

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2009

Vestry members in attendance: Father Michael Richardson, Jo Evans, Laurie Gough, Chris Hardy, Kim DeJong, Clay Hubbs, Kandy Halstead, Laurie Landry, Whit Greene

Guest: Mike Shoemaker (Finance Committee)

Clerk: Laurie Landry

Documents disseminated: Agenda, December '08 Vestry Minutes (by e-mail only), Analysis of Revenues and Expenses – Dec 2008, Balance Sheet 2008, Ministry Plan – 2009.

7:08 p.m., Fr. Michael opened the meeting with prayer.

1. **December '08 Minutes. Kandy moved to approve the December '08 minutes as they stand. Motion passed.**
2. Finance Committee Report – Mike Shoemaker

The Finance Committee met the evening before (Jan 12). The Finance Committee is a self-selecting committee open to anyone who wishes to attend the meetings.

a. Analysis of Revenues and Expenses.

- Most prominent point is that we were about \$20K short in pledges received
- Resulted in a ~ \$15K deficit in our budget
- Last year we were ~\$23K ahead of budget at the end of the year
- Also reflects about \$3,500 held back from Diocesan Pledge to meet the budgeted 8% giving.

b. Analysis of Balance Sheet

- Balance Sheet Balances, Total Assets = \$1,055,173.29
- Includes \$912.94 still to be spent by Outreach Committee for 2008
- About \$30K is currently in our checking account, which is a recommended amount for our purposes

c. Analysis of Restricted Funds/Organ and Flooring Fund

- Organ and Flooring Project has about \$10k remaining now that all expenses have been paid.

- It was noted that \$2,500 of the Organ and Flooring fund was redirected by the Vestry from the Good Shepherd Restricted Account. This amount can be released by the Vestry from the Organ and Flooring fund to be applied to other uses.

d. Pledge Analysis

- The Vestry notes that the Stewardship campaign started early in the year was significant in bringing in pledges much earlier than in years past.
- As of Jan 12, about \$160K pledged for 2009
- This is about \$20K lower than for 2008 after all pledges received
- Pledges are still coming in and follow-up calls and letters may help bring in additional pledges.
- Jennifer, Kandy, Laurie G., Laurie L. and Tom Clark volunteer to call parishioners about pledges.

e. Ministry Plan for 2009

- At this time, there is about a \$40K shortfall in 2009 pledges to meet the 2009 Ministry Plan
- The Vestry discussed at length various ways to address this, including the impact of proposed staff salary raises, Diocesan pledge percentage increase, transfer of funds from restricted accounts, following up on pledge calls, and savings achieved through better phone plans and other expenditure reductions.
- The recommendation of the Finance Committee is to not change the 2009 Ministry Plan at this time.

**f. Jennifer T. moved to seek approval from donors to move money from the Organ and Flooring restricted funds, after all repairs are final, to the Operating Fund. Motion seconded and followed by discussion. Motion passed.**

- It is expected that future costs for maintenance of the organ will be minimal and do not warrant the large amount left over in the restricted fund.
- Lucy L. reports that additional cost of floor cleaning is also minimal.
- \$2,500 originally from the Good Shepherd restricted fund can be moved by Vestry approval.

**g. Jennifer T. moved to pay the Diocese the remainder of what we owe for our 2008 pledge (approximately \$3,500). Motion seconded and followed by discussion. Motion passed.**

**h. Jo Evan made a motion to transfer \$2,500 from the Organ and Flooring restricted fund, originally a Vestry-designated donation to the Good Shepherd restricted fund, to the Operating fund. Motion passed.**

3. Rector's Report – Fr. Michael

a. Report on meeting with the Bishop

- Father Michael discussed his meeting with Bishop O'Neill earlier in the day.
- The meeting addressed the results of the Bishop's Task Force addressing issues in homosexuality in the Diocese and actions recently taken as a result of those findings.
- The Diocese will, on a case by case basis, ordain partnered homosexual priests
- The Diocese will not perform ceremonies intended to be the equivalent of same sex marriages
- People and congregations of divergent views on this topic are asked to have patience with each other and keep communication going, to stay in community
- The Bishop's presentation will be available on the website in the future.

b. Pastoral news.

- Dave Clement in a very difficult phase right now, please keep him in our prayers
- Father Vern diagnosed as having Parkinson's Disease, prognosis suggests that his symptoms may be significantly treatable by medication; please keep Fr. Vern in our prayers
- Tina Newlin is doing well.
- Please keep Kim and Susan Gambrill in our prayers

4. Sr. Warden's Report – Kandy H.

- Soon Kandy will set up a Vestry retreat
- One goal of the retreat may be to revisit the Vision Quest Document

5. Jr. Warden's Report – Whit G.

- Sign up for Sunday Opening/Closing duty
- New Vestry members can ask other members to assist them as they learn this procedure.

6. Thrift Shop

- Laurie L. asked whether we could revisit the project of getting more space for the Thrift Shop.
- This will best be coordinated by talking with Youth Group leaders, Whit, Lucy and Fr. Michael.
  
- Laurie G. pointed out that the Thrift Shop may be affected by a new regulation restricting the sale of children's toys and clothes. At the time of the meeting information was scant.
- Jo Evans offered to look into the new regulation and get details about this and how it could affect the sale of children's clothing.
- This is noted as a potentially harmful measure which could hurt children and families who rely upon second-hand clothing and other small non-profit shops, meriting further effort to change the regulation if this is true.

7. Next Vestry Meeting: February 17.

**8. Laurie L. moved to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting closed at 10 pm.**