

**Calvary Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**December 8, 2011**

**Present:** Bonnie Landis, Tom Varney, Richard Swanson, Wayne Barber, Shirley Williams, Sue Cobb, Jean Mary Taylor, Shirley Turner, Nina Beran, Bill Romoser, Debbie Rutter, Ship Barchers, Brad Pedersen

**5:00 PM Opening:** Remembering victims and everyone at Virginia Tech, Debbie led us in opening prayer. She used 1 Corinthians 12 – one body in Christ – as an introduction to vestry job descriptions and assignments for 2012. We are all working together – none of us is alone. In that same thought, Jean Mary attended a meeting of LARCUM with all its bishops there. Everyone remarked how special and encouraging their presence made the gathering.

**Minutes:** Two clarifications were made for pledge status and Cavitronix maintenance. Minutes were then approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported the year's \$295,000 budget behind a little less than \$61,000. Expenses still need to be monitored. He will send follow-up letters for outstanding pledges. Others have asked for updates. The church mortgage at \$196,563.34 was listed in the annual report. The finance report was approved.

**Finance Report:** A total of \$199,087 has been received from 75 pledge cards returned (155 sent). Tom said we're still a bit ahead of last year.

**Rector's Report:** The service of Lessons and Carols on December 18 at 5 PM will have no sermon or communion. Christmas and New Year's Day will have one service only at 10 AM. Vestry officers of Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Register will be elected at the next meeting January 12. We have received an anonymous gift of \$500 for a new Episcopal Church sign for the front of our church.

Vestry members and officers of the Men of Calvary will be installed January 15 at the 10:30 AM service. Following that service a required workshop on Prevention of Adult Sexual Misconduct (abbreviated) will be held for new vestry members or for those who have never had the course. A certificate will be issued. The vestry retreat is February 4 from 9-12 AM. At 12 the workshop for Prevention of Child Abuse and Child Sexual Misconduct (abbreviated) will be held for vestry members needing this training.

At the Region 14 meeting, Debbie learned of the diocese's effort to have a contact person for Disaster Response in every church. The church through the contact would coordinate very closely with local community efforts to relay the special needs of the parish. Churches can help in areas that the government cannot readily initiate. More information can be found at [www.dovdpr.org](http://www.dovdpr.org) Debbie has spoken to Rich Steadman, retired FEMA, concerning his interest and ideas.

**Stewardship:** Both Tom and Debbie feel the pledge response has been good.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Bonnie Landis has had a special year working closely with Debbie. She learned also that the Senior Warden's position is second in the rector's absence. Bonnie noted savings in an unused phone line and in not paying for online Yellow Pages.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Bill reported on his contact with Jim Eastham at First Bank concerning refinancing the church mortgage. Currently we have a 5-year balloon at 6 ½% begun April 2008 for a commercial loan for 25 years. We are paying \$1442.27 per month by electronic transfer. There

were two main options: 5% 3-year balloon or 5.49% 7-year balloon through December 2018. The county assessment is at \$500,000 and #128 is collateral for the loan. With the 7-year balloon Bill thought the monthly payment would be \$1205.50 - \$237 less each month for 7 years. The main cost in switching the balloon is a \$400 modification fee. Discussion centered on a fixed loan, more research, and when to send to the trustees.

A consensus emerged that rates are low, this locks in for 7 years, the monthly payment is less and can still use the current one for more savings, and we can save thousands in overall interest. Dividing the monthly payment into two-week installments could result in more savings. Tom moved that the vestry approve the 7-year 5.49% balloon with First Bank with detail verification and send to the trustees for their consideration/approval. Bonnie and Bill seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Memorials:** Thanks to Richard Swanson for his service. The memorial book is still being fine tuned.

**Communications:** Shirley Williams said the seasonal ad for area churches in the NVD was edited and published December 2. Debbie said the vestry chose not to advertise in school yearbooks several years back.

**Christian Education:** Wayne said we will place ads in the Warren Report for church information. It's less expensive for more coverage.

**Outreach:** The Christmas offering will go to the Ministerial Association Emergency Assistance Fund and to Blue Ridge Opportunities. Wayne felt it would be good to return to weekly Sunday donations during Advent. Nina said Tuesday's Dinner and Tuesday's Table are going well with around 60 and 150 respectively. She is noticing more young people coming. C-Cap and Backpack Buddies are working together also.

**Fellowship:** Thanks to Shirley Turner for her service. Shirley has tried many ways to insure there were coffee hours after Sunday services. Basics of coffee with something sweet and salty are all that's needed. Not every Sunday is a reception. Discussion centered on the vestry providing a model to follow for simplicity.

**Lay Assistant:** Jean Mary spoke earlier on the vestry workshops.

**Diocese of Virginia/Region 14 – Old Business:** Skip Barchers reported on the December 6 meeting. He too mentioned the Disaster Response program. Resolutions will be presented in a pre-council meeting January 14 at All Saint's, Richmond. Annual Council in Reston meets January 26-28. The candidates for Suffragan Bishop will be named by February 3 and will be introduced March 21 at Christ Church, Winchester. The election of the bishop is April 21 at St. George's, Fredericksburg.

**New Business:** Vestry Planning is Wednesday, January 11 at 10:30 AM, the day before the next vestry meeting. Points to cover for Sunday morning highlights are the Christmas offering, Christmas Shopping donations, coffee hour guidelines, and the Disaster Response Program.

**Other notes:** Skip mentioned an Epiphany workshop in Harrisonburg. Tom Ickes had an electrician inspect the kitchen. We do have dual fuel capability – gas and electric. An update in the kitchen for old/new lines and 40 hours of work may cost around \$2000. The church has been offered a 2-year-old refrigerator – just need manpower to move it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Cobb Register