

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2007

Present: Ann Braithwaite, Furman Buchanan, Michael Bullock, Gwen Geidel, Ed Kellett, Jim Maass, Chuck Meehan, Jack Myers, Esther Richey, and Andrew Todd.
Absent: Betsy Biega, Bosie McElveen, Chad Poteat, and Robin Smith.

Opening

Michael opened with reminder that Thursday is Ascension, and a service honoring the occasion will be offered Wednesday. Read from "The Time of the Spirit," a reflection from William Temple on ascension of Christ. He finished with a meditation and prayer about the importance of communion.

Minutes

The April minutes were accepted as presented.

Rector's Report

- Newcomers' Committee: Billy and Sarah Stork are doing really well with newcomers. The Morgans, who have visited four times, want to become members of St. Martin's, have met with Michael to talk about their experience at St. Martin's. Gwen remarked that we need to do better at getting the new ones in the door, and Ed pointed to the handout, "Vestry Papers" for March/April, 2007, which had additional ideas for welcoming the stranger.
- Capital Campaign will begin in January 2008.
- Mystery plays are being postponed. Partners in Metro Haiti Group are not available, so production is not possible at this time. The partnership has met twice, and we're starting over. Will have four months to plan, which should result in a more meaningful experience for all involved.
- Crayton project: Allison Askins continues to be committed, and the pilot for the program for young teenaged girls at Crayton is going to begin in August. The program will pay the Palmetto Center for Women (formerly the SC YMCA) membership, plus scholarships, etc., to equip young women to be women. Ultimately, the plan is to include boys and offer other programs. This is part of the outreach program.
- Others deserve our thanks for wanting to help everyone in need, but we need to be responsible for finances. Michael pointed out the lack of understanding about how we budget to assist needy organizations. He asked vestry's help in explaining to membership.

- Nominations Committee: Vestry seniors will meet to nominate new vestry members.
- Pastoralia: discussion of those who need help and who have died.
- Sunday Michael and Tom Stepp will be training all lay assistants during a lunch.
- Stewardship Committee: time and talent and taking care of business. The group will be sponsoring a parish cookout and “Ministry Fair” on Sunday, May 20, at 4:30 p.m. In the fall, they will offer a “Final Affairs” program with a meal.
- Foundation Presentation (5-17): presentations will be given to foundation board regarding purpose of foundation (to support the life of the parish), and the vestry is to ratify their actions.
- Sabbatical Report: Michael will begin June 2 and return to church in July. We will get an email from Suzi Anderson about a prayer chain for daily prayers for Michael at Mepkin Abbey.

Assistant Rector’s Report

Furman reported that

- At the strategic planning meeting, Sue Von Rautenkranz did a really nice job. We were underrepresented in terms of households but well represented in terms of those who want to be involved and help. Talked about confirmation and how that will be taught to confirmands.
- Camp Gravatt: did not have enough for New Beginnings. Took a group of kids to help with “Homeworks” for the family having quadruplets. Gave family a gift to help with their family.
- Sent a letter of welcome to all fifth graders who will be eligible next year. All are female.
- Will be fixing food for Stewardship event. The final session is May 26 canoe trip and having Eucharist celebration.
- Furman would like to delegate more responsibility in the future.
- He referred to the article written to seniors about the importance of graduation/resurrection and what we are called to as we move into the next phase of our lives.

Associates’ Reports

Betsy was not present because of an out-of-town trip with Rich.

Michael brought up idea of completing directory, but this is still just an idea: Robin plans to do pictures with Marnie assembling it. Perhaps it could be prepared for fall. Andrew Todd talked about templates available for church directories online. He offered to help with the plans for developing it and will talk with Marnie.

Junior Warden Report

Jack reported that

- The engineers checked out the HVAC unit in the church, and it is working properly.
- We are two weeks past when the unit in the parish hall was supposed to be installed.
- Equipment at All Souls' Church will be available at end of month. Jack asked for help with removing electronics, and Garfield mentioned Tom LaBorde as one who might help. Jim Maass offered to help with electronics if he is in town.
- We have churches who are taking the old chairs.
- Claim has been filed for Youth House water heater repair.

Budget Report

Ed Kellet reported that our YTD budget deficit is primarily due to uncollected YTD pledges. Ed will analyze the YTD pledge detail with the hopes of explaining where the shortfall is occurring. Several volunteered to assist with the followup on this.

Discussion

A suggestion was made to publish the budget balance in Sunday bulletin. Michael stressed the importance of being able to talk about the financial situation and prepared to discuss what the problems, causes, and consequences are. Furman suggested that we include a simple statement about the financial situation of the church to those who are members and confine it to the *Messenger*. Michael reiterated that it's a stewardship issue that we need to be prepared to talk about with others. Esther offered to write something brief and clear to the parish members. She stressed that most people don't understand how the church operates and that Garfield's point about helping those who need financial discussions needs to be addressed.

Final Details

Michael said he would hold off on the Haiti CD for next time. He asked us to consider how we convey the important points about our budget and our stewardship to others; we must remain steady and model what we call the church to be.

Adjournment at 8:10 with a prayer.