

Christ Church Vestry Meeting Minutes September 9, 2010

Present: Wilson Anthony, Steve Brodt, Barbara Cairns, Ted Cover, Betsy Field, Andy Johnston, Wes Jones, Ruth Kirk, Martha Lankford, Gina Pike, Bitsy Robbins, Rich Tucker, Ann Wick

Also Present: Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, Pete Borden

Absent: Oliver Faulkner

The meeting was called to order by the Rector at 7:00 PM.

Ted Cover opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Minutes from August 12, 2010 were reviewed and approved.

Cluster Reports

Stewardship

2011 Personnel Budget Review: Pete Borden, chair of the Personnel Committee, reviewed salary recommendations for 2011. The Finance Committee will incorporate the Personnel Committee recommendations into the 2011 budgeting process.

“Ask, Thank, Tell”: **Stewardship 2011:** Ruth distributed information and data on pledging and participation and giving trends. The campaign will be targeted by age group and past pledge history. The campaign will begin on October 10, with the pledge ingathering at worship services on October 31. Ruth led a discussion of Vestry leadership in discipleship and participation in the Stewardship Campaign.

Spirit Life (See Addendum A)

Wilson Anthony reviewed the Spirit Life Cluster Report. Luke Timothy Johnson will visit CCCH on September 24 and 25.

Service to Others (See Addendum B)

Barbara reviewed the Service to Others Cluster report. Jo Harney has begun her work as Interim Head of Christ Church Preschool.

Rector’s Report (See Addendum C)

Ruth reported that Judy Sargent has resigned from the Vestry, effective immediately. Andy Johnston moved, Wilson Anthony seconded that the Vestry reluctantly accept Judy’s resignation. The motion passed unanimously. A discussion was held about the options for a replacement for Judy.

Ruth discussed the date for Confirmation in 2011—Tuesday, May 31, at 7:00 PM. The date is due to the Bishop’s visitation scheduled on June 26, and the May date has been set instead to ensure that all those wishing to be confirmed do not have a conflict with vacation, CCCH mission trips, or other activities.

The Vestry Retreat will be October 22-24 at Memorial House.

Other Matters and Final Thoughts

Wilson Anthony expressed his belief that a Mutual Ministry Review would be valuable for the Vestry.

Ruth read two devotions from *It's Not Too Late, A Field Guide to Hope* by Bob Sitze.

Closing Prayer offered by Ted Cover.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting: October 14.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilson Anthony, Clerke-Designee

ADDENDUM A

Spirit Life Cluster Report – September 9, 2010

Worship

1. On September 5 the 10:00 AM service was held outdoors. The service incorporated simple hymns with participation by the congregation.
2. On September 19 the fall service schedule will begin with services at 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00.
3. The St. Nicholas and St. Cecilia Choirs begin their rehearsals on September 9.
4. The Christ Church Choir will sing Evensong on Sunday, October 3.
5. Andrew Lumsden will be Musician in Residence at Christ Church November 19-21. Mr. Lumsden is Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral. The weekend's schedule includes an organ recital on Friday evening, open rehearsal and lecture on Saturday, and Choral Eucharist and Evensong on Sunday.
6. On October 3 at the 9:00 AM service, there will be a Blessing of the Animals in observance of St. Francis Sunday. If the weather is fair, the service will be held outdoors. The J2A pilgrims will host a dinner at 6:00 PM that evening to discuss the experience of their pilgrimage to Italy which focused on St. Francis.
7. Acolyte training will be held from 12:15-1:45 on Sunday, September 12. All youth who have completed their Rite-13 ceremony are invited to serve as acolytes.

Spiritual Formation

1. CCCH Vacation Bible School was held August 16-20. Approximately 75 children participated.
2. The 90-Day Bible Challenge was officially completed with a celebration on Sunday, August 29.
3. Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson, author and New Testament Scholar, will visit Christ Church September 24-25. There will be a lecture entitled *Learning the Human Jesus* at 7:00 PM on Friday, September 24 and a workshop entitled *Learning Jesus in the Life of the Church*

from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, September 25. Those interested in attending are encouraged to read Dr. Johnson's book, *Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel*. Copies are available from Russ or the church office. Sunday morning adult education will begin on September 19.

4. All Sunday School and J2A teachers and leaders will be commissioned at the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, September 12.
5. Sunday School and J2A youth programs resume on Sunday, September 19.
6. A potluck dinner and J2A program orientation will be held at 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 19 in the Parish Hall. All youth who plan to participate in the J2A program and their parents are encouraged to attend.
7. A Rite-13 Youth Group (Sixth and Seventh grade) Lock-In will be held Friday and Saturday, September 17-18 at Christ Church.
8. The UrbanPromise Retreat/Dinner/Worship on Sunday, July 25 was held at UrbanPromise in Wilmington due to the sudden storm that blocked access to Christ Church. Our heartfelt gratitude to Ruth who retrieved all the dinner supplies and food from the kitchen, loaded them in her car, and drove through Hagley to deliver them to a waiting caravan of cars and volunteers heading to UrbanPromise. Many thanks to all our volunteers who made this evening possible through their contributions of food, their time, and their flexibility. Special thanks to Jennifer for her support on behalf of the retreat, her presence, and last-minute rearrangement of the worship plans.

Parish Life

1. The Annual Parish Picnic will be held Sunday, September 12 following the 10:00 AM service. This year the Parish Life Committee will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and barbeque pork sandwiches.
2. The next PLC meeting is Monday, September 20 at 7:00 PM.
3. The PLC will meet on Sunday, September 26 at 4:00 PM to discuss committee bylaws, structure, policies, leadership succession, mission, and goals.

Web Site Design Team

1. The Web Site Redesign committee has completed the discovery phase of the site design process and will begin the development phase on September 15 at their next meeting.
-- Submitted by Wilson Anthony, Betsy Field, Bitsy Robbins, Rich Tucker

ADDENDUM B

Service to Others Cluster Report – September 9, 2010

Outreach

Committee Direction: A committee retreat will be held this Saturday, September 11 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Vicmead. After discussion on fine-tuning our annual process, the focus will be to look at the future. Committee members were asked to pick a book from a "summer reading list" to find inspirations for our ongoing ministry. The books included religious, business, biography, philanthropy, and the arts topics.

Jessie Ball du Pont Grant: Work continues for a Jessie Ball du Pont grant in partnership with the Cathedral Choir School's exploration of starting an elementary school. Their feasibility study recommended various capacity building steps before embarking on a capital campaign. The

focus of our grant request will be in support of these steps. The Artistic Director of the Choir School, Daryl Roland, and the Director of Development, Lisa Slinkard, will make a presentation at the next Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 14.

Collections: The schedule of parish collections is determined quarterly. At an earlier Vestry meeting, the Outreach Committee was asked to coordinate all parish collection requests. Vestry members are requested to ask their respective committees to provide Ben Osburn with their requests at least three months in advance, more when planning permits. This is particularly helpful as some requests are seasonal, and we have a long list of agency requests that we would like to balance to serve as many needs as possible without burning out parishioners' generosity and participation!

Epiphany House: Joe Stoeckle has offered to coordinate the schedule of parishioners to cook dinner at Epiphany House. The first goal is to take two evenings a month, expanding as parishioner participation increases.

--Submitted by Barbara Cairns

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool

Jo Harney, Interim Head of School, was pleased to be able to spend her first week at CCEP with Catherine Dolan still on board to offer guidance and support. Jo has been extremely busy preparing for the school year and getting to know all of the teachers and staff. Jo has met with representatives from the Delaware Star Program in order to review new certification requirements and how they will impact her and her staff moving forward. In addition, Jo is working on writing articles for the *Delaware Communion*, the *Christ Church Communicator*, and analyzing the content and structure of the CCEP website.

A great deal of energy and excitement fill the halls of CCEP this week as the 2010-11 school year begins. There was a teachers' breakfast on Tuesday, September 7 hosted by CCEP Board members. Wednesday, September 8 was "Meet Your Teacher" Day, and Thursday, September 9 marks the first full day of school.

All CCEP teachers return this year, with the exception of one who was replaced in July. Due to the high enrollment in the Cherub (Beginners) class, a third teacher will be hired for that room.

Emphasis will be placed on professional development for CCEP teachers this year. All teachers are developing individual professional development plans and will be taking three required workshops/classes this fall.

The enrollment stands at 74 students, though inquiries continue to be received daily.

--Submitted by Gina Pike

Pastoral Ministries Team (PMT)

PMT held its regular monthly meeting on August 31, 2010. The Rector attended and asked for an update of changes and special concerns regarding pastoral ministries and recipients.

Four babies have been born since May, and two funerals were held.

Ten prayer shawls were recently distributed. Another six are currently being delivered to parishioners. Four blessed shawls remain "in stock." Another ten are ready to be blessed. Blessing of the shawls will occur soon (TBD) at an 11:00 AM service.

The Flower Ministry, which arranges and delivers altar flowers on Mondays, is in need of more volunteers.

The Caregivers' Support Group has changed its meeting time to the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM in the Commons Room, where caregiving resource information is kept. Attendance varies between 6-12 people.

Ruth Kirk shared information on Parish Life Day to be held on November 20 at St. Anne's School in Middletown. She hopes that PMT can promote this event and encourage participation by Christ Church parishioners. This year's theme is "Living Simply."

Ruth also passed along Lynne Jensen's request that the prayer partner ministry be continued. This ministry was put in place to pray for the youth and adults who made pilgrimages this summer to Italy and Jalonga. Prayer partners and Lynne will design how the partnership will proceed.

Martha Lankford will put together an article for the October *Communicator* reminding people of the Helping Hands ministry.

The next PMT is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28 at 12 noon in the 3rd floor Conference Room.

--Submitted by Martha Lankford

Global Missions:

There is no report this month.

ADDENDUM C
Rector's Report – September 9, 2010

Vestry: Today I received a letter from Judy Sargent, tendering her resignation from the Vestry, effective immediately. She writes:

It has been a great honor for me to serve on the vestry for almost three years with such a devoted and committed group of fellow parishioners. Serving on the vestry has allowed me to serve God and this church family in a way that I had never experienced. It has helped me to grow in my faith and love of Jesus Christ. God bless you, the clergy, the vestry, staff and fellow parishioners as you continue to worship and serve the Lord in community. Christ Church will always be in my heart and prayers as I continue on my journey of faith. I will return to worship here as often as I can, and at the end, I will be put to rest in the beautiful Memorial Garden with my mother, Evelyn, and my husband, John.

Faithfully,
Judy, Class of 2010

I commend Judy for her devotion to our parish and for her leadership, even in a time of personal transition. God bless her as she relocates to Austin, Texas.

Article V, Section 4 of the bylaws calls upon the Vestry to elect a qualified candidate for the duration of the term within three months and by a majority vote of the remaining members.

Staff: **Bill Owen** has returned from his sabbatical leave and will prepare a brief report to the Vestry and congregation about his Sabbath time before the October vestry meeting. Upon my return from vacation **Russ Bohner** had a week's vacation leave; **Carl Kunz** continues his vacation leave until mid-October.

Parish: The **90-Day Bible Challenge** was officially celebrated with the close of August, but several members read on, determined to join those who have already finished. Russ Bohner reports that well over 100 members did make the goal of completing the Bible. I count this as a great blessing for Christ Church and hope that we can harness the energy that comes from such an accomplishment.

Annual Planning as Followers of Christ: On September 30 I have asked all parish committee chairs/team leaders to dinner and a session for the planning of our ministry in the coming year. I hope the Vestry will be present and will encourage the attendance of leaders or representatives in your cluster.

I hope all Vestry members can be present on Sunday, October 3 for the special **Italian dinner and Pilgrimage presentation** by the 2010 J2A pilgrims. At first designed to cover a potential deficit, the pilgrims are glad to forward proceeds to benefit the pilgrims of 2012, along with a slight surplus from their fund-raising.

I have invited **The Rev. John Martiner** to preach at all services on November 7, 2010. I look forward to this celebration of All Saints and hope that you will join me in welcoming John and Betty to our fellowship that day. That evening the Christ Church Choir sings the service of Evensong, followed by a small reception at the rectory for those who are (or are interested in) participating in the Choral Pilgrimage in February of 2011.

Diocese: I am serving on the sponsoring committee for *A Day of Remembrance – Our Diocesan Service of Apology & Repentance for the Role of the Episcopal Church in the Institution of Slavery*, on Saturday, October 30 at 11 am at the Cathedral Church of St. John. I'm challenging my colleagues to bring 10% of their congregation's average Sunday attendance. For CCCH that's 40 people. Will you be one? A joint choir and musicians from around the diocese will provide the music. It should be a powerful occasion.