

APPROVED
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting
November 13, 2007

Opening Prayer. Lucinda opened the meeting at 6:45 pm and led us in prayer including the Building the Spirit Prayer. Those in attendance were Rector Lucinda Laird, Pastoral Associate Helen Jones, Associate Rector Jim Trimble and Vestry members Steve Cherry, Shannon Frey, Jan Garver, Jim Moyer, Peter Bell, Lee Fletcher, Sharon Nesmith, Bill Stodghill, Bev Weis, Jay Lambert, and Mike Lambert. Matrid Ndife, Greg Petrites, Dwayne Watson, Edie Nixon and Linda Wardell were absent.

Reflection. In place of the usual reflection, Jan and Bill shared memories of their recent trips to China and Tibet.

Minutes. The October 16, 2007, will be approved at the December meeting after members submit corrections and additions to Jan.

Agenda Items. Bill added an item about the defibrillator to Old Business.

Staff Report. The vestry received a printed report from the Director of Christian Education. Shannon praised Debbi Rodahaffer's superlative leadership, amazing program and outstanding teaching staff. A discussion ensued regarding the coming visit of the vestry to the senior high-church school class. Michael thought that human sexuality and same sex blessings are topics never touched on during his years in church school at St. Matthews. He thinks that such a topic should be presented to his class. He suggested that parents not be included in the class for this session so that youth would feel freer to participate in the class. Jim Trimble, Jim Moyer, Lucinda, Peter and Lee expressed the idea that parents should be informed of the coming class topic. As the parent of a high schooler, Bev agrees that parents should be informed of the class, but not plan to attend. This Senior High Class is now planned for January 20.

Financial Report. Jim Moyer stated that since this is his second year as treasurer, he is not surprised to see that we have a short fall in October, but that this should be made up in November and December. Our Total Income and Transfers show a deficit of (\$14,251). Our Year to Date shortfall is (\$58,239). In 2006 at this time, we had received 75.3% of budgeted income. In 2007 we have received 76.78% of budgeted income. Our income for November has begun high, but with the stock market's ups and downs, Jim thinks that might affect our parish members' end-of-year generosity. The Total Salaries are at an appropriate level including the new sexton's pay. The rector reports that attendance has been down in October.

Building the Spirit Financial Report. Linda sent this email comment along with her report. "There was minimal activity during the month of October. However, we did pay down \$100,000 on the Stock Yards Bank Construction Loan, as agreed to at the last

vestry meeting. As you will see in the reports, we continue to need about \$1.5 million above current pledge levels to fully pay for the project.”

Building the Spirit Statistics. Lee reported that the total number of pledges and gifts has remained the same during September and October. There are 368 pledges/gifts for a total of \$2,764,531.60. Total receipts until the end of October are over 2.3 million dollars. While total receipts continue to be ahead of projections, some donors remain behind in their pledge payments.

Every Member Canvass. Lucinda requested that each vestry member make five calls to encourage all parish units to make a pledge for 2008. She will email a script to assist vestry members in their calls. Even if the pledge is for \$1/month, it is important that all make and fulfill a pledge. Our accountant, Ruth Kempf and Lucinda are the only staff who actually know the amount that an individual pledges. Approximately 70 giving units have not been heard from and there are a possible 20 new pledges.

Old Business.

Vestry Nominations. Outgoing vestry members Jim Moyer, Jay, Bev, Lee and Shannon along with, Ellen Robertson and Jenice Carolan have been working to develop a list of candidates for the 2008 vestry. They will begin calling potential candidates this week.

Diocesan Convention. Ann Miller, Steve Cherry, Sharon Nesmith and Peter Bell have expressed interest in attending the convention. There are also openings in diocesan offices which parish members may consider expressing interest in.

Defibrillator Classes. Classes were canceled due to the illness of the instructor, Elaine Kersting. A new date and time will be chosen for the training. Eight people can be trained at one time.

Sound System. Chris Hermanson will have finished the sound system in Clingman and Saints Halls by the end of November. His company PSG has been able to complete the work at \$2500 under the projected cost. Additional soundproofing may be needed in Saints Hall using some of this temporary surplus. Training on the systems will occur later.

Committee Reports.

Ministry Offices. Sharon reported that a potential renter of a mission space is Roger Dutschke (Ali Ahern’s father) whose company, The Housing Foundation, provides home ownership education, counseling and down payment assistance of \$1,000 - \$50,000 per family in several Kentucky counties. The Housing Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that also serves as advisor to Kentucky Habitat for Humanity with its Grant Assist Program. Roger has indicated that the Kentucky habitat office has expressed interest in renting one of our offices. The committee will pursue this. Sam Doerr, Director of Operations at the Cathedral, has given us a copy of their lease

agreement that Brian Good is modifying to be appropriate for St. Matthews. He advised that the church make sure renters and other groups do not have access to our building spaces after business hours. One other issue was mentioned regarding cost of operating square footage of the building. Matrid determined the cost to be \$30/mission room. Jim Moyer questioned the formula used to calculate this estimate.

New Business.

Budget Preparation. Lucinda reported that budget requests have been solicited from committee chairs to be presented in writing at a Budget Wish List meeting on November 29 from 7-8:30 pm. The Vestry will finalize budget plans on December 11 from 7:30-9 pm. The regular vestry meeting will occur at 6:30 pm on December 18.

Wardens' Report. Linda is withholding \$59,000 from the Owens Company until the punch list is resolved. Of Gibbs Reese's contract, \$9,793 is being withheld for the same reason. Steve reports that the carpet repair in the sanctuary is a warranty issue due to the damage done by the electrical company when replacing light bulbs in the ceiling. Three options are being considered:

- a. Only replace damaged areas
- b. Select an accent color to replace damaged areas
- c. Replace the entire sanctuary carpet.

Associate Rector's Report. A new lectern and music stand for the sanctuary is being fashioned by an Idaho woodcrafter. Chris Hermanson has retrofitted a wireless microphone for the stand. The Young Adults Group under Jim's leadership is growing and more activities are evolving. A Bible study is planned for 2008. The last Sunday in November will involve the parish in the Millennium Development Goals ONE Campaign.

Rector's Report. December 9 & 16 Adult Education classes will be devoted to a continuation of the parish study of human sexuality and same sex blessings. Lucinda has ordered 20 copies of each book read by the vestry. Jay will present a short summary of *The Gay Debate* by Stanton Jones and Shannon will likewise review *Thus Far by Grace* by J. Neil Alexander, Bishop of Atlanta. These will be followed by an open discussion by the attendees. Jim Trimble will moderate the second session.

Anne Vouga will be ordained as a deacon at the cathedral on December 21. The following Sunday, December 23, she will serve as a deacon at St. Matthews at the 10AM service. Anne will be working at St. Marks beginning in 2008. The vestry agreed to Lucinda's request to purchase the gift a red stole for Anne to wear at hers and others' ordinations.

Thanksgiving Service offering will be directed to Heifer International.

Four Advent healing services will be offered beginning Wednesday, November 28, following Evening Prayer.

On December 9 the 10 a.m. Service will offer laying on of hands following communion in the Chapel.

Vestry members are requested to be in prayer for themselves and others regarding the vestry offices for 2008

The Annual Dinner will be January 25

The Annual Meeting will be January 27

Vestry Retreat will be the 1st. weekend in February

Those retiring from Vestry this year are Shannon, Jim, Lee, Bev, Jay and Mike.

Lucinda led **Compline**. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Garver

Secretary