

**Christ Church Christiana Hundred  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2009**

**Present:** Wilson Anthony, Steve Brodt, Sandy Durgin, Brandon Elliott, Betsy Field, Andy Johnston, Bruce Kallos, Ruth Kirk, Martha Lankford, Tilly Maassen, Judy Sargent, Gina Pike

**Absent:** Bitsy Robbins, Ann Wick

**Also Present:** Russ Bohner

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by The Rev. Ruth Lawson Kirk.

The opening prayer was offered by Brandon Elliott.

Minutes from May 14, 2009 were reviewed, and it was noted that Bitsy Robbins was in attendance. After revision, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Wilson Anthony acted as Clerk for this meeting.

**Rector's Report (see Attachment A)**

Ruth is conducting performance reviews with the staff and has also developed detailed Position Descriptions for staff members at CCCH. Draft copies of the Position Descriptions were distributed for Vestry review. Ruth was commended for her hard work in developing these documents.

Ruth discussed the need for a new baptismal table and asked the Vestry to authorize a commission from Rick Kirk's new company, Kirk Custom Furniture. Ruth circulated a proposed design by Rick, which would have a cost of \$2,800. The table will be larger than the credence tables that are currently used. Bruce Kallos moved that the Vestry authorize the commission. Andy Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The funds from the bequest made by Letty Downs have been received. The bequest totaled \$757,000, which is considerably larger than first expected. Wilson moved that the Vestry reconsider the original motion passed by the Vestry in 2006 that designated the bequest be used in its entirety for the Capital Campaign. Judy Sargent asked that the resolution from 2006 designating the funds go to the Capital Campaign be read. A discussion followed about what portion of the funds would be open to the new discussion. It was agreed that the Downs family would be consulted as part of the reconsideration of the allocation of the funds. A Vestry team will be appointed to consider the options for use of the funds.

**Futures Group Report (see Attachment B)**

Steve Brodt spoke for the Futures Group and gave an overview of the purpose and vision of the committee. A short video was developed by the Institute for the Future, designed to be a provocative view of a digital world.

The group proposes to hold a pilot study group meeting on June 28. The group will be composed of members of a broad spectrum of demographics within Christ Church. The group will be challenged to consider what Christ Church will be like in 10 or more years and what factors will influence changes within the parish.

A discussion was held about the details and logistics of a pilot meeting. Jane Rubini will contact parishioners to identify volunteers for the pilot meeting.

### **Mutual Ministry Review**

The Vestry conducted the first half of a Mutual Ministry Review (MMR). In a Mutual Ministry Review the Vestry: 1) reviews the congregation's ministry to identify opportunities and challenges related to the congregation's mission; and 2) evaluates its own effectiveness in leadership and management of the parish in the past year.

The Vestry completed a review of its primary responsibilities and specific items that deserved commendation, as well as areas where the Vestry needs encouragement and improvement.

A review of the 2008-2009 program year: events, programs, gatherings, ministries, and people that were memorable will be conducted at a future Vestry meeting.

### **Cluster Reports**

Due to the constraints of time, verbal Cluster Reports were not given at this meeting. Copies of the Spirit Life and Service to Others Cluster Reports are attached as Attachments C & D.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilson Anthony, Clerk-Designee

## Attachment A

### Rector's Report – June 11, 2009

**Personal:** I am preparing for a few days of vacation (June 30 to July 5) as our family travels to the California bay area for my nephew's wedding. The family will return, and I'll fly down to Anaheim for the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. While at GC I will call in to get messages; I return July 18. I will also take vacation in August (8/7-8/31).

**Staff:** The staff is in the middle of performance evaluations, and most have completed the drafts of their position description. I have printed copies of two as examples of what we are striving for in working with the personnel committee on these documents. The personnel committee will meet in late July to review the whole process. Most of the staff is taking time off in the coming months, either in short periods of a few days or a week or two at a time. They are working cooperatively to provide coverage. Russ Bohner is off this coming week. We are prepared for the arrival of our new curate, whose first day in the office is June 15. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly will be ordained to the diaconate on June 24 at 7 PM at the Cathedral Church of St. John. All are welcome.

**Parish:** Lynne Jensen and I attended Emily Romano's confirmation last week at Immanuel Church on the Green in New Castle. It was very special. I was also thrilled that we had so many candidates for baptism at Pentecost (8), and I have already met with the first of several candidates for the baptismal service scheduled in August. Cal Wick will be assisting Russ Bohner for that liturgy.

This month the altar guild had their tea, and Gina Pike became the directress, with Mary Henderer as her assistant. The receptionists held a tea to thank their volunteers as well. Helen Giammattei and Lucy Cluett are their coordinators. The Church organ is dissembled now, with a truckload of pipes headed today for the workshop in Virginia. Please see Bill Owen's column in eNews so that you can be informed about the work and the plan. Steve Boyden took some photos for us and they are on the website.

**Two matters need your attention at this meeting.**

- 1) I am requesting your permission to spend memorial funds on the creation of a baptismal table, commissioned by Kirk Custom Furniture.** The cost is \$2800, well within the limit our spending practices allow for the rector and business manager to authorize. However, because the artist is related, I want the Vestry's approval on the project. Linda Boyden has approved the design and concept. This table would be higher, and shaped like our columns, for symmetry and more surface space for the Simon Pierce glass baptismal bowl. The height is 30 inches, and the top 22x22 (design available). There is approximately \$27,000 in the Memorial Fund.
- 2) We received the bequest from Letty Downs. When the Vestry passed a resolution to use the \$600,000+ for the capital campaign, we were not aware that the "+" would be an additional \$157,000. The question to the Vestry is whether to reconsider the previous designation made by vestry resolution or to leave the designation as it was made in June, 2006.** If the Vestry votes to reconsider, a small group will examine alternative uses for the additional 25% and provide recommendations to the Vestry for discussion at a later date.

## Attachment B

### Futures Group Report

#### Christ Church Community of the Future

##### *Big Questions*

1. What kind of community are we today?
2. How will the changes taking place in our world affect us?
3. What do we aspire to be? (What is our vision?)
4. How can we get there?

##### *Premise*

To answer these questions, we have to provoke people to envision a future significantly different than today's reality.

If we don't, then by default, we'll envision a future that is incrementally different than today; an extension of Christ Church today.

##### *Propose*

1. Series of group meetings of 10-20 people
2. Expose group to provocative views of a future different than today
3. Discuss for reaction, ideas. Sample discussion questions:
  - Would you want to be part of one of these futures?
  - What appeals to you in each provocation?
  - If you were planning the Christ Church Community in 2019, what parts of these forecasts would you include?
  - Imagine it is Sunday morning in 2019 and you are a member of Christ Church.
    - Do you go to church?
    - What do you see?
    - Who is there? What are they doing?
    - Do you feel you belong there? Why? How do you know?

##### *Pilot*

1. Choose pilot group of 10-15 people
  - Youth, ages 12-18
  - Parents with children under twelve
  - Parents with older children
  - Empty nest – still working
  - Retirees
2. Try it out Sunday, June 28, after church (noon – 2 PM)

## Attachment C

### Spirit Life Cluster Report

#### Spirit Life Cluster Report; Christ Church Vestry Meeting, June 11, 2009

From: Wilson Anthony, Betsy Field, Martha Lankford, Bitsy Robbins

#### Worship

1. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly will join the Christ Church staff as Curate on June 15 and will assist the clergy and preach on June 21. Jennifer will be ordained as Deacon on June 24 at the Cathedral Church of St. John.
2. On June 14 the Sunday service schedule will switch to 8:00 and 10:00 AM, continuing through September 13.

#### Spiritual Formation

1. Adult Christian Enrichment has concluded for the church year and will resume in September.
2. Lynne Jensen has provided the following report on the programs for children and youth:

DR Trip – There are 20 youth and 5 adults going on the DR trip.

Indianapolis Trip – There are 2 adults and 4 youth going to Indianapolis from June 20-26, including Lynne.

We confirmed 32 youth at Confirmation on May 10. Emily Romano couldn't be at the service on the 10th, so she was confirmed at Immanuel on the Green on June 4 with Ruth and Lynne as her presenters.

The Rite-13 group ended their year with a hunger banquet for youth and their families. It was a powerful experience for those who participated.

The J2A group has begun their work on their Pilgrimage. They are getting close to a decision on the path they would like to follow. Instead of concentrating on a destination, the group has been working on what spiritual path they would like to explore on this trip. They are very interested in St. Francis and St. Peter's path and ministry. There will be fund-raisers coming up this summer. The group will also begin meeting weekly in September in preparation for their trip in summer of 2010.

Lynne has met with each teaching group within Children and Youth Ministries to reflect on this year's ministry and look forward and vision for next year. The 3rd-6th grades will be changing their curriculum for next year. The 3rd-4th grades will be using an Episcopal curriculum which uses the prayer book as part of the teaching (remember the rising 3rd graders received prayer books on June 7). The 5th-6th grade team is looking at a curriculum bible study based to help the children to become more Bible-friendly. Both these changes balance with the early age's use of Godly Play.

The Enrichment time period from 10-11:00 is also going to be restructured to help better serve the needs of the wide range of age groups. The nursery continues to be a place of safety, energy, and love. The college students, Leah Rowe and Jessica Hunt, are providing consistency and great care for the children in their care. This is such an important piece to the ministry to children at Christ Church!

Registration has already begun for Vacation Bible School this year which will be held on August 17-21 here at Christ Church. Lisa White and Kathy Seeman are working hard in preparation.

Within the youth program, the addition of the Wednesday night Senior High Small Group has given the senior high youth a chance to go deeper. The Sunday morning YAC class has become more of a gathering of youth for support and fellowship. This is seen as a very important piece to the overall youth program. The addition of some God questions next year will continue to help ground the group.

There will be several youth gatherings this summer to help keep everyone connected including a worship service and dinner for Urban Promise on July 26.

## **Fellowship**

1. Christ Church will be hosting three Choirs from England over the coming months. On Friday, July 10 at 8:00 PM, the Cheltenham College Chamber Choir will perform, followed on Monday, July 13 at 8:00 PM by the Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge. In September the choir of King's College, London will perform on the afternoon of the 13th, which is also the day of the Parish Picnic.
2. Christ Church at the Blue Rocks was May 30.
3. Lemonade on the Lawn begins Sunday, June 14.
4. The Parish Life Committee will hold a welcoming reception for Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly on Sunday, June 21 after the 10:00 AM service.
5. The Newcomers Committee met on May 29 and continued its work in defining "The Good News of CCCH" and our best experiences associated with Christ Church and how to best describe them. Russ distributed a spreadsheet that details the evangelism/newcomers process from invitation to incorporation. This process will be the subject of the group's next meeting on June 29 at 7:00 PM.
6. The Christ Church Crab Feast will be July 31.

## Attachment D

### Service to Others Cluster Report

#### Outreach

Outreach has graciously agreed to form a sub-committee to find a project to allocate \$100,000 from the Capital Campaign. The Vestry was sent a letter from the co-convener, Vicki Novak, confirming their acceptance.

#### Global Missions Team

The youth trip to Jalonga commences in about 10 days. Doug Yago and Bruce Price are the adult leaders along with Gina Pike, Reeve Draper, and Matt Dinneen. 20 youth are slated to go on the trip. Sam Durgin and Cat Glen are the youth leaders. In Jalonga, Ricardo Potter will be their host, Hector Livio, the connection with the village of Jalonga, Carolina Roberts, translator and chaplain, and Andis Santana as the trip doctor. Both Andis and Carolina will be staying at the Bishop Kellogg Center. Doug and Bruce spoke with Ruth about the youth giving the sermon upon their return.

#### CCEP

The Board of Directors meeting will take place after the Vestry meeting.

#### J2A

The trip to Indianapolis occurs at the same time as the trip to Jalonga. The J2A group will be performing hands-on outreach activities around the Indianapolis area. Lynne Jensen and Chuck Durgin are the leaders, along with four youth.

#### Pastoral Care

Books on Grief: Four people are now receiving the books.

Caregiver Support Group: Parishioners and friends continue to meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 9 AM to provide much needed support for each other.

Celebration of Life: Hospitality is offered following a memorial or funeral service.

Eucharistic Visitors: Five parishioners receive communion once a month; hope to grow this ministry.

Flower Ministry: The ladies now arrange flowers on Mondays in the Chapel Sacristy.

Friendly Freezer: Casseroles and/or soups were offered to 5 in March, 4 in April, and 3 in May.

Helping Hands: During March and April, two of our families were helped with transportation and meals. In June five dinners will be delivered to Jennifer and Scott.

Notes of Care: Notes were written to many parishioners experiencing different life events: 8 in March, 9 in April, and 8 in May plus notes to the 32 confirmands and the parents of children who were baptized. The ladies were busy!

Prayer Groups: Tuesday Morning Intercessory Prayer Group continues to meet weekly as it has for 56 years!!

Contemplative Prayer Group: Meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 5:30 PM, with Russ leading a portion of the meeting.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Ladies continue to knit so there are shawls to be blessed in the fall.

Resource Library: Eleanor Sinclair and Marion Godfrey say this is “a work in progress.”

Stephen Ministry: Proclaiming the ministry and marketing it, requires thinking “outside the box.” Since this is a confidential ministry, it is a challenge to publicize.

Visitation Ministry: A few people continue to visit those who are homebound or are in care facilities. This ministry wants to grow, needs to grow, and will grow. If you would like to visit or know someone who would like a visit, please contact Russ or Tilly.