

VESTRY MINUTES

Present: Bob Askins, Joey Broussard, Fr. Furman Buchanan, Gwen Geidel, Ed Kellett, Jim Maass, Jack Myers, Esther Richey, Robin Smith, Gus Strasburger, El Thompson,

Absent: Chad Poteat, Andrew Todd

Also attending: Galen McWilliams

Call to Order

Opening Reflection

Furman began with a reflection on William Porcher DuBose, born in SC, served in Ridgeway and Abbeville and later as professor and dean at the University of the South.

“Our Lord did not come into the world to make life different so much as to make it real”

Galen McWilliams – Art Sale Proposal

Partners in Health will be handling the monies from the Columbia area for the Haiti project Discussion of fund raising proposal. Motion to allow Outreach Committee to proceed with plans for Haitian art sale and to obtain written explanation of process from Partners in Health.

Seconded and approved by acclamation.

Note writing – Furman provided names of parishioners in need of remembrance and prayer and received the names of volunteers to write notes.

Minutes accepted

Warden's report

Gwen read e-mail votes into the minutes and asked for a vote to reaffirm decisions reached by e-mail vote. The text of the email messages is included below.

The Executive Committee of the Vestry met this evening and accepted a report and recommendation for action from the Treasurer. As a report from the EC, the following proposed action does not require a motion or second, but only an up or down vote. **Please return a YES or NO vote via email by Thursday, August 7 at 3 PM.** Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Executive Committee Report:

New checking and savings accounts will be initiated with First Community Bank in accordance with our decision to obtain a line of credit of \$100,000 along with a mortgage

loan of \$250,000 secured by real estate located at 5220 Clemson Avenue. These loans were previously approved by the Vestry 12/18/07 and by the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina March 28, 2008. The individuals authorized to sign for the checking and savings accounts will be Gwen Geidel, Senior Warden, Jack Myers, Junior Warden and Ed Kellett, Treasurer.

The operating account of the church at Wachovia will be subsequently closed as will the money market account with Smith Barney. The second account with Smith Barney will remain open to accept securities donated by our parishioners.

The Secretary recorded the e-mail votes as 10 YES votes, 0 NO votes and 1 Abstention. After brief discussion, the measure was reaffirmed by acclamation.

On Wednesday, August 06, 2008 a second e-mail request went to the full vestry for up or down vote on a report from the Executive Committee regarding a proposed stewardship Luncheon:

The Stewardship Committee has developed plans for a pledge campaign they believe will be highly effective (see below). One significant component of the campaign is a catered celebratory luncheon. The Stewardship Committee has requested approval for funding to cover the luncheon. The cost of the event is expected to range between \$4,000 and \$4,500. The Executive Committee recommends acceptance of this request. **Please respond with a YES or NO vote.**

New Consecration Sunday emphasizes two major events which occur on the selected date of October 26: the pledge campaign during the Sunday service and the celebratory luncheon which follows. Herb Miller, the author of the process, emphasizes the importance of a catered luncheon which is not prepared by the members of the church. The process is devoted to securing reservations beginning two weeks prior to the Sunday service followed by personally visiting and inviting active members who did not reply to the reservation requests. The theme of this approach is to aid member's understanding that financial contributions help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. Perdue Research Group interviewed 150 churches who used this approach and found 134 increased their financial giving an average of 17%.

The Secretary recorded the e-mail votes as 10 YES votes and 0 NO votes. After brief discussion, the measure was reaffirmed by acclamation.

Insurance umbrella limits – insurance policy will be shopped, but reduction in amount of umbrella coverage from 20 million to 4 million will result in a corresponding reduction of our annual premiums by approximately \$4400.

Finance committee will meet with representative from church pension fund Wednesday at 5 pm

Gift policy update:

Members of the Exec. Comm. met with representatives of the Foundation; discussions led to the realization that the Foundation not a separate 501(c)(3) entity and that the policy was being patterned after Council of Endowed Episcopal Parishes guidelines, but SMIF was not functioning like CEEP organization.

Foundation to rewrite relationship documents

Rector's report

Fred Walters has finished his time with us.

Crayton Middle School is back in session – Furman reminding parents that they must follow school carpool policy. Also sending a letter to teachers

Formation - Vestry encouraged to take advantage of DOCC, EFM or Sunday offerings

We need to identify additional people to work sound board. [Furman received volunteers from the vestry; perhaps all should be trained before serving as V.I.C.]

EYC canoe trip coming up August 30 – program year beginning

Need to look for part-time person to nurture youth program

Junior Warden's Report

Search committee – visiting has begun and will continue for the near future

Motion to amend instructions to search committee to instruct the committee to bring us “up to three names ranked,” but no more than three. Approved

Building and Grounds

Carpet installed

Roof leak in Parish Hall need immediate attention.

Budget [Kellet]

Saving on salary expenses

Pledge and plate down for the year

Outreach [Thompson, Maass, Strasburger]

Gus Strasburger reminded us of the significant time and energy the Outreach Committee is putting into plans for fundraising efforts and continuing to discuss a “signature” event.

Membership Development [Smith & Broussard]

Newcomer's party – Patsy Farr's Home – September 12th

Joey Broussard provided minutes from the Stewardship Committee meeting (08-11-08) and all documentation related to "New Consecration Sunday." The Stewardship Committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday method for this year's annual campaign. With this method, there are no home visits to ask members of the congregation to make a pledge; instead, the home visits are just to ask members to attend the New Consecration Sunday service, which will be Sunday, October 26th. Everyone on the Vestry needs to mark their calendar to be present for this service. It is at the New Consecration Sunday service where pledges are made as an act of worship. I would ask that you please read these attached documents, especially the "New Consecration Sunday Timetable" and the "Luncheon Reservation Contacts Instructions" which spell out this program. Letters 1-4 are sent out to the congregation beginning the three weeks preceding New Consecration Sunday.

Christian Formation [Richey & Todd]

Adult Formation - Richey

Two weeks ago Nancy Boyle, Furman and I met to discuss Adult Formation (including youth too) in Sunday School in the first four week session. From Sept. 14-Oct. 5, Sister Catherine will cover The Theology of Harry Potter. After that Nancy Boyle will carry out an in-depth Study of Isaiah: The Prophet for Now (with Isgett and Richey). We will continue with the lessons of Advent, sharpening the Isaiah connections, and for Epiphany, Nancy will do "God is a Surprise."

We will have a number of possibilities on Thursday Evenings—Disciples of Christ in Community, an Enquirer's Class, and EFM.

Children's Formation - Todd

As many of you know we just wrapped up Bible school which went very well. I believe the count was right around 35 kids and around 25 adults.

Bible school ran from 5:30 to 7:30 and included dinner. An initial story was told by Judy Carter each day and Sara Yates led singing followed by individual activities and then a gathering back together to close. The week culminated with a Eucharist that all the children participated in and Father Buchanan led. Overall I believe everyone was very pleased with the outcome.

The next meeting is this Sunday in which we will begin preparing for Sunday school including recruiting teachers. This is sometimes a challenge filling all the positions so please keep this in your prayers. There has been some discussion of ways to consolidate classes depending on the

numbers of children we have attending. This still remains an option that may need to be explored.

Pastoral Care [Poteat & Askins]

Ministry Fair was held August 17. Turnout was good.

We need to revisit delivery of sermons to shut-ins.

Good of the Order

CEEP meeting – Joey Broussard to attend meeting in NYC in October 2008

Upcoming Events

Covered dish supper – 8/21

Jazz mass – September 7

Newcomer's party – Patsy Farr's Home – September 12th

September 14 – 1st meeting of Sunday School

Next Vestry meeting – September 23, 2008

7:40 adjourned