

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2009
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. Ernie led us in prayer. He then had us examine Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (in which Jesus teaches that people should worship with their hearts, not just their lips) 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?" After the third reading we asked, "What is God calling me to do?"

Present: Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Deb Shoemaker; Treasurer Aaron Twait; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Denny Davis, Jim Lee, Janeen Leick, Ann Marie Metzger, and John Potter

Absent: Junior Warden George Pratt; elected vestry members Tory Hassenauer, Austin Ihiekwe, Alida Knoll, and Doug Sprinthall

Approval of the agenda: Jim moved that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Approval of vestry minutes: John moved that the minutes of the July 21st regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Aaron presented the July 2009 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through July 2009. There were several items of note. Pledges were a little down this past month, which is usual for a July. There were three pay periods in July, so salary expenses were higher than usual. The Programs & Growth expense reflects advertising in the phone book. Deb asked if the church had received reimbursement from Metro Transit for its share of the costs of having our parking lot resurfaced; Aaron said that we had. Aaron is consolidating bank accounts at Wells Fargo. He also noted that the expenditures for the bathroom remodeling are not on the treasurer's report because they are not coming from the general fund. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

Election of the ninth bishop of Minnesota: Ernie noted that three candidates had been identified. Their résumés, autobiographical statements, and answers to questions can be found at www.mnbishopsearch.org. There is also a complicated process for nominating additional candidates. The window of opportunity for that has closed, and at least one additional person has been nominated through that process. His information will also be added to the website. Ernie encouraged the vestry to become informed about the candidates for bishop. We should pass our thoughts on them along to our lay delegates: Denny Davis, Shannon Erickson, and Bart Ratnayake. The diocesan convention is at the end of October, and the candidates will do "meet and greets" in the middle of October; anyone can attend and ask questions. John will organize a Sunday in September when our lay delegates will be available to participate in a question and answer session with parishioners.

Diocesan draft budget: There was an extensive and detailed discussion about how the diocese has calculated a church's Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG), how that calculation should be modified going forward (because the current formula is not sustainable), and how different formulas necessitate different degrees of cuts to the diocesan budget. In particular, the Native American ministry budget and diocesan staff will be affected by the decreased income that is a result of a shrinking church. The budget will be a very difficult issue at convention, and it must be settled Friday night, because all of Saturday is to be devoted to selecting the new bishop. The Mission Development Committee has recommended a "10/12" split: parishes with an income of <\$300,000 would pay 10% of their income to the diocese; parishes with an income of >\$300,000 would pay 12% of their income to the diocese.

Completion of the bathroom remodeling: Ernie read a report from Rodger Pereyra, which detailed all the work that was done on the upstairs, downstairs, and nursery bathrooms. In brief, a group of dedicated volunteers spent more than 700 hours replacing sinks and toilets, installing lighting fixtures and tile floors, painting ceilings and walls, installing new partitions, repairing the heating, and more. The project cost \$5975 (and came in under its budget of \$6000), but the project would have cost ~\$40,000 to have done professionally. Thanks to Jeff Black, Bill Heck, Jim Forman, Pierre LePere, Rodger Pereyra, John Trost, and John Waterhouse for their labor; thanks to Catherine Harrington and David and Janeen Leick for decorating plans. Thanks also to Muska Lighting, The Tile Shop, Kevin Dunnings, and Jeff Ballard of Bartley Sales for their donations. Catherine will write a letter of thanks to Rodger and the rest of the team. Ernie will put thank yous for the donations in the Good News sheet. Ernie will also find someone to coordinate a Sunday brunch between the services to thank the team for their hard work.

Question: Ann Marie asked about the church's arrangement with Bright Horizons Back-up Day Care. Ernie replied that they are will be using the downstairs of the church and the church grounds at the end of August as they have done for the past few years; they do pay rent.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: Denny reported that another tree will be removed. The issue regarding the curb shutoff for the water main has been resolved. Shingles have been falling off the roof, which was replaced in 2001. Currently a 200 ft² area needs to be repaired for \$1200. Deb will talk with Pierre about the roof and report back to the vestry.

Communication & Marketing: None

Faith Formation: John reported that the team met twice in the last month. Sunday School begins September 26, and the team wants to have Adult Education begin in early October

Finance & Legal: Aaron reported that the team did not meet. However, Dave Coslett checked with our insurance company regarding a sign at the entrance to our parking lot, and they replied that such a sign might be in order. Aaron contacted someone in the diocesan legal department but has not received a reply. Deb noted that our grounds are

an attractive environment and proposed language around respecting the property. Deb will talk with Aaron about the diocese's legal opinion regarding a sign. The executive committee will take up the issue and come to the next vestry meeting with a proposal as to whether we should have a sign and, if so, what it should say.

Inreach: Ann Marie reported that the team is in limbo.

Outreach: None

Stewardship: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: Jim reported that the team did not meet this month. They need to set a date for their September meeting.

Rector's vacation dates: Ernie said that he would be away August 28-30 (Ann Miner-Pearson will fill in), September 10-14 (Henry Hoover will fill in), and November 10-16 (Ernie is finding a preacher).

Junior Warden's report: None

Senior Warden's report: Deb asked that the vestry think about if and how coffee hour should be in the future; we will discuss it at the next meeting. Ernie will talk with Jamie Mair about people's concerns regarding coffee hour, and the executive committee will compile this information to facilitate our discussion and decision-making.

Rector's report: The Fall Festival is coming! Banners will be hung, and pixie stix and postcards will be passed out during the Woodbury Days parade to advertise it. Ernie has invited all of the Woodbury churches to come and has provided information for them to put in their bulletins. He encouraged us to come as well.

Final review: Catherine reviewed our action items:

- Ernie encouraged the vestry to become informed about the candidates for bishop.
- John will organize a Sunday in September when our lay delegates to diocesan convention will be available to participate in a question and answer session with parishioners.
- Catherine will write a letter of thanks to Rodger and the rest of the team.
- Ernie will put thank yous for the bathroom renovation donations in the Good News sheet.
- Ernie will find someone to coordinate a Sunday brunch between the services to thank the team for their hard work.
- Deb will talk with Pierre about the roof and report back to the vestry.
- Deb will talk with Aaron about the diocese's legal opinion regarding a parking lot sign.
- The executive committee will take up the parking lot sign issue and come to the next vestry meeting with a proposal as to whether we should have a sign and, if so, what it should say.
- The vestry should think about if and how coffee hour should be in the future; we will discuss it at the next meeting.

- Ernie will talk with Jamie Mair about people's concerns regarding coffee hour, and the executive committee will compile this information to facilitate our discussion and decision-making.
- The vestry is encouraged to attend the Fall Festival.

Adjournment: Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 8:43 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk