

Vestry Minutes October 8, 2009

Members present: Patti Jones, Jean Mary Taylor, Sharon Maddox, Bill Romoser, Bill Beene, Richard Swanson, Bonnie Landis.

Absent: Pete Plourd, Jorie Martin, Andrea Pinard

The Rector opened the meeting with a reading from Luke "Lamp of the Body". Discussion took place, followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Minutes: Motion to approve with corrections. Motion made by Bill Beene, second: Patti Jones.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Maddox informed us that we have some \$1500.00 in the playground account and we must do something with these funds. Since individuals donated funds for this project they would have to have some voice in the use of them. Suggestions were made for using these funds, however, Frank Baxter was the chair for this project and he would know which individuals to call regarding this issue and those individuals should be the ones to make a decision as to where the funds should be utilized.

Bill pointed out that pledges are down, as expected, and that extra expenses came in from The Shrine Mont Retreat. This makes us a little bit negative for the month, but overall our cash balance is quite good.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Bill Beene, second Bonnie Landis.

Bonnie Landis brought up memorial gifts that had been given in memory of Jack Landis and wanted to know if she could use the funds for scholarships for the Lakota People. The vestry said that this would be her call. She chooses to do this.

Rector's Report: Debbie informed the vestry that she would be away and that there would be no services on Wednesday October 14, Fritz Trumbore will supply on Sunday, October 11. Walter Clark will supply on Sunday, October 18. Debbie will return on October 19. Reminding the vestry of All Saints' Day, which is November 1, and our guest will be The Rt. Reverend Herb Donovan. There will also be two baptisms on that day.

Debbie discussed Pastoral Care regarding communication of illness and the proper procedures to be followed, so that we do not overstep our bounds regarding confidentiality.

Debbie informed all that she would be participating in the Diocesan program at St. George's College in Jerusalem, which is February 21 to March 10, 2010.

Vestry Nomination process needs to get underway and the forms and the letter have been given to those that are going off: Bill Beene, Chris Fleet and Bill Romoser, as they are part of the "search" for new members. Bill Romoser, however, may run again for a full three-year term, as he was filling a vacated incomplete term. The guidelines are: known to the Treasurer, Registered member and attends church on a regular basis.

Debbie discussed stewardship and those who attend regularly and never give a penny in support of the parish. Hopefully, we will be able to change some of this, this coming year.

Debbie brought to the attention of the vestry the flyer "Hope for the Church". Brian McLaren will be the speaker and will speak about Finding Our Way Again. Jean Mary Taylor and Debbie will attend the presentation in Winchester on Monday, November 2 to be held at the Presbyterian Church.

Senior Warden: Chris Fleet said that the columbarium repairs have been made and since we had a spare niche they did not charge us for the repair.

Chris spoke with the Red Cross and that they have been undergoing a search for a new executive director and have not yet hired anyone, but are hopeful that they will have one by November. Therefore, no decision has been made regarding their office at 128 N. Royal. Additionally, United Way is looking for a larger office since their space, which is located in the St. Luke Clinic building, is much too small for their needs, parking is also extremely limited and indicated that they might be interested in sharing space and rent with the Red Cross. If the rent went to \$400.00, it would be a win-win situation for both organizations as United Way pays \$200.00 and it would mean a reduction for the Red Cross. The vestry was in favor of this arrangement. The rent will be raised to \$400.00. The downside of course, hinges on the decision of the Red Cross, whether they stay or leave. Chris will get back to the United Way. Some discussion continued, but all was supposition, as we have no idea what Red Cross is going to do.

Debbie and Chris are going to meet with the Growth and Involvement Chair, Martha Redstrom Plourd, when Debbie returns.

Debbie informed us that Martha had fallen while in Richmond and fractured some ribs and was most uncomfortable, but was on the mend.

Chris pointed out that we need to start thinking about the annual report and made a proposal that we downsize this report. Use the form that we sent to Chris showing what each vestry member's area of responsibility is and what was accomplished during this year. Chris would put the vestry reports together in a form that would be easily read by members of the parish. Anything that needs to be in full would be stapled together, for example: the proposed budget/ Finance report and the Treasurer's report. The annual report is not about ministry, it is about objective. This will give us a better focus on what the vestry has done. Chris said that he could devise several questions that would add some uniformity to the reports. Debbie felt that this would be helpful in keeping focused. The form was published in last month's newsletter. Bill Beene felt that this was a good way to do this, as he felt that many folks rarely read the big packet that has been produced each year.

Chris will get questions out to us via e-mail and then we need to get our response back to Chris by the next vestry meeting.

Vestry nominations are needed by November 11. Biographies must be done and this information published, so that the parishioners know who is running for election.

Junior Warden: Bill Romoser informed the vestry that Dennis Funk had been contracted to do the much-needed painting at the church. He has painted the under hangings at the parish hall and the front of the church, that which is part of the steeple. He is looking at parts of the steeple where there appears to be rust on three sides to try and figure out what to do about this.

A new motion sensor has been put in at 128 N. Royal and a light will also be put in behind the church, as apparently certain activities are going on there which we hope to discourage. He is looking at dusk to dawn type of lighting.

Lay Assistant: Jean Mary Taylor said that Betty Beene's class is thriving on Tuesdays and Sundays. The "little folks" sang on Sunday and obviously there are some conflicts with the parents as it is hard to get them to the 10:30 a.m. service. Therefore, the number of "wee" ones was down. Working on trying to get some of the problems resolved.

The website is up and running, thanks to Paul Savidge. Please take the time to look at it. Suggestions or corrections are welcome.

Jean Mary will be leaving on Saturday, October 10, for a conference in Utah, a Native American Conference for clergy and lay personnel. She will return on Wednesday, October 14.

Debbie mentioned that we need someone to Welcome Rev. Clark on Sunday October 18, at 8:00 a.m.

Finance: Bill Beene will do the 3rd Quarter giving report and also do year-end projections. So far, things look surprisingly good and hope that in December we can discuss how we might increase the Diocesan Pledge and perhaps some outreach. We need to carry over, into the new year, a considerable amount of money, which is usually two months worth, to meet our expenditures, as January and February are low giving months.

Proposed budget for 2010: Bill gave a bit of history on the sheets passed out, so that we would remember the budget and the cuts made due to lack of funds. Bill has actual figures, as of August, which were used when putting together this proposal.

We need to decide what we want to assume for an income and he stated that he raised it to \$265,000 and the last figures he saw were around \$264,000 and change, he rounded the numbers to \$265,000. Bill pointed out that over the last several years whatever number we have pledged we collect around 90% of that figure. Last year, we collected 92%. Unpledge income was around \$26,000 last year. Bill refers to all items that we had to cut to deal with the shortfall of income. Bill pointed out that the health/life insurance rates for 2010 are not yet available from the Diocese. Bill feels these rates will go up. We need to restore Debbie's continuing education and Bill said that he took a cut out of our church utilities, as it appears we have these costs under control.

Bill needs to hear from us on how we need to address the budget for 2010 differently than that of last year. We can e-mail him our thoughts or call. Bill suggested that we do not do more than a \$10,000.00 increase, as he feels that with economic times being what they are we will not see much increase in our income.

Stewardship: Debbie gave the report in the absence of Andrea Pinard. She informed the vestry that the stewardship committee, Chris, Fritz, Andrea, Peg and Debbie, met on Wednesday, October 7. The Pledge Card was finished, which Debbie showed to all and asked for any changes, there were none. Debbie has written a letter that the committee thought was excellent. However; it is still a work in progress and therefore is not being shared tonight. It is a serious letter laying out what has happened, the cuts made and so forth.

Debbie again mentioned changes in health and insurance rates and that increases will be forthcoming. Debbie also pointed out that the new Bishop is in favor of assessments and that this may take place as an added increase in costs.

Debbie discussed what we have to do and understand the responsibility of all doing their part in support of the church and its well-being. We must try and make the parishioners understand the hardship and struggles that have taken place to keep Calvary operational.

Much discussion followed regarding the use of volunteers in the office on Fridays and other matters.

Chris asked Bill how he was going to present the budget. Bill responded that the plan was to present a budget that is more reasonable. Bill said we must decide by the next vestry meeting, what we are going to put in for budget numbers. Bill feels that we have to put together a budget that makes some sense and is achievable, so that we don't have to go back, as we did this year, and do major revisions.

Ideas of budget presentation were made, one of which was to present a realistic budget (as stated above) and the other an increased budget showing what we really need in order to reinstate many of the cuts made this year, 2009. Discussion continued with no resolution of the issue.

Debbie suggested that Chris and Bill get together and talk about this as it is obvious there is some difference of opinion as how to proceed.

Bill Romoser said that we have a "0" balance on Outreach, so how much of that \$12,000 is actually being given. Special appeals go out somewhere. \$3700.00 has gone out from special appeals and \$3200.00 in non-budget areas, both of those would be considered outreach. We have NOT spent half of these monies for Outreach. All special appeals are really outreach according to Sharon, as none of these monies stay in house.

Discussion continued on these funds.

Bill Beene will get with the Wardens and Debbie to work out the budget by the next vestry meeting.

Outreach: Richard Swanson gave updates on issues that were brought before the vestry last month. Sandra Varney will handle the Christmas shopping again this year and she will be working with Angle Tree. There was some concern that this organization was only supplying gifts for the children, however this issue has been clarified and gift food baskets are prepared for the family. Sandra will ask for volunteers and will then hand out the names of the children. This way there will be a record of each child/family.

Some discussion on what happened last year as the names coming from the guidance counselors were late coming to us which hampered the shopping. We will be getting the names from the Salvation Army this year and will have them in plenty of time to do proper shopping. The need for volunteers and also donations of funds for the shopping is requested. Last year some folks wanted re-imbursement and others donated their purchases.

Planning for the Thanksgiving Dinner needs to begin.

Volunteers for helping harvest crops are needed to assist the Volunteer Farm Project. These goods go to the local food banks. There was an article in the Northern Virginia Daily regarding this activity. Perhaps, we could do more next year as we learned of this activity rather late in the season.

A new idea: Lisa Parker suggested that perhaps we could have something like a silent auction. However, the twist is that she and her husband have a lot of items around the house that they would like to sell and are of value. It would be a nice idea to help them pay some of their bills and the church would also reap benefits. Her original idea was that the church would get \$10%, but Richard told her that it would have to be at least 25%.

Richard was not sure how the congregation would react to this idea as they might also have items they wish to sell. He thought that perhaps we could do a Friday for the parish and Saturday, until noon, for the public. We could sell tables to those in the congregation that might wish to do the same for \$5.00 or \$10.00. With a percent of sales coming to Calvary. A fall event could be done...early "Christmas shopping" There would be a beverage table and Lisa suggested that perhaps Rappahannock Cellars would come and do a wine tasting. She suggested November 14, but this date conflicts with the Veterans Day Dinner. Richard will have to get with her on a new date. Perhaps the Youth group could sell cookies/sodas.

Discussion continued.

Debbie suggested to Richard to let her know where the Christmas offerings are to go so this information can be placed in the December newsletter. The three organizations for support this year are: Salvation Army, St. Luke and C-Cap. One can be chosen or the offerings can be split between the three.

Jean Mary mentioned that the youth group will help serve the Thanksgiving Dinner and is on their calendar. The dinner will be on November 25. Chris and Linda will put together the gift bags for the function. The Senior Center will be notified that we will be having the dinner again this year. Jean Mary will call. Volunteers needed. Contact Richard.

Fellowship: Bonnie Landis said that she would like to do the "potluck dinner" in November, but she is not sure if we are ready for that. Coffee hours are still not being signed up for and chairmen have been asked for to coordinate each month, but nothing has occurred to date.

The plaque is up and is beautiful. It is hoped that the "Book" will be completed by spring. Bonnie explained what the "Book" is about. Since all information could not be put on the plaque this written information of who gave the money and for whom or what it was given will be recorded.

Long Range/Strategic Planning/Vision 20/20: Chris and Debbie will meet with Martha Redstrom Plourd after October 20. The members of the Growth and Development Committee are: Martha Redstrom Plourd (Convener), Corinne Llewellyn, Nancy Daugherty, Shae Parker, Jane Kane, Tom Varney and Barbara Savidge.

Diocese of Virginia/Region 14: Debbie reported in the absence of Pete Plourd and Andrea Pinard that Frank Baxter is representing Calvary at the meeting, which is tonight. Frank is also President of Region 14.

Old Business: None

New Business: Executive Planning will be Wednesday, November 4, 2009. Chris will give vestry updates at the 8:00a.m. service and Bill Beene the 10:30. The discussion points will be: Vestry nominations are due, give suggestions to Bill Beene, Bill Romoser or Chris Fleet, reminder of All Saints' Day. Send in names of people you would like to remember.

Bishop Donovan will be here, budget discussions are underway and please notice that the church is being painted. Debbie mentioned that Steve and Maggie Sills have replaced the small "top knobs" on our church sign.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Goodyear
Register: Calvary Episcopal Church