

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the GOOD SHEPHERD
Monday February 23, 2009

The Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

Present: The Rev Jim Massie, Bruce Aikman, Joseph Spina, Janice Barber, Bud Burns, Bev Barry, Bud Burns, Vincent Cumbo, Jennifer Dietrich, Zoe Koston, Caroline Lodinsky, Youth Representative, Gregory Lodinsky, Treasurer, Bob Meloon, Elaine Richau, Libby Wilson, and Julie Spina, Clerk

Excused: The Rev Leann McConhchie

Vestry Minutes from the January, 2009 were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Greg Lodinsky

Beginning in March, the Bookkeeping information will be emailed to Vestry prior to monthly meeting. Treasurer's Report, Operating Budget, and Endowment Fund Statement reviewed. Some current financial issues were addressed, including donations from some of the groups making regular use of our building, variability of cash flow. The Endowment Fund reflects the dip in market values in January, the critical mass getting closer, but we have been advised by Jim Sexton, to maintain rather than risk our investments.

Point of information: although the Finance Committee may make recommendations to the Vestry concerning the Endowment Fund, the direction of the Endowment Fund operations should be given by the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry. The group was reminded that the value of the portfolio remains greater than the amount the Church of the Good Shepherd has invested.

It was requested by the Vestry that the Finance Committee please make a recommendation to the Vestry regarding the handling of our investments guidelines; the recommendation was moved and seconded, and affirmed unanimously.

Property Committee – Bruce Aikman

'Still working on the removal of "clutter," storage of unused cabinets, revamping the filing system, and making use of Diocesan guidelines to help in reducing old paper financial records. Thanks to Clint Johnson and Bruce Aikman for going to great heights (!) to restore Jewett Hall's lights and fans to good working order.

Stewardship Report – Joe Spina

It was noted that the parish has, once again, responded wonderfully to the call to Stewardship, and that, in the coming year, our job will be to work toward raising our level of awareness and of giving.

Payroll Service – Greg Lodinski

Presently, payroll for parish employees is being managed by ADP. Two other possibilities have been raised, which may prove to be more economical. Greg will have a comparison by March meeting.

Sales Tax Issue –

Questions raised about State/Federal taxation issues as they pertain to religious organizations - - ie: fund raising, office space, personal property, 'rentals,' leases; The diocese recommends we speak with an attorney to address our policy, procedural, and contractual terminology regarding donations. Also recommended was a letter of clarification to go out to all community groups who make use of Good Shepherd space.

Compensation Claims –

Former sexton is claiming unemployment.

Café Meeting – today

Painters and Glaziers Union and Allied Trades brought \$3,000 (raised by those who are installing the windows, to cover the cost of windows and installation) to Café Corporation; Painters Union is looking at having the Jewett Hall Floor refinished for the cost of materials and equipment use, as a training exercise. The hoped-for goal is to open in July of 2009; The Café has committed to hosting/serving the Glass Guild in July of 2009; Bruce Aikman will email Elam Jewett Café minutes to the Vestry, but – briefly – other issues discussed included a meeting of Deanne Montgomery and Jim Massie, with Paul Hogan, of the Oishei Foundation, tax exempt status/501 C-3, the update of the café business plan, coming architectural renderings for our view, and St Mary's School for the Deaf will be building the Café tables.

Sunday School – Attendance fluctuates between three to ten children, and, as the ages range widely, those who teach recommend two separate age groups to facilitate keeping students engaged. Joe Masters has moved to Texas, and the search is on for a new director.

Website – Nancy Cich has been working on the site

Vestry Retreat – looking at expanding the retreat to include the Transition Committees.

New Business –

Discernment Committee will be needing a start-up fund, so it will be necessary to amend the Budget to include \$1,000 for the use of that committee. Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Greg Lodinski will add to the Budget.

St. John's Grace – has initiated wardens-to-wardens conversation between that parish and Good Shepherd concerning ways in which we might work together in ministry. Through conversation with Canon Victoria Duncan, Parkside Lutheran has also expressed an interest in exploration of a possible sharing of ministry. There was also an overture regarding St. Andrew's.

Question was raised as to whether the Discernment and Profiles committees are looking for a full-time or part-time Rector for the parish. Discussion included the following ideas:

- don't risk our momentum/drive by hiring P/T
- with café, music/chapel renewal, we will present an open and welcoming community, and will also need an evangelism committee - - we'll be welcoming folks to concerts, strawberry festival, holidays, Holy Days; meet folks where they are - -
- we need to 'grow the parish',
- invite friends to join you/us,
- growth doesn't occur b/c of Clergy, but because of lay people – it's OUR ministry,
- if we go to part-time clergy, will people cut their pledges?
- no one will move to Buffalo for a part-time job
- it's possible to look at the Endowment as a scarcity OR as an abundance of enthusiastic, bright, talented, committed, and joyous people!
- we need a priest who will empower the people,
- concerns: we would need to be upfront and honest r/t our own financial situation
- at present, we are not ready to make a decision on this issue tonight
- Bruce Aikman and Joe Spina, Wardens, will enter into conversation with other parishes.
- Jim Massie, Bruce Aikman, and Joe Spina will discuss HOW to decide between FT and PT position.
- we need a period of mourning in the loss of the Miller-Selzer family
- again – we need someone who will empower the parishioners
- if 12 can do it, WE can do it!- -each one invite, invite, invite!- - invite St Mary's School for the Deaf
- we have so many positives in this parish, so many resources
- Good Shepherd HAS a full-time ministry – the people – the true question is, doe Good Shepherd want a full time ordained person, as well?

Frank Clark Trust – we did not qualify for this

Episcopal Community Services – Elaine Richau

Letters are going out to parishioners next week – and there will be a ‘blurb’ in the leaflet beginning 3/1/09. We raised \$4,027 last year, with 32 individual pledges; we’ve exceeded our goal for 3 years running! It was moved that we set the goal at \$4,000, seconded, and passed unanimously. There will be speakers from two ECS agencies. There is also a special grant project, about which Elaine Richau will speak with David Mount.

Future Vestry Meetings

April 20	May 18	June – Vestry Retreat
July – no meeting	August 17	September 21
October 19	November 16	December 21

2009 Events

Lenten Study – Wednesdays 6pm 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8
Regional Confirmation at St Paul’s Cathedral, Thursday, May 21 (Ascension Day)
Friends of the Night People – 4/19, 6/21, 8/16, 10/18, 12/20
Strawberry Festival – June

Next Vestry Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2009.

(Bob Meloon, main dish; Jim Massie, salad;
Jennifer Dietrich, bread & beverage; Vincent Cumbo, dessert)

The meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Julie Spina,
Clerk of the Vestry