

Christ Church Vestry Minutes
September 11, 2008
7:00 PM

Present: Steve Brodt, Brandon Elliott, Sandy Durgin, Bruce Kallos, Andy Johnston, Ruth Kirk, Tilly Maassen, Rosanne Miller, Bitsy Robbins, Dana Robertson, Ann Wick

Also Present: Russ Bohner

Absent: Judy Sargent

The Rector called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Opening prayer provided by Ann Wick. The Rector officially welcomed Father Russ Bohner to his first Vestry meeting.

Minutes from July 10 were approved, with one correction.

Cluster Reports

Stewardsip

Wil Sherk reporting for Susan Casscells. Wil distributed a draft of the 2009 parish budget. Wil complimented Keith Dawson, our Business Administrator, for the support he has given to the Finance Committee in providing information and reports on financial matters. Wil reviewed some key assumptions for next year's budget (See Addendum 1). The average pledge increase from 2007 to 2008 was 2%. Additional assumptions: there will be no increase in our payment to the diocese and we are below our fair share; no third full-time clergy; we are balancing our budget to what we think our income will realistically be, but not adding to our working capital. We will continue to budget 10% to outreach. Several noted that there is still an impression that the amount given to outreach has decreased. It has not, and it was suggested that we have data available for those who we can invite into the discussion about the budget and our commitment to outreach. It was also suggested that we capture and communicate the principles of our outreach tithing philosophy. The Senior Warden will prepare appropriate data.

RGB

Bruce Kallos and Rosanne Miller reporting. The schedule of RGB gatherings was discussed, and Vestry members were asked to sign up for two or three sessions. Ingathering of leadership pledges will occur at all services on September 21st. A phone-a-thon will take place on November 2nd starting at 12:30 PM. Bruce stressed that our leadership and participation is crucial to our efforts. This year's process continues our long-term stewardship program that was developed and previously approved by the Vestry. There is a need to develop the time and talent piece of our stewardship program.

Spirit Life

Programs for adult education and Christian education for children are set and unfolding for the season.

Service to Others

Stephen Ministry refresher courses are in the works, and Russ Bohner has joined as a leader in that ministry.

Wardens' Report

The senior warden reported on his and Ruth's discussions about where we want to be as a congregation and what we want to become. A small group will be spending a day at Trinity Wall Street in New York at a workshop with Bob Johansen from the Institute For the Future, to learn about how we might develop as a congregation. The Learning Congregations grant from our year of peace has a remaining balance. The Vestry must determine how to spend \$13,000, which is the balance of the grant. Discussion followed about various ways to make use of this funding. The Rector was directed to contact the Alban Institute to pursue assistance with leadership training that will help the parish improve our abilities to be peacemakers.

Gifts and Requests: Andy Johnston reported on a request from a number of parishioners who would like to contribute to Bill Owen's oral history project through the church so that contributions would be tax deductible. Our guidance from the auditors is that this is not appropriate.

Rector's Report (Addendum 2)

Wil Sherk moved, Bruce Kallos seconded a motion authorizing the Clerk to approve the clergy housing allowance as permitted by federal tax laws.

Other Matters and Final Thoughts

The Rector presented the retiring Vestry members with tokens of her appreciation and thanked them for being a part of her first vestry here at Christ Church.

Closing Prayer provided by Ann Wick.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting is October 9, 2008, at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Robertson, Clerk

Addendum 1
2009 Budget Planning Assumptions

- 2 Full time Clergy, 1 Part Time Clergy

- 2009 Parish Giving
 - Increase 4.98% over 2008 Projected Parish Giving \$1,225,000 to \$1,286,028
 - Increase # of pledging units from 524 to 534
 - Increase average pledge from \$2,276 to \$2,408

- Endowment Income increase by 2.4%.
 - Based on a three-year rolling average
 - Balance as of June 30, 2008

- Proposed 4.25% increase in salaries

- 10% increase in Utilities – gas, electricity, water, oil

- Maintain 2008 Capital Reserve Contribution at \$50,000 for 2009

Addendum 2
Rector's Report – September 11, 2008

Personal: I will be using some of my continuing education time to travel to Chicago for an Alban Institute Conference, “Advanced Supervision: Coordinating the Visions of Multiple Staff.” I think this conference will provide information and stimulation as I manage and lead the staff. I look forward to sharing some of my learning with you upon my return. I leave September 16 for the three-day conference, then travel to Indianapolis where I have been invited to the Cathedral to preach at the evensong for the reunion of the men and boys’ choir. A mini family reunion is included, as three of my siblings will also travel there to take part in the festivities.

Pastoral: The Stephen Ministers have held their first two refresher sessions, so that we can renew their ministry among us. **Russ Bohner** is working with Tilly Maassen to become acquainted with our system of pastoral care. I have presided at a handful of funerals in the last months, with two memorial services planned forward for late September and October. **Martha Lankford** is organizing “Helping Hands,” and **Brandon Elliott** has recruited a group of men to help with home renovations.

Staff: The staff meets weekly from 9:15 until 10:00 AM for coordination and planning, with the program staff following for 30 minutes of team building and program review. This is a slight change from our practice last year. They have adapted well to the changes of space on the third floor, though there is still work to be done in reviewing materials and organizing the kitchen space. **Walt Morris** did a fantastic job preparing for the picnic following Hanna’s storms last week. Please commend him when you see him next. The sextons and **Millie Miller** have been taking vacation time this month. **Sherry Lawton-Fasic’s** 19th anniversary as a member of our staff occurs September 12. If you have the chance to speak with her or send her a note, I would appreciate it.

Parish: I sent a thank you note to Linda Boyden for her work in the latest renovation project, but I hope you will join me in expressing appreciation to her and her committee for their leadership and labor, including the preparations of Squirrel Run for a new tenant.

You may hear some complaints about the cancellation of the **Sunday Evening Seminar** this fall. Shortly after I began my tenure, I met with Don Huntley to learn about this program and its 40+ year history. The 1961 Vestry minutes that record the Memorial gift establishing the program read, “The income from the funds shall be used to finance a program of lectures, discussion, investigations, and other activities designed to stimulate interest in the history and contemporary meaning of the Christian faith,” with the wardens and rector charged with direction of the programs. On April 14 I met with Don Huntley and Keith Dawson. I made three points: Don was to complete the spring series and not plan lectures for this fall; he would include others and reform the SES so that it did conform to CCCH mission and provide Christian education; and, for this year, one half of the funding would be directed to support our programs of Adult Education. Don attended the Adult Ed meeting last Monday, and the intent is for the SES to be incorporated in the committee’s work. In the meantime, there are a few members of the parish who are disquieted by the sudden cancellation of the fall series, though the lectures had not been announced. Russ is working to speak with them, and I am preparing the *Communicator* article that will explain the new focus of SES.

With advice of the wardens, I have accepted a gift to become a named Rector’s Discretionary Fund. Until the member’s death, the rector will have sole discretion for the use of 5% draw down. The

intent is for the fund to grow so that after his death, the draw will replace some or all of his annual pledge to the congregation.

We have also received notice that a member left a sum of money for the Altar Guild, and another member included a disbursement to Christ Church in his will. I am grateful for these acts of planned giving, and for the members who have given them to us. I pray that we are good stewards of the manifold blessings entrusted to our care.

Worship: The Worship Committee has met over the summer, working with **Bill Owen, Russ Bohner, Carl Kunz** and me as we plan for the coming year as those who worship God. This is the primary task of the Christian community, so that all we do is shaped by our encounter with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. With thanks to the members, there are a few changes to the liturgy that will happen this fall. The 8:00 service will stay as it is. The 9:00 service will also remain as we have worshiped over the last year, except we will expand the number of Eucharistic Ministers to 4 to reduce the time of distribution. The preachers will work toward 10 minute homilies (even more brief at 8), and the first Sunday when young children are present, we will use the Apostles' Creed (as at baptism). At the 11:00 hour, we will now have both monthly services of Morning Prayer as sung services, or choral Matins. We consider the 11:00 to be traditional Anglican Worship, whereas the 9:00 service will have more variety in the forms of prayers and hymnody, while keeping close to a length of one hour.

Another plan to incorporate more members in ministry is to separate the work of the Lector from the Eucharistic Minister. **Wilson Anthony** will work with **Bitsy Robbins** in training children and youth who want to serve (children as lectors, only). This practice will begin in January.

I am searching for a coordinator of ushers at the 9:00 service. The hope is that one or two members will recruit and train those children, youth, and adults who wish to serve, establishing a schedule and overseeing their ministry. If you have recommendations, I welcome them.

A Final Note: I end this report with thanksgiving for those members of the Vestry who have served faithfully for the last three years: **Andrew Johnston, Rosanne Miller, Dana Robertson, and Wilfred Sherk**. My joy is that none are retiring from positions of leadership at Christ Church. Andy will continue as Senior Warden, extending his ministry of leadership among us. I am grateful for his counsel. Rosanne has accepted leadership on the Stewardship Committee, working with Susan this year and leading the RGB annual campaign next year. She has also accepted responsibility on the Vision Team. I am so grateful for Rosanne's gift with words, for she has always improved our communication. Dana is serving on so many committees and continues so many ministries I wonder that he will have any more free time when he completes his term on Vestry and as our Clerk. His leadership is valued on the Communications Committee, and his care for our members and their incorporation will involve him in the re-working of our processes surrounding new members. I have treasured Dana's ability to help us find compromise and accountability. Wil Sherk completes his term on the Vestry and as Senior Warden. I am profoundly grateful for Wil's gifts in organizational development and his guidance as I become the rector I am called to be. He will continue to serve our parish as the leader of the team for our vision work through the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes. My thanks to each of you.

As I consider the gifts and talents assembled in the continuing membership, and the pressures of time and the demands of other commitments in and beyond the parish, I value the work you each do to strengthen this parish. It is my duty to nominate one to the position of Junior Warden, for an election at the October Vestry meeting. It is my pleasure to nominate Steve Brodt.