

APPROVED COPY

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Minutes of Vestry Meeting April 24, 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 Christian Education Director Debbi Rodahaffer. All vestry members attended. Architect, Gibbs Reese, was also present.

Reflection. Steve Cherry spoke about his experiences of faith through his life and his associations with others. He has questioned: What is Faith? Who is God? People of many faiths with whom he has come in contact have lead him to believe that there is value in the diversity of the worlds many faiths.

Minutes. Following the corrections, which were offered, Jan Garver moved that the minutes of the March meeting be approved. Peter Bell seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Matrid Ndife was thanked for substituting as recording secretary in Jan's absence.

Agenda. No additions or changes were offered for the agenda so that it was followed as printed.

Staff Report. Debbi Rodahaffer shared her thoughts on the amazing year experienced in the children's programs, considering the hardship of all, brought about by the construction and lack of completion of the children's classrooms. She looks forward to the completion of the construction. She reported that St. Matthew's would host this summer's Bible School for seven Episcopal parishes, clergy, staff and children. One hundred twenty children are expected to participate. She commented that we must emphasize that we are not seeking people to transfer to our church from these other parishes. Our posture is to be welcoming, helping, sharing our resources and not threatening to the other parishes. Shannon Frey expressed her appreciation for her family and the many other families for Debbi's exceptional ministry to the children of the parish. Debbi announced that she has been tapped recently to serve on a number of boards and committees including: All Saints' Episcopal Center, Leitchfield, KY; Relationships Enhancement Across Louisville, a U of L grant program through Kent School; writing curriculum for Kanuga Conference Center in Henderson, NC, following a request from Ben Robertson; Diocese of KY – All Saints' Camp Steering Committee and Deputy to General Convention.

Construction Report. Gibbs Reese mentioned many items, which are being currently tackled as the construction continues. Carpeting is being laid in new areas, clergy and staff offices will be useable on Friday, brick pavers are being put in place, front door and framing work is ongoing. Next week the narthex floor will be laid. The elevator lacks its final inspection, which may be being held up due to its phone connection. He estimates

the final completion date will now be the end of May. Gibbs, Linda Wardell and a contractor met to go over purchase orders to see that they were aligned for the church, architect and contractor. \$400,000 of the budgeted amounts is yet to be spent. Punch lists will be designed by building sections rather than by the entire project or single room.

Vestry Study 2007. Lucinda recommends that the Vestry commit to a six-month study of topics relating to human sexuality. Both she and Debbi reminded us that the General Convention of the Episcopal Church has called for such studies for at least the last 5 conventions (15 years); St. Matthew's has yet to undertake such a study. It was agreed by vestry members to undertake this study, and two books were recommended for initial reading: *This Far by Grace: A Bishop's Journey Through Questions of Homosexuality* by J. Neil Alexander and *Practicing Resurrection: A Memoir of Work, Doubt, Discernment, and Moments of Grace* by Nora Gallagher. Lucinda and Shannon are looking into purchasing copies to be available for the vestry (particularly the Alexander book). Adult education studies of these topics may follow the vestry study.

Building the Spirit.

Statistical Report. Lee Fletcher reported that at the end of the first quarter of 2007 there were 356 pledges/gifts for a total receipt of \$2,747,841.60. The receipts to date are \$2,097,100.25. The adjusted balance to be paid by pledges is \$595,329.02. Ten additional pledges/gifts have been received in 2007. One half million dollars has been raised since the official end of the campaign.

Financial Report. Linda Wardell reported that our total liabilities (loans) currently are \$1,646,454.38. Total construction costs during the first quarter of 2007 have been \$724,973.78. For the total project they are estimated to be \$4,386,558.71. Our original construction estimate was \$3,832,100. The current estimate is \$4,960,642. Of this we have paid \$4,286,962 as of 3/31/07. Three items for which we did not foresee costs are Asbestos Mitigation, A/V equipment for Saints Hall/Clingman Chapel and Playground Work. These three are expected to raise our costs by approximately \$100,000. The total project estimate to date requires \$1,588,512 in additional funding. Linda also supplied us with an "Allowance Summary" to help determine what had been budgeted for specific equipment and furnishings and where future savings may occur which would free funds up to apply to costs of "add on items" which we did not originally place in the budget. Linda reported that Stock Yards Bank estimated that we would have to borrow \$2.3 million dollars from them. Currently we have borrowed 1.5 million. We may only need to borrow an additional .5 million dollars. Because the construction time line has been delayed, we have had to borrow less money, and thus pay less interest to date. Edie Nixon agreed to work with Mike Hampton and Mardi Galvin on three telephone system proposals for the parish.

AV Report. Peter Bell is in the process of procuring two additional estimates for AV needs in Saints Hall and Clingman Chapel. He has received an estimate from PSG Systems for \$54,000. Two are to follow from Mom's Music and Acoustical Audio

Designs. The differences in the proposals relate to the equipment differences and how each firm plans to accomplish what we'd like to have done. He will E-mail the additional two estimates to vestry members when he receives them.

March Financials. Jim Moyer noted that our Plate Offerings and Pledges for the first quarter of 2007 and 2006 are comparable. We are a bit ahead in collection of first quarter pledges from last year - \$138,888 to \$137,551; however, our budget for 2007 is larger than it was for 2006. Average attendance for 2007 was 376 and for 2006 was 360. Considering all the construction fatigue that parishioners may be experiencing in 2007, these figures seem quite good. We are under budget by \$6,136 this year due to less of the facility being available for light, heat, water, maintenance and janitorial services. Our deficits are lower than last year in the first quarter.

Endowment Report. Edie Nixon reported that Cash and Securities on hand are \$1,348,096.99, which is approximately \$19,500 more than last year at this time. \$40,000 was dispersed, thus the investment has grown by approximately \$60,000 this year. This is truly remarkable considering all gifts, which would normally be placed in the Endowment Fund, currently are being placed in the Building the Spirit Fund, if they are not otherwise designated.

Committee Report: New Orleans Response Committee. Bill Stodghill and Greg Petrites reported on this mission trip. The group of 13 drove in two vans. Supplies were taken for the St Anna's Mobile Medical Mission and Greg Kuhns and Bill spent one day with this medical team. Coming into town on I10, the group saw miles of boarded up housing and began to understand the gravity of the devastation. Bill categorized this as an area of social disorganization. Government money is slow to come and much misuse and fraud abounds. Little filters down to those most in need. The group felt much more positive about their help this year because they could see that they were part of an ongoing process which would follow through with the next step of the housing rehabilitation. They worked with the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana's Office of Disaster Response. A generous owner of a B & B, Victoria House at 914 N. Rampart Street at (866) 408-5311, offered them lodging and they ate lots of regional food at local restaurants.

Old Business:

Audit. Jim, Edie and Linda have received a proposal from Chilton & Medley to do a "financial review" of our operating, building and endowment financials. This is less than an audit and the estimate for the work is \$4,800. Bev Weis moved and Bill seconded a motion to accept this proposal. The vestry's vote was unanimous.

Retreat. The vestry agreed to plan a retreat for one day, somewhere nearby and September 8th was chosen for the tentative date.

Jim and Sarah Trimble's Move. Vestry members and others have been working as volunteers to ready the Trimble house by May 12 (The Trimble's arrival date has since been changed to May 11). They are Shannon, Dwayne Watson, Steve Cherry, Bob Clark

and Harry Tidwell. Steve has been coordinating the moving arrangements with Jim. Mardi sent an E-mail to parish members encouraging their participation in the unloading of the truck at their new home (This has turned out not to be necessary since Jim was able to find a less expensive moving company which will both load and unload here). Some friends of Jim's also from the diocese have been invited to participate. His first work day will be May 15.

New Business. Bill has gotten information and cost estimates for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the church. Standard CPR training is required to operate the Phillips Heart Start Model, which is simplified with a verbal coaching feature. This model costs \$1,393 without a carrying case. It was mentioned that the church might arrange for CPR training to be available for parish members in the future. Peter Bell mentioned that the Kentucky Center had been given a number of AEDs by a local hospital. He will check into the source and Linda will also be asked because of her husband's connection to Norton Hospital to see whether we can get one or two for free or at a reduced cost.

Wardens' Report. Shannon reminded members that their *Spirit* articles are due in the future. Shannon's is due May 15 for June/July issue and Jan's is due July 15 for August issue.

Rector's Report. Lucinda reminded us of three important dates.

May 15- the Trimbles arrive

May 20 – the bishop and confirmation

May 27 – Pentecost and baptism

Lucinda brought a resolution, which follows. *Resolved: Beginning May 1, the amount budgeted for the Rector's Discretionary Fund will be split equally between the Rector's Discretionary Fund and the Budget line for Rector's Hospitality.*

Each category would receive \$75/month. After discussion, Steve moved and Sharon Nesmith seconded the motion to accept the resolution. The vote was unanimous.

Compline. Due to the late hour of 10 PM, the meeting closed with the Evening Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book rather than Compline.