

St. Martin's-in-the-Fields
Vestry Minutes
February 15, 2005

Present: Father Michael Bullock, Ann Braithwaite, Warren Darby, Steve Johnson, Chuck Meehan, Libby Nicholson, Paul Palmer, Jeannie Saylor, Garfield Stuart, Tom Stepp, Neil Rashley, Freddy Vang, Betsy Biega, Lay Associate. Also, present: Sandy Morrison and Pat D'Anna, presenters for St. Martin's Children's Ministry. Absent: Bosie McElveen.

Father Michael Bullock called the meeting to order and offered reflections on Jesus' temptation (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21). Michael used this story to remind us that our most grave temptations are supported by scripture. He also presented some short excerpts from *The Cross in Our Context* by Douglas John Hall. The readings focused on the differences between theology and ideology, noting that theology done well invites us to respond creatively to our life experiences and that ideology merely prescribes how we will interpret events in our experience.

The vestry accepted the minutes for the January 18, 2005 meeting.

Children's Ministry: Sandy Morrison and Pat D'Anna delivered a comprehensive report on programs, organization, staffing, participants, members, and status of these programs for newborn through 5th grade children and their families. Here is a list of the programs presented and highlights of the presentation:

Newborn Ministry, and Infant and Child Baptism Preparation- Within this ministry we visit family of newborns, offer information about baptism. We conduct Baptism preparation classes for parents and godparents. We have baptized twelve children since October 2003 with this process.

Childcare services- We provide childcare for children under 3 during the Sunday school hour through the 10:30 AM Sunday service, during adult choir practice, and during other parish events when needed. The Nursery Supervisor, Taylor Gepper has resigned. Sandy Morrison clearly outlined our attempts to find another person suitable for the job. We urgently need to find another person for this important role of Nursery Supervisor.

Sunday school for early childhood through grade five- the report included lists of teachers and students. There are 73 children on the membership roll and about 60% of the children of members are enrolled in the Sunday school program. And the average attendance is 21. There are 17 adults that lead the classes for these children.

Liturgy of the Word with Children (during the 10:30 Sunday Service) Godly Play Bible story is for pre-school children, and the Sunday Paper program is for the older children. About 24 different children have participated in the program this school year. Average participation is about 12 for both programs combined.

Special Events – At St. Martin's we offer 15 different programs for children and their families during the year including Vacation Bible School and a new program "Children's Lenten

Retreat.” There is a need for more adult assistance for these programs and Sandy and Pat reported that they are planning a sign-up day to enlist assistance from adults not presently involved with direct support of our children’s ministry.

Teacher Training/Communication- We have a process for supporting teachers through an annual workshop and luncheon and regular e-mail contact and suggested direction for ongoing support for lesson plans. In addition Sandy has conducted two training workshops for teachers and other interested persons this year. She is also planning for another one in April.

Parish Family Communication- We mail a colorful Children’s Ministry brochure and other written information to non-participating members and to newcomers. Each month, one page in the Messenger is routinely used for communication to the parish about Children’s Ministry programs. Other flyers, posters and other written communication is placed about the St. Martin’s as appropriate. We mail information to the families with children that do not participate.

*Christian Parenting Classes-*The Children’s Ministry Board would like to implement this series in the near future.

Sunday School Planning Committee – Frances Burns, Patty D’Anna, Beth Drake, Taylor Gepper, and Penny Thomas.

Children’s and Families’ Board- Pat D’Anna (Chairperson), Kathy Aaron, Beth Drake, Taylor Gepper, Sandy Morrison (Staff), Shannon Poteat, Allison Rashley, Adele Thomas, and Gordon Thomas – are committed to increasing participation in this important ministry.

Broadview- Overall this ministry is functioning well in terms of structure. The facilities are adequate and the programs have a number of adults dedicated to this ministry. There is an urgent need to fill the Nursery Supervisor. There is a need to engage more adults to help with the many special events. Sandy stressed that she has great hope for growth and participation for this ministry.

The vestry thanked Sandy Morrison and Pat D’Anna for the thorough presentation. The vestry discussed that fact that a tremendous amount of time and energy goes into this ministry.

Rector’s Report- Father Michael discussed briefly the Lenten Program and his presentation on family systems. He noted that only 18 people had signed-up for the Lenten program; he expects that many more will come, but that it was of course uncertain how many will actually come.

Note that the next Vestry meeting will be at 7:00 pm, March 22, 2005 in the parish hall conference room.

Grounds discussion- Painting the exterior of the church is urgent and the Grounds Committee will meet to plan and discuss the details of painting and roofing and other maintenance issues on February 16, at 5:00 pm. On Saturday March 12, 2005 we will have clean-up day from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, burgers and hotdogs will follow.

Michael mentioned his written summary of the Vestry Retreat the he e-mailed to the vestry. He indicated that the executive committee will be responsible for following through with our intentions as discussed in the vestry retreat.

Senior Warden's report- Neil Rashley comments were focused on stewardship and the need to further develop stewardship at St. Martin's, or face the uncomfortable problems of reducing staff. Our budget is very tight with no increases for staff and just enough to sustain existing programs. We discussed the need for updating our parish records to reflect the information gained in the 2004 census. He also noted that the Diocesan Leadership Conference will be held on May 14, 2005. He encouraged our participation and encouraged us to encourage others to go as a means for developing parish leadership.

Budget – Warren Darby presented the budget described as a bare bones document with resources allocated to only support ongoing programs and utilities and no increase in staff salaries. The minimum budget (\$694,100 total income) was discussed at the previous vestry meeting and at the vestry retreat on the weekend of February 5, 2005. Warren reported on some minor adjustments as made by the Finance Committee.

The Warren presented the 2005, and the vestry unanimously approved the budget as presented.

The vestry agrees that additional compensation of staff will be a high priority, if resources permit it later in the year.

A substantial number of members have not yet paid their 2004 pledge. Some have very extenuating circumstances that prevent them from meeting their pledge, and we know of most of the circumstances. For the others we will send a letter reminding them of their 2004 obligation and a request that they bring their obligation current.

We will pay our diocesan assessment in two installments as we did last year.

We will charge the Stewardship Board with the task of planning a specific effort to raise money for a second priest. Note that at the vestry retreat, all vestry present (Ann Braithwaite, Warren Darby, Steve Johnson, Libby Nicholson, Paul Palmer, Jeannie Saylor, Garfield Stuart, Tom Stepp, Neil Rashley, Freddy Vang) made personal financial commitments for three years to support a second priest.

Hammond Fund – The vestry unanimously approved of this separate fund being transferred from the oversight of St. Martin's to the St. Martin's Foundation, Note that this is done with the written approval of Plum and Rusty Hammond.

Upon a motion and a second, we resolved to adjourn.

Father Michael ended our meeting with a brief prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Palmer, Vestry Clerk