the All Saints Camp Board, on the Cathedral Chapter and is the Diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief and

Development. He and his wife Sarah and four and one half year old son, Reily, came from St. Mary's in Madisonville, where Jim served as rector; and they are delighted to be in Louisville where both he and Sarah have family.

Housing Allowance. After a discussion of the staff's housing allowance, it was decided with Jim's approval that of his total funds paid to him by the church, \$14,000 would be designated as housing allowance and the additional \$40,000 would be considered salary. This motion was moved by Bev and seconded by Sharon. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The housing allowance is non-taxable and this specific allocation is to be reported to the IRS annually.

Rector's Report. Lucinda reported that May 20 would be a very big day for the church due to confirmation. The bishop will preside and will be present for "Conversation with the Bishop," following the 8 AM service and a reception with those confirmed after the 10 AM service. Jim Trimble will preach at the 5 PM service. Lucinda will be in Pennsylvania June 3-9 attending a conference at Villanova University where she will be leading sessions about preaching. Lucinda also mentioned the helpful contributions and talent which Harry Tidwell and Bob Clark offered readying the Trimble house.

Compline. Lee led Compline in the Chapel.

The vestry meeting was adjourned before 10 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Jan Garver
Secretary