

APPROVED
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting
September 18, 2007

Opening Prayer. Lucinda opened the meeting at 6:45 PM with prayer and announcements. Those in attendance were Rector Lucinda Laird, Pastoral Associate Helen Jones, Parish Life Coordinator Ann Davis, and Vestry Members Steve Cherry, Shannon Frey, Jan Garver, Lee Fletcher, Jay Lambert, Matrid Ndife, Sharon Nesmith, Greg Petrites, Bill Stodghill, Linda Wardell, Dwayne Watson, Bev Weis and Mike Lambert, Youth Representative. Shannon read Bob Nesmith's letter regarding his placement as an intern at St. James Church in Shelbyville as he continues his discernment process toward ministry. Lucinda announced Helen Jones' coming ordination along with Karl Lusk and Alice Nichols on Saturday, October 27, at 11 a.m. at Christ Church Cathedral.

The meeting continued with the Capital Campaign Prayer. Discussion followed that the name of the collect should be changed to Building the Spirit Prayer.

Reflection. Jim Moyer shared a reflection about evangelism and its many forms and participants including those he has met at the Nairobi Airport, at college, in Lafayette Park as a young D.C. lawyer, at a Judges Conference in Arizona, at a fast food restaurant in Harlan County, Kentucky. Jim wonders what motivates these evangelizers to experience different cultures and from diverse walks of life? Why were some engaging and others offensive to him? How do we as Episcopalians spread the Word? Or why don't we? Why are we reticent?

Minutes. Steve moved and Sharon seconded the acceptance of the August 21 minutes. They were accepted unanimously.

Agenda Additions. Bill Stodghill, now recovering from quintuple heart by-pass surgery expressed his thanks for the help and support offered to him and his family. He requested that a time be offered in the worship service each week for parishioners to give thanks or make other personal statements. His request was affirmed by Matrid, Helen, and Linda. Lucinda said the main reason such a time was not offered was due to "time crunch." She strives to end the service by 11:15 a.m. at the latest to leave adequate time for church school classes. Lucinda encouraged vestry members to offer oral prayers during the Prayers of the People to encourage more verbal participation by other parish members.

Staff Report. Ann Davis, Parish Life Coordinator, expressed a need for a new Bread Ministry Chair. Bill McKinney could use more drivers. A new Kitchen Committee has been formed and ten persons were trained by Charlie Wallace, owner of C & T Design & Equipment, to use the kitchen appliances. A number on the new committee expressed interest in helping in the kitchen during outside-of-parish events as well. Approximately 160 persons attended the Newcomer Breakfast in Saints Hall. Ann was delighted to have a committee, which took care of the details so that she was better able to mingle with the

newcomers. Ann suggested that this is an exciting time in the parish as we incorporate new folks into ongoing and new parish groups and events. She can always use more volunteers for events and is currently trying to gauge matching people, the new space and new events. Bev complimented Ann on the helpfulness of her specific description of volunteer jobs so that folks knew exactly what they were agreeing to do. Several comments were made that attendance is improving in September in comparison to August attendance. Children's church school and Parents in Conversation classes are the best in eleven years according to Debbi Rodahaffer.

Financial Report. Jim Moyer stated that the August Total Income and Transfers were \$67,217. The August budget for the period was \$74,065. Leaving a difference of (\$6,848). He suggests that the main reason for this is that Income from Current Year Pledges Actual was \$51,526 whereas the budget was \$57,200, leaving a shortfall of (\$5,674). The plate offering was \$801 below budget. Fuel, Light and Water operating expenses are below budget by (\$1,348). He expects grounds and janitorial expenses to rise in the fall. Our total excess (deficit) is currently (\$21,871) two thirds of the way through the year. In 2006 at this time we were (\$40,564) behind, so the picture looks much brighter in 2007.

Building the Spirit. Lee stated that 84 pledges have been completed while 140 parishioners are still paying. The actual payments have exceeded our original goal of \$2.1 million and we have exceeded the 2007 projected receipt amount at this time by \$8,000.

Linda continued the report by presenting the Total Project Estimate in a new helpful format with columns for Current Estimate/Budget, Paid as of 8/31/07, and the Balance (Current estimate less paid to date). We currently have \$342,000 in the bank and \$2.1 million in outstanding loans. Our Total Income as of 8/31/07 for this year is \$415,785. Our Total Project Income received to date is \$3,400,696. This includes the Augustus Bequest, pledges, gifts, memorial gifts, fund-raising and other miscellaneous income as well as interest income and reimbursement. Additional funds required remain at \$1,527,840.

Lucinda reported for Peter Bell that PSG's Chris Hermanson is to get with Mardi Galvin to schedule the sound work in Saints Hall and Clingman Chapel. Not until all work is complete can the interest rate be set for the remainder of our debt on the building project.

Vestry Study on Human Sexuality. Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Mark Bourlakas joined the vestry in their discussion. Following the discussion, the vestry approved the following motion unanimously.

“It is the consensus of the Vestry that, as part of our pastoral care to all our parishioners, St. Matthew's would like to offer the possibility of same sex blessings. Our next step in the process towards that goal is to broaden our conversation to include the bishop and the whole congregation.” It was noted that the Vestry is not talking about Holy Matrimony,

but the blessing of a committed relationship and further, that such blessing be offered only to long-time parishioners.

On October 14, during the Adult Education Hour, the vestry will report to the parish regarding its work on this and other business. On Tuesday, October 23, from 7:30 – 9 p.m. the Vestry will offer a report and open discussion on its six-month study of Human Sexuality. Directives from the national church and other dioceses will be included in this report.

Old Business.

AED. A course to learn CPR and to use the Automated External Defibrillator will be offered. Vestry members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sexton Report. Shannon and Sam Bridge were thanked for their work to complete the Sexton’s job description. Lynn Miller, Sam Bridge, Mardi Galvin, Ann Davis and Lucinda will meet to interview one candidate at 3 PM on September 26. Bev Weis may attend the appointment. Other candidates will be welcomed.

New Business. There was none presented.

Wardens’ Report. There was none presented.

Associate Rector’s Report. Lucinda read announcements from Jim Trimble. The Celebrations Committee needs a new chair. Lucinda will approach Ann Miller. On Tuesday, September 25, at 7 PM there will be a presentation in Saints Hall offered by Interfaith Paths to Peace including speakers from Israel, Jordan and the West Bank. Joan Kincade is offering a seminar on Saturday, September 29, on “Healing with Imagination.” The Bishop will be coming to St. Matthew’s on December 16 to offer adult confirmation and reaffirmation at the 5 p.m. service. St. Matthew’s Day celebration is this Sunday, September 23. Vestry members are requested to wear armbands and offer tours of the new building to those who attend the picnic. Shannon mentioned that Debbi Rodahaffer will be having knee surgery on October 3. Members are encouraged to prepare a meal for her and her family. Dwayne reported that the Building and Grounds Committee has twelve members and newly selected officers.

Compline. Jim led Compline in the chapel. Vestry adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Garver
Secretary