

APPROVED
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting
March 18, 2008

Opening Prayer. Lucinda opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with prayer and the reciting of the Building the Spirit Prayer. Those in attendance were Rector Lucinda Laird, Pastoral Associate Helen Jones and Parish Life Coordinator Ann Davis. Vestry members present were Edie Nixon, Linda Wardell, Jan Garver, Greg Petrites, Lauren Becker, Peter Bell, Sue Bridge, Steve Cherry, Becky Donovan, Matrid Ndife, Sharon Nesmith, Clay Smith, Bill Stodghill and Julia Weis.

Reflection. Linda spoke about her ideas of “community” and how it is at the heart of St. Matthew’s Parish. She reflected on how she has perceived community or its absence in the 6-7 parishes that she and her husband, Kevin, have been involved with as they have lived in eight different states. She expressed envy for those who have resided in the same place for a long time and have been able to bury deep roots in one community. She has learned that the more intent she is on participating in the parish, the more fully she feels a part of the community. She encouraged those who have not participated in EFM to consider doing so. The more open one can be to opportunities of ministry, the more fulfilled one will feel. “Real community doesn’t happen automatically, it requires a lot of people making the effort to be in relationship with each other.”

Approval of Minutes. Sharon moved that the February 19, 2008 minutes be approved and Becky seconded the motion. The approval was unanimous.

Staff Report: Parish Life Coordinator. Ann reported on the various chairpersons who head her area committees. She thinks that the parish is enjoying the bigger space of Saints’ Hall for meals. Five Lenten suppers have been held and a number of parish members have learned to operate kitchen appliances. Social Concerns and Daughters of the King are beginning to use the kitchen for their meal preparation. Two successful Newcomer Wine and Cheese receptions have been held. Lauren offered to help in the planning of future trips to offer the currently defunct Ladies and Gentlemen of Experience group.

Bill wishes for St. Matthew’s to share the bounty of its new facility and kitchen with those less fortunate. Lucinda requested that Bill might take this concern to the Social Concerns Committee for their consideration. Another suggestion was made to check with Ellen Robertson because she had taken suggestions for using our space to St. Matthews’ Area Ministry Board Retreat. Holding the Cornerstone Summer program at our church was another suggestion. Lauren Becker wondered if Senior Citizens’ East might want to coordinate Meals on Wheels out of our facility. Sharon volunteered to follow up with Ellen and Meals on Wheels.

February Financial Report. Greg reported that this year to date the actual receipts are \$2,086 ahead of the budget. In current year pledges, we are behind by \$5,418. With

respect to this, we are in a better position than we were this time last year. We are behind \$1,071 on Reimbursements which includes Saints' Hall and mission offices rental. We are above budget for St. MAAM's because we make two payments/year, and one payment was made in February. In Operating Expenses, we are a bit over budget in Fuel, Light and Water, in Annual meeting expenses, and the Diocesan Convention, which has been held. Currently we are ahead in income at \$130,000. Last year at this time the comparable amount was \$88,000.

Building the Spirit Financial Statistics. Linda reported that the Total Pledges/Gifts received are \$2,872,151.84 shows small change from last month's report. Stock Adjustments of \$7,745.03 represents the difference between the stock gift and fees associated with selling the stock, as well as the value of the stock, which can go up or down once the donor transfers the stock to the church. The current available cash is \$2,864,406.81. Under Total Receipts to date, the total projected to receive by 12/31/2011 has been lowered from \$319,743.94 to \$219,743.94 by posting a \$100,000 discount due to 3.5% of pledges which now are in arrears. Linda commented that things happen to multiple year pledges such that the person(s) are not able to fulfill the pledge.

Building the Spirit Financial Report. Linda reported on Account Balances as of 2/29/08. Total Assets are \$301,013.39. Total Liabilities are (\$1,916,610.06). Our Total Net Assets are (\$1,615,596.67). The bulk of our expenses are now in loan payments. We continue to retain \$24,347 from F.W. Owen, and \$1,800 from Reese Design until all work is completed. In the total project cost, \$80,125 remains to be paid. We still owe \$1,479,260 to complete the building project.

Committee Reports.

Adult Education. Kit Kincade's email to the vestry was explained by Lucinda and Sue Bridge. The committee has evaluated the offerings of 2007 and sought response and guidance from the vestry in their planning of sessions for the remainder of 2008 and 2009. An extensive discussion followed. A variety of opinions were shared by vestry members. One person said s/he preferred not having volunteer activities and service projects presented because many in the parish are already very involved with parish ministries. Other members requested more classes in spiritual development, Bible study and end of life issues. Another wishes not to have topics of politics, war, going green because s/he hears enough of that during the week on the radio. One requested classes which help one apply gospel truths to daily life. Could Bible study be offered on Sundays rather than only during the week when many are at work and unable to attend? Could an evening Bible study be offered in the summer? A request for a once a month "block buster" speaker was made. Another member suggested intentional small groups focused around a topic of common interest to a particular age group.

Building and Grounds. Greg and Steve have agreed to join this committee to supplement Dwayne Watson's work. Currently Dwayne is taking bids from two grounds contractors, including snow removal. He has a list of seven items waiting attention when the weather improves.

New Business. Emily Schwartz will be at St. Matthew's for Easter weekend. The vestry recommended that she should be considered for "candidacy for Holy Orders." Emily is on schedule for an August or September ordination. The bishop has placed her at Calvary Church when she finishes seminary training.

Alleluia Fund. It was agreed that money offered during the Presiding Bishop's visit would be directed to this fund at the request of Bishop Gulick to assist the Rwanda church with a clinic. Lucinda will respond to the bishop that we will participate in this fund more in the coming year since our Easter offerings had already been designated to other causes.

Old Business.

Presiding Bishop's Visit. Bishop Schori will be in Louisville May 16-18. On Friday she will be at a reception at the Episcopal Church Home with ecumenical leaders. Later in the day, she will be at St. Georges, and at 6 p.m. there is a dinner at St. Matthews for a clergy, staff and spouses, At 7:30 p.m. she will hold a Community Forum. Saturday there will be events at All Saints Camp in Litchfield including youth, confirmations and baptisms. Later in the day a Community Forum and Evensong will take place in Paducah. On Sunday she will be at a 10 a.m. service at the Cathedral. At noon she will be at Resurrection with the Sudanese Community which worships there. The diocese will provide a system of free tickets, which will help to monitor the space issues of different venues.

Those at St. Matthews who are involved with these occasions are Marty Lawfer, Edie Nixon, Debbi Rodahaffer, Sue Ellen Brill, Ed & Karen Hill, Rhody Streeter, Linda Collins and others. There are both Forum and Supper committees at St. Matthews.

Lucinda's goals for the events are to get more people in Kentucky excited about the church and its mission. And secondly, Lucinda wishes to raise our profile as Episcopalians in this community. Funding will come from the bishop and diocese funds, donations in kind from individuals and businesses. The remaining costs will be shared among the churches in the diocese.

Warden's Report.

Contracts. Edie reported that Linda and Mardi Galvin will be reviewing all warranties and existing service contracts. The plan is to create a document that includes all of the items along with expiration/renewal dates.

Other. Edie reminded the vestry that when we make a commitment, we are to live up to the commitment. She was disappointed at the poor showing of vestry members to help with the March Lenten Dinner set up and clean up.

Rector's Report.

Newcomers Wine and Cheese Reception. Lucinda complimented the vestry on its good support of these two occasions.

White House. Clay and Steve are to call a meeting and begin consideration of options for the future of the house.

Vestry Elections Committee. Lucinda requested that Becky call this committee together to evaluate the elections.

Holy Week Services. Lucinda encouraged vestry members to attend these services, especially Maunday Thursday and the Agape Meal.

Diocesan Convention. St. Matthew's will host this convention in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Garver
Vestry Secretary