

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the GOOD SHEPHERD
Vestry Retreat, Monday 13 August, 2007

The Vestry Meeting was called to order by the Rector, at 7:05pm.

Present: David Selzer, Edith Patterson, Jennifer Coleman, Bruce Aikman, Janice Barber, Bud Burns, Kitty Hotles-Samson, Joe Masters, Jo Meachem, Joe Spina, Marlene Winkler

Excused: Deanne Montgomery, Stephen Cammarata,

Minutes of the June Vestry Retreat Meeting were approved

Finance Report –

The parish has now been without a Treasurer for one year. Julia Mount, Janice Beam, and Deanne Montgomery, have some potential prospects.

Operating Budget for January-June, 2007 was distributed, (attached) and there was a discussion concerning the endowment fund.

The Audit Committee has the materials they require to do the work, and expect to have their report in October.

Interviews of potential Bookkeepers have taken place, and there is a candidate who stands out as being adept, professional, quick to comprehend the job and its issues, who works with the Parkside Association as well as with another parish. It was moved by Bruce Bommer, seconded by Joe Spina and approved by the Vestry, that Diane Kasting be hired at \$20/hr for the part-time position of Bookkeeper.

Notice received/reviewed of gifts to the parish from the estates of Gladys Kister(final distribution), Anne Seilheimer, and Arthur Lalonde. The Lalonde estate gift is directed toward music funding or 'hidden projects' in the parish.

Stewardship – 2008 Budget –

The \$10 Challenge continues

The new bulleting board for Stewardship has drawn some attention

1st Stewardship letters of this year's campaign will be going out in September and October

Work is being done on speakers and leaders for the education piece of the Festive Meal

Question arose about moving back to having separate committees for Stewardship and Evangelism

Suggestion to begin considering a designation for this year's Christmas Offering

Mission Statement –

The proposed statement reads: ***As the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
we are a dwelling place***

where love of God and neighbor are embraced and lived.

Vestry members are asked to continue thinking about the wording and meaning of the Mission Statement.

Property –

There has been a meeting of Rector and Wardens with the Sexton, Rick Berg, for his six-month evaluation, with some focus on self-direction, learning curve, motivation, and issues about a variety of areas being discussed at the meeting.

The Vestry endorsed the expenditure of ~ \$8,000 for the repair/replacement of missing roof tiles, stolen gutters and downspouts, and tower louvers. Foreguard Insurance company has been sent the related figures. The motion for endorsement was made by Joe Spina, seconded by Jo Meachem, and agreed upon by the Vestry. Lamparelli Construction has completed correction and repair of the driveway, for improvement of drainage and surface coating. A small area still needs to be replaced, of which Lamparelli is aware.

Communications –

Moving toward Photo Directory for end of September.

Shepherd's Notes – continue to be emailed to parish shut-ins, and friends and neighbors, and copies are also available at church. In order to receive this timely posting of parish and community news, all that is necessary is to let the Rector know your email. Presently, ten copies are mailed out to folks without email access.

There was a suggestion was made to consider making Shepherd's Notes available to local real estate agents for use at closing of property transactions, and/or to Parkside mailings and flyers.

Natural Church Development – in process

Organ Committee –

Attached is an estimate from Rothenbuerger and Ploetz, organ builders, of necessary work to be done and an estimate for said work. Organ Committee is to meet on Monday, August 27, 2007. We have until December to contract with them, and are hoping to have work done in the summer of 2008. Among considerations are a reconfiguration of the choir area, and a moveable organ console. Committee is still looking at the possibility of grant money and memorial gifts for organ-related work, including a piano upgrade.

Nominating Committee –

The team of Andrea Adema, Bruce Bommer, Carol Burns, Deanne Montgomery, and Marlene Winkler (Chair) is working toward the Annual Meeting (12/2/07), with names of, and information about, the nominees (to be completed six weeks before the Annual Meeting – 10/21/07).

Christian Education –

Joe Masters and Katie DiGennaro are among those who will be working on plans for the fall – Joe is in the process of convening the meeting

Nursery Worker - Claudia Wilson has been great as our Sunday morning nursery worker, however, we may need to be asking for a new worker, as Claudia is a senior, and the year will be busy for her

Café Proposal –

Evaluating and looking at appropriate ways in which to address the scope of projects involved – renovation, floor refinishing, handicap-accessible entries, bathrooms; reconfigure office space, kitchen; David has written a number of grant proposals - - WNY Diocese (Partners in Mission) has responded positively. Among other foundations approached are the Case Foundation and the Riefler Fund. Also working on a 501 C-3 designation (not for profit based on education and religious associations) for the Café, as St. Mary's School for the Deaf and Good Shepherd are partners in this venture, and Parkside Community Association, Darwin Martin House, and Buffalo State College are secondary partners.

Working with Trautman Associates in conversation with restoration plans.

There has been one letter of opposition sent to Parkside Community Association, to which PCA responded with an offer to do a mediation. The letter-writer(s), however, have not responded to the offer. There was some further discussion about management and details regarding the Café.

Strawberry Festival –

Excellent turn-out, everyone seemed to have fun, perfect weather, great to be able to offer hospitality to the community. Although this is not a money-making event, early tabulations seemed very good – a few more receipts need to come in before we have a balance.

Events –

“Parkside Weekend” was well-attended & filled with good community interaction

- Roycroft Performance – 22 June – largest attendance yet
- Strawberry Festival – 23 June
- PCA Garden Tour – 24 June

PCA Summer Arts Program – about 120 children participated this summer, in three sessions.

15 August - Millennium Development Goals Eucharist, focusing on gender equality and global women's health issues. Good Shepherd is host for this service. Women will celebrate, preach, and sing in the service and men will prepare and serve a Sunday supper, following the service. The offering will go to the empowerment and well-being of women in Afghanistan.

26 August - Ephphatha Eucharist and Picnic – joint service with Good Shepherd, and picnic after

16 September - Parish Picnic following the outdoor service

Stewardship Drive

Rector's Report – is attached

Noteworthy is the Staff Time Schedules paper – Vestry encourages parish members to consider these schedules, the monthly Rectors report, and the number and scope of activities facilitated by the Clergy & Staff.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Next Vestry Meeting: 17 September, 2007 beginning at 6pm, with Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Spina, Clerk of the Vestry