

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Monday, March 15, 2010  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. Ernie led us in prayer, inviting God's Spirit to be present among us, guide us, and direct us. We read John 12:1-8 (in which Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus's feet with costly perfume) using Gospel-based discipleship and three different translations of the text. After the first reading we asked ourselves, "What word or phrase struck me?" After the second reading we asked, "What is Jesus saying to me or to the church?" After the third reading we asked, "What is Jesus calling me or the church to do?"

**Present:** Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden John Potter; Treasurer Aaron Twait; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Denny Davis, Tina Egwim, George Ham, Jim Lee, Alida Knoll, and Ann Marie Metzger; guests Robb Keech, Connor Keech, and Melinda Frimpong

**Absent:** Junior Warden Janeen Leick; elected vestry members Shannon Erickson and Tory Hassenauer

**Approval of the agenda:** George moved that the agenda be approved, as amended to include time for Connor to present his proposed Eagle Scout project. Motion carried.

**Eagle Scout project proposal:** Connor presented a proposal to build a labyrinth on church grounds, north of the fire pit, for his Eagle Scout project. Ernie said that the project sounds like a good idea. He asked that Connor talk with the Building & Grounds ministry team and bring back their recommendation. Connor said he has already talked with Pierre LePere of the team, and the team is okay with the project, as long as the labyrinth can be mowed over. Connor said that the stones will be flush with the ground. He has the materials and would like to begin construction in late May or early June. The vestry discussed the design and composition of the labyrinth. Denny moved to approve Connor's design and installation of a labyrinth on church grounds for his Eagle Scout project, with the stipulation that it be flush with the ground. Motion carried. Catherine will write a letter of support to Connor's Eagle board of review.

**Approval of vestry minutes:** Jim moved that the minutes of the February 15th regular vestry meeting be approved, with the finance report corrected. Motion carried. Catherine will revise and resend the minutes.

**Filling of the vacancy on the vestry:** Ernie said that he had spoken with Erbayne Jarvis, and Erbayne was happy to fill the vacancy on vestry created when Janeen Leick became junior warden. John moved to appoint Erbayne Jarvis in absentia to the vestry to fill the unexpired term of Janeen Leick until the next annual meeting. Motion carried.

**Finance report:** Aaron presented the February 2010 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through February 2010. There were several items of note. February's pledge income

was good for a month with four Sundays. The utilities line item was low for February because of Xcel's billing cycle. A worker's compensation payment was made for Ernie. A payment toward our diocesan Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG) will be made after we receive the gift from the charitable remainder trust. The vestry discussed the effects on the budget of parishioners paying some of their 2010 pledges in 2009. Pierre closed the Wells Fargo trading account. Monies have been disbursed from the Dire Need Fund, so that ~\$1200 is left in that account. The Transmittal Fund holds deposits for the trip to Turkey. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

**Request for appointment of a discernment committee:** Ernie explained to the vestry the process one must take if one feels a calling to the priesthood or the diaconate. The person feeling the call speaks to his or her rector, who asks the vestry to set up a discernment committee. The discernment committee meets with the person over the course of a year, decides whether they believe that the person has a true sense of calling, and makes a recommendation to the vestry. The person then undergoes diocesan discernment for a year, after which the bishop and others then discuss next steps. Ernie said that Dana Fath Strande is feeling called to the priesthood and would like to begin the discernment process with the parish. After discussion, George moved that the vestry approve Dana setting up a parish discernment committee for discerning her call to the priesthood. Motion carried. Ernie will let Dana know of the vestry's decision.

**Memorial bench:** Ernie said that the family that sold these grounds to the church would like to donate a memorial bench. The issue will be taken up at the next Building & Grounds team meeting.

**Vestry retreat:** The vestry retreat will be held at the church from 9 am till 2 pm on March 20, with a gathering at Denny's house afterwards.

**Interim arrangements for coverage of the office and bulletins:** Ernie said that the office is being staffed with volunteers Monday through Thursday through Easter. A friend of his, who is a former Episcopal church secretary, is putting together the bulletins through Easter, and a printer is printing them. The Good News sheet is being done in-house.

**Hiring process for a new secretary:** The Personnel Committee, which Jamie Mair chairs, and other stakeholders are handling the hiring process. An advertisement was placed in the Woodbury paper, and 15 people applied. A group of people reviewed the applications and chose their top four or five candidates, who will be interviewed this week. The top two candidates will be tested as to their proficiency with Word and Publisher. The new secretary will start on the Tuesday after Easter.

### **Ministry team reports:**

Building & Grounds: Denny said that a snow blower was purchased with funds from the St. Mary's Guild. The team has asked Rory Foley to take the matter of our poorly installed roof to the Attorney General's office. The large cross in the sanctuary will be covered on Maundy Thursday. The team will be putting together a list of priority

maintenance and repair work for spring. Some names need to be added to the 50-year membership plaque, which Rodger Pereyra and Pierre LePere have expanded. The vestry discussed lawn maintenance.

Communication & Marketing: None

Faith Formation: John said that the soup suppers and programs will continue throughout Lent. A labyrinth retreat will be held on Palm Sunday evening. Vacation Bible School will be held the last week of June. The team has discussed at length how all committees and small groups need to be intentional about inviting new members of the congregation and those not currently engaged to be involved.

Finance & Legal: Aaron said that the team met last week. They will be reviewing the parish bylaws in 2010; suggested revisions should be given to Aaron. The team hopes to receive the gift from the charitable remainder trust in April. The team has discussed using the funds to balance the budget and fix windows, with some being held in reserve for mid-year and end-of-year needs. The vestry will discuss how to apportion the gift when it arrives.

Inreach: Ann Marie reminded the vestry about the tea on April 17. Denny suggested that at least one Sunday a month there be no Adult Education so that the coffee hour between the two services can be longer and allow for more visiting. John was in favor of that suggestion; he will bring it back to the Faith Formation team. Adult Education is scheduled through May, but this idea could be implemented beginning in the fall. It was suggested that a certain Sunday (e.g., the second Sunday of every month) be chosen to facilitate people's remembering.

Outreach: Alida said that in April the team will collect men's professional and business casual clothing for Ready for Success. Denny said that the Backstreet Grill will continue to donate meals to Loaves and Fishes, and Denny again expressed his gratitude to the owner for his generosity.

Stewardship: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: None

**Junior Warden's report:** None

**Senior Warden's report:** John reported that Charlene Peterson renewed our subscription to the *Woodbury Bulletin*. One Faith Formation team member felt that we should promote people's participation in the census. Although the Executive Committee felt that the census is an important issue, it recommended that we keep the Good News sheet to church-related announcements. The Executive Committee would like to meet with the Building & Grounds team after Easter to discuss its needs.

**Rector's report:** Ernie will be on vacation the Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week.

**Final review:** Catherine reviewed our action items:

- Catherine will write a letter in support of Connor's proposed Eagle Scout project to his board of review.
- Catherine will revise and resend the minutes of the February 15th vestry meeting.
- Ernie will let Dana know of the vestry's decision regarding her setting up a parish discernment committee.
- Suggested revisions to the parish bylaws should be given to Aaron.
- John will bring back to the Faith Formation team the suggestion that at least one Sunday a month be set aside for a longer coffee hour (and no Adult Education), to allow for more visiting.

**Adjournment:** Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 8:45 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk