

Vestry Meeting Minutes January 8, 2009

Present: Wilson Anthony, Steve Brodt, Sandy Durgin, Brandon Elliott, Betsy Field, Andy Johnston, Bruce Kallos, Ruth Lawson Kirk, Martha Lankford, Tilly Maassen, Bitsy Robbins, Judy Sargent, Ann Wick

Absent: Gina Pike

Also present: Russ Bohner, Ernie Ruppe

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by The Rev. Ruth Lawson Kirk.

The opening prayer was offered by Betsy Field.

Minutes from December 11, 2008 were distributed, read, and accepted with minor typographical corrections.

Cluster Reports

Stewardship Policies for Planned Giving Subcommittee:

Ernie Ruppe distributed a Proposed Endowment Donor Designated Funds Policy and a Proposed Endowment Fund Disposition of Bequests Policy and gave a brief overview of committee and material reviewed from many sources regarding planned giving. Vestry members praised the hard work and research of the PGC and excitedly discussed possible designated funds sites for future giving. It was moved and seconded to table this discussion and review for the future.

Spirit Life:

Wilson Anthony distributed the attached report regarding Worship, Spiritual Formation, Fellowship, and Incorporation of New Members, including the development of a Newcomers/Welcoming Committee. Also, Parish Life hosted a Newcomers' Coffee last Sunday, which was well attended and generated quite a bit of excitement for those present.

Service to Others:

Sandy Durgin reported that the December caroling event was very successful. The Global Missions Team met, will have a future meeting to set up a framework for global missions, and will be looking at funding for the future. The Outreach Committee is about to start its grant cycle.

Discussion of January 25 Parish Meeting

Andy Johnston reported that Bryan Keenan is willing to take charge of the presentation. He will organize and advise the Vestry. Please attend and lend your support. We must continue to deliver financial transparency.

Discussion of Bylaws Revision

Andy Johnston led discussion. See attached re: process and leadership team, areas of modification, new conditions (e.g. Youth representation to Vestry). Other issues under consideration: date of annual meeting, warden's term and election of the warden, ongoing membership project. We hope to have a finished product by the next Annual Meeting.

Rector's Report

See attached. Highlights: Shannon was delighted with the barrage of parishioner pledges coming in on December 31! According to Keith, we may be slightly over our total expected!

Other Matters and Final Thoughts

Delegates elected to March 27-28 Diocesan Convention are John Crossan and Caty Anthony, with Ann Wick as the alternate.

Vestry members are encouraged to be present at the Christ Church hosted Diocesan Convention.

Closing prayer provided by Betsy Field.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting is February 12, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Robbins, Clerk

Spirit Life Cluster Report

Christ Church Vestry Meeting, January 8, 2009

Cluster Members: Wilson Anthony, Betsy Field, Martha Lankford, Bitsy Robbins

As there was no report given at the December 2008 Vestry meeting, this will cover activities for 11/14/2008-1/7/2009.

Worship

1. Service in observance of the Feast of the Epiphany was held on January 6, and followed by a potluck supper with a Fiesta theme. Approximately 40 people attended the service; weather was icy and likely kept attendance down.
2. A Quiet Day will be offered in the Chapel on January 17, from 9:00 AM to Noon. A meeting to finalize details will be held on January 13.

Spiritual Formation

1. Confirmation classes began January 4, with Carl Kunz leading. Approximately 30 youth were present for the first meeting.
2. Lynne Turner is in the process of identifying a new leader for the Children's Ministry Committee.
3. Adult Education schedule has been set through Lent. Special Guest Philip Newell will present on Celtic Spirituality on February 22. Russ Bohner's series on I Corinthians has been well attended.
4. The following youth and children's activities have been scheduled: Ski Trip 1/24, Youth Lock-In 1/16, a 30-Hour Lock-In for Famine on 2/27, and an Urban Promise Work Day on 2/7.

Fellowship

1. A Parish Life Committee meeting was held November 24.
2. Parish Life coordinated the following events: Hayride, Trunk and Treat, Interfaith Thanksgiving Project, Caroling, Newcomers Coffee Hour.
3. Foyer Groups have been set for 2009.

Incorporation of New Members

1. A meeting was held on December 16 to discuss the Newcomers process and identify needs. The team was tasked with identifying candidates for a new Newcomers/Welcoming Committee. Russ indicated that research and development of a formal strategy for the Newcomers process was critical to success. A follow-up meeting is expected to be held in the second half of January.

Rector's Report – January 8, 2009

Personal: Our family thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas holiday as a time of rest and recreation, spending time with extended family and friends. I am personally grateful to the staff and my brother clergy for allowing me time, especially to recover from the bronchitis/laryngitis with which I was plagued beginning Christmas Eve. I will be away from CCCH to lead the women's retreat (January 20-22) and for the diocesan clergy retreat (26-28). In February I will travel with the parish group on the choral pilgrimage to England (5-14).

Pastoral: The joys and sorrows of life filled the Christmas season, including the blessing of a marriage on New Year's Eve, and the death of Rosa Laird Hayward McDonald, whose service will be held on January 24 at 11:00 AM. On January 4 the Parish Life Committee sponsored a reception for newcomers, with 14 present. Subsequent contacts have filled this week, and additional seekers have been in touch with the clergy and staff this week. This coming Sunday we will baptize one infant at the 9:00 and two infants at the 11:00 service. One of the children is the grandchild of David Hearn, our assistant organist and choirmaster. Carl Kunz has been making calls on homebound members, and visiting in the hospitals. He is a blessing to us. Last month I met with the Stephen Ministers as they continue their supervision for ministry as compassionate friends.

Staff: Each member of the staff contributed in making the Christmas season a special occasion. I am grateful to all of them. You may know that I shared the responsibility of preaching with my brother priests. It is my intention that we been seen as colleagues in ministry, proclaiming the word in turn, rather than the rector preaching all services on high holy days. If you have heard any feedback about the division of duties, I would welcome your report.

The staff enjoyed lunch at the rectory at the close of the Christmas season, after the flurry of work was past. Both Keith Dawson and Sherry Lawton-Fasic took vacation time over the holidays. Lynne Turner anticipates the birth of a grandchild at any moment. As you may know, I sent Don Somers home from church on January 4 as he was very ill. I believe the sentiment in the congregation was congenial and supportive as members and other staff worked to fulfill his duties.

Parish: Shannon Tusso reported a deluge of pledge and capital campaign payments from members in the final business hours of 2008. In a brief conversation with Keith Dawson, he anticipates that the 2008 budget will end with a surplus to add to the contingency fund rather than the anticipated draw from it. In other conversations the offering counters believe that overall Christmas attendance was up (on 12/24 2 PM—372, 4 PM—381, 6 PM—325, 10 PM—362, and on 12/25 10 AM—110) but the offering collection was down from previous years. Their attendance assumptions do not match with the reported attendance from 2007; however the numbers as reported then seemed inflated. This year we requested the ushers make a careful count of those in worship.

I am so grateful to the altar guild, the church adornment committee, the ushers, the acolytes and Eucharistic ministers, the three choirs and all who gave of their time and talent to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Not only were the Christmas services lovely, but our celebration continued until the Epiphany, with worship and a potluck party that brought together a cross-section of the parish for a festive evening. A special thanks to Doug Yago, Bruce Price, Rosanne and Rufus Miller for hosting the fiesta.

Rosanne Miller and I will be attending the Conference for the Consortium of Endowed Parishes, held in New Orleans this March. She will be focusing on her leadership task for the fall stewardship campaign as well as the Futures Group (chaired by Wil Sherk). I have also asked Lee Glen and Maryann Younger to attend "Sacred Circles: a Celebration of Women's Spirituality" to be held in Washington DC in mid-February. These conferences can be effective ways for us to enrich our ministry.