

APPROVED COPY

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Minutes of Vestry Meeting March 20th, 2007

The meeting began at 6:00p.m. with a prayer led by Lucinda Laird. The Capital Campaign prayer was spoken by all present. Those present were Rector Lucinda Laird, Pastoral Associate Helen Jones, Priest Associate Moray Peoples, Parish Life Coordinator Ann Davis, Vestry Members Steve Cherry, Shannon Frey, Jan Garver, Jim Moyer, Lee Fletcher, Jay Lambert, Matrid Ndife, Sharon Nesmith, Edie Nixon, Greg Petrites, Bill Stodghill, Linda Wardell, Dwayne Watson, Bev Weis and Mike Lambert, Youth Representative. Peter Bell was absent. Special guest was Gibbs Reese.

Reflection. Edie Nixon shared her reflection on *How Firm a Foundation*. Edie recalled the passing of her father and the peace she felt after praying, sharing at the cross, and asking God to keep watch over the family during the difficult time. Edie reminded us all, and specifically Jan (as she's headed to surgery the following day), that sharing at the cross during difficult times, brings God's peace.

Minutes. Bev moved that the February 13th, 2007, minutes be approved. Bill seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes was approved

Agenda. The agenda was changed to allow Ann to conduct an invitation to the Agape Dinner.

Construction Report. Gibbs mentioned many of the on-going projects throughout the church were moving toward completion. The elevator was to be installed by the end of the week. The new office spaces are expected to be finished and occupied by the end of April. The Landscape Task-force has completed its design selection, which will be installed this spring.

Building the Spirit.

Lee and Linda were very pleased to announce that the church received a gift of \$25,000 to help close the gap in the Building Campaign budget. It was also stated by Linda that there was no borrowing in March, nor was there any prediction for borrowing funds for April. Jim presented the financials for February. He pointed out that the February Actual Income item (\$5,382) is a bookkeeping correction. There were no other surprising numbers.

It was reported that Bob Clark made it known that money will be needed for an AV system in Saints Hall. The funds will be allocated from other budget areas. The construction budget does not currently include funds for this equipment.

Mary Louise Gorman on behalf of the Memorial Garden Committee requested \$5,000 for replanting and other maintenance work in the Memorial Gardens. This committee also received a \$500 gift and a \$150 gift certificate to Frank Otte. It was discussed that the general contractors will cover some of the needed repairs in the Memorial Garden. All concurred that the request for funds from the Memorial Garden Committee was a reasonable request that should be honored, as it supports the goal of having a completed garden.

A general concern voiced was that attendance at church and church school was down, as is reflected in funds in our plate collection. It was generally thought that our numbers were down as a result of construction fatigue. Shannon suggested that parishioners be informed and encouraged to fulfill their pledges through automatic bank withdrawals. Bill also urged all to make a conscious and dedicated effort to invite our friends and acquaintances to church, as a means of introducing St. Matthews to the wider community.

New Orleans Response Committee- Bev reported that Dr. Greg Kuhn loaned the committee use of his van to make the mission trip to New Orleans in April. The Outreach Committee will provide \$1,500 toward the cost of the trip. The committee is also hoping to purchase needed tools that could be left behind at St. Anna's. Lucinda mentioned that this committee does not need Vestry approval for disbursements, but only for their recommendation of the recipients of offerings collected at Easter and Christmas.

Old Business

Audit- Jim Moyer discussed the progress on the audit of St. Matthews. There was a presentation given by three accounting firms. It was recommended that the better course of action was to conduct a review rather than an audit, as it was more economical to conduct the review. It was suggested that a "balanced review" be conducted after all construction was completed. The anticipated time frame for such a review to be completed is the end of October. This company has a large non-profit practice with extensive local expertise. It is expected that this company could provide consultation on the non-profit tax status in relation to our intended use of Saints Hall. Shannon moved to request that written proposals detailing what will be covered in the review be solicited from Chilton and Medley. This motion was seconded by Edie, and all unanimously agreed with the motion.

Conversation with the Vestry- It was agreed that Parents in Conversation would be the next group within the church that the vestry will share up-dates of the progress and status of the Capital Champaign budget.

Jim Moyer suggested that at the April Vestry meeting, the group should discuss and plan the Half-day vestry Retreat.

Steve made a motion that \$2,500 should be made available from the maintenance budget to paint Jim and Sarah Trimble's house where needed on the exterior and interior. The motion was seconded by Linda and all concurred.

Bill reported that he was in the process of sourcing and pricing automated external defibrillators.

The meeting was adjourned with no Compline, which had been offered earlier following the Lenten Dinner in Saints Hall.