

**58TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Sunday, November 11, 2007**

Opening

Father Michael Bullock opened the meeting with a brief history of St. Martin of Tours, the collect for St. Martin, and the Collect for the Annual Meeting.

Order of Business

The minutes of the 57th Annual Meeting were approved. Fr. Michael certified that a quorum was present so that the meeting could proceed. He appointed Ann Braithwaite as Secretary and Garfield Stuart as Parliamentarian.

Opening of the Polls

Fr. Michael introduced members of the Vestry and recognized the outgoing senior class and the delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

Garfield Stuart introduced the voting process for Vestry members and Diocesan Delegates:

- for Vestry, four terms were to be filled to become the class of 2010, and two unexpired terms were to be filled and join the class of 2008;
- for Diocesan Delegation, two delegates were to be elected to fill three-year terms, and two alternates were to be elected to fill one-year terms.

Elections

Vestry

Candidates introduced themselves and made a statement about their involvement in St. Martin's and their interest in serving on Vestry. Candidates included Andrew Todd and Chad Poteat (currently serving one-year terms, appointed after the last annual meeting to fill vacant seats); Bob Askins, El Thompson, Joey Broussard, Joe Watts, and Gus Strasburger. Because Gus was out of town, two members, Libby Nicholson and Candy Frierson, spoke on his behalf.

Ballots were distributed for the first ballot. Andrew Todd, Chad Poteat, and Bob Askins were elected. On the second ballot, Gus Strasburger was elected. These four will serve three-year terms. On the third ballot, El Thompson and Joey Broussard were elected to fill the one-year terms.

Delegates

Candidates for Diocesan Delegation introduced themselves and made a statement about their experience in serving in this capacity and reasons for wanting to serve. Candidates were Bruce Carter, Garfield Stuart, Robin Copp, and Paul Palmer.

Ballots were distributed and the first vote cast. Bruce Carter and Garfield Stuart were elected to the class of 2010; Robin Copp and Paul Palmer were elected as alternates.

Leadership Reports

Fr. Michael introduced each of the leaders in turn and announced that, for the sake of continuity, Gwen Geidel will continue in her position as Senior Warden.

- Sr. Warden: Gwen presented a report on the five priorities and the status of Worship, Membership, Formation, Pastoral Care, and Outreach, as well as on the Capital Campaign. (That report is attached to these minutes.)
- Treasurer: Ed Kellett reported that because of a \$300,000 bequest, several repairs have been made to the physical buildings and paid other capital expenses. The bottom line is that maintaining a budget has been impossible because of members' failures to honor their pledges. The budget YTD through October was crafted based on promised money. Even if we are on target this year, we will be starting the year with a deficit. The Stewardship Committee is doing its best to address the deficit, but we will have to make some tough decisions.
- Budget Discussion
 - Question from Mike Tighe: Is the debt primarily from people who have left the parish?
 - Answer: It is hard to know for 2007, but for 2006, the deficit was a combination of reasons.
 - Question from the floor: Whom are we not paying?
 - Answer: We've had to borrow to make payments to keep salaries funded.
 - Question from Galen McWilliams: What about the Second Priest Fund?
 - Answer: We have enough for September 2008.
 - Galen: Is there a reason NOT to make the budget public? We would like to see it published regularly and put on the Web site.
 - Answer: These are not kept private. They are available.
 - Michael: encouraged Galen and parish to attend vestry meetings.
 - Galen: will attempt to gather a list of names of those who would like to receive the budget.
 - Grace Allen: My husband Sam and I will be at the church on Monday with a \$1,000 check to help with the deficit.
 - Michael thanked the Allens for their gesture.
 - Judy Tighe presented a written statement about seeing the big picture, accepting responsibility, telling the truth, and being a leader. She reminded the parish that the community is a corporation. Stewardship is a subcommittee of the Vestry, and it seems that when Stewardship canvasses the parish, the Vestry is left to see how they can "make do" with what they collect. She called for vision, leadership, and education

with monthly reports and impact on mission and ministry and a realistic budget for 2009 by September 2008. She requested annual reports from all of leadership so that all can be actively involved in the process.

- **Foundation:** Carlos Gibbons reported that the Foundation is in good shape. He outlined the purposes for the Cloak and Sword, the Hensley Fund, and the Arbor Fund. He announced that a task force is looking at procedures and setting policies for distribution of funds. He said that the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes Conference will be used to educate the Foundation.
- **Diocesan Convention:** Pat D'Anna reported that tobacco awareness has become a focus at the convention. Further, the canons proposed an amendment for more youth representation at conventions, and there has been a growing movement for more youth representation. It passed overwhelmingly, even though our delegation had reservations about and voted against its passage. Pat talked about the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and about Reverend Deacon Tim Ervolina, Reverend Chuck Petit, and Reverend Furman Buchanan's roles and involvement. He encouraged the parish to attend the convention because it is not closed to the public.

Adjournment

Father Michael, in closing, thanked the leaders and the body for their honesty and open communication. He asked all to operate on the Charitable Assumption, i.e., to move forward assuming we are in this together and have each other's best interests at heart.

Warden's Report
November 11, 2007
SMIF Annual Meeting

Having the opportunity to be your Warden this year has given me a deeper insight into the complexities of our Church community. The church is dynamic, alive and it is obvious that you all truly care about this place and that we, as Christ's disciples, can do much in the world.

Yesterday, nearly 60 of us came together for the Parish Workday and cleaned inside and out. As I spoke to a number of you, many of you told me of something else in your life that also needed attention, but there you were at St. Martin's – caring for this place – in ways that will be evident not just for today but for days, months and years to come. From mopping floors and cleaning windows to pulling weeds, trimming vines and pruning trees to repairing the Community House roof, you made a difference. Therefore, it is with this knowledge that you care, that I make my report.

In 2004 the parish came together through several meetings and groups and formalized our parish mission. It was not a new mission, merely an articulation of who we are: By God's Grace, St. Martin's purpose is to equip Christ's disciples: to Love, to Grow and To Serve. We then further expanded the mission to our vision and we determined that we had five Parish Priorities. The Vestry has taken these seriously and our agenda is structured around these priorities. Therefore, my report will also be made based on the priorities.

#1 – Worship or “St. Martin's vision is to be a church where prayer and worship are the foundation of all that we do.”

Our worship services and special services (such as the Jazz Mass, Irish Mass, etc) are outstanding. The past year, Furman was ordained and joined Frs. Michael and Chuck as an ordained priest. The alter guild, flower guild, choir and all those that assist with the services, as well as those that attend, make it our foundation.

#2 – Membership Development or “St. Martin's vision is to be a church that excels at welcoming, inviting, and connecting people to the life of the Gospel in this parish community.”

Important programs within this priority are Newcomers and the Canvass. Your vestry members Robin Smith and Chuck Meehan are working with these groups. The Canvass, as Brian Burns reported in church, has not yet been wrapped up, but it is from the many pledged during the canvass that the vestry builds the budget. We are not the government and cannot deficit spend. Therefore, when we base a budget on your promises and those promises are not kept, we simply do not have money. As our treasurer will report in more detail, based on these failed promises, we will be at least

\$30,000 over drafted by the end of the year – and we are not even paying a Children’s Minister since Sandy departed.

#3 – Christian Formation or “St. Martin’s vision is to be a church that effectively prepares your and old for Christian life in the church and the world.”

A children’s ministry board has been working very effectively this year. Examples of their successes are demonstrated in Vacation Bible School, Godly Play, and Sunday School, to name only a few. This group has been instrumental, especially since Sandy’s departure. We are in the process of trying to hire someone to fill the Children’s ministry staff position. The youth have also been provided with outstanding resources this year through Furman’s many efforts.

#4 – Pastoral Care – or “St. Martin’s vision is to be a church that is a pastoral care center for members in times of crisis – both large and small.”

While I have hesitated to name names – because for every one that I mention at least 5 are omitted, Pastoral care is growing through the Community of Hope Program and a board is being established. Judy Tighe, along with Elin Holgren and others have taken leadership in this growing ministry. And finally,

#5. Outreach or “St. Martin’s vision is to be a church that engages our members with the needs of the world as a Christian Community.”

Under the oversight of Deacon Tim Ervolina, the large number of outreach groups is forming a board. From the Crayton School program, to Haiti, to St. Luke’s, to Habitat for Humanity and Homeworks to others, we are engaging the community. Outreach, however, takes money. The Crayton project, chaired by Allison Askins, has two foci, one, and the primary goal, is to assist at risk female students after school. The tuition for each girl to attend this program is in excess of \$1000 per semester. We, St. Martin’s, are prepared to provide up to 12 scholarships for at risk girls that cannot afford our program. This semester only 2 full scholarships were needed, but fees for each girl and supplies were provided, all of which are paid from the church operating budget. The Women’s Ministry has also approved money from their budget to assist with this project. Secondly, St Martin’s provides meals for teachers during their service days.

Our annual commitment to Haiti is around \$6500 per year. We have, in the past, raised these funds through the choir’s offerings. The funds have not yet been raised this year.

Finally, the Capital Campaign will be gearing up very soon to project us into the future.

Faithfully submitted: Gwendelyn Geidel