

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Tuesday, May 19, 2009  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. He led us in a prayer, asking God for focus, wisdom, direction, and guidance. Ernie then had us examine John 15:9-17 (in which Jesus talked to His disciples about His love for them and how they should love each other) 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?" Ernie asked us to think about what Jesus's love looks like, and how we are to love each other.

**Present:** Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Deb Shoemaker; Junior Warden George Pratt; Treasurer Aaron Twait; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Denny Davis, Tory Hassenauer, Austin Ihiekwe, Alida Knoll, Jim Lee, and John Potter

**Absent:** Elected vestry members Janeen Leick, Ann Marie Metzger, and Doug Sprinthall

**Approval of the agenda:** Tory moved that the agenda be approved as amended, with the Priest-in-Charge's report renamed the Rector's report. Motion carried.

**Approval of vestry minutes:** Denny moved that the minutes of the April 21st regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Aaron presented the April 2009 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through April 2009. There were several items of note. Parishioners continue to stay current with their pledges; we have received \$28,000 more in pledges to date this year than at this same time last year. The diocese has changed how they bill us for Ernie's and Dana's benefits; they are moving from billing us the month after the diocese pays for the benefits to being billed during the same month as the diocese pays for the benefits, so we will be making an extra payment this year. We will make another payment towards our diocesan Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG) in June or July. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

**Installation service:** We reviewed the service and reception for Ernie's installation as Christ Church's rector on April 29. There were many parishioners involved, and the evening had a sense of joy and celebration. Ernie said that he was very appreciative of all the work that Dana Fath Strande did for the service; the vestry is also very appreciative and asked Catherine to send Dana a letter of thanks.

**Fund-raising results:** Ernie reported that Dave Leick estimates that the May 16th dinner, silent auction, and cork pull raised ~\$10,000. In addition, people had a good time! Ernie thanked his St. Stephen's friends who cooked for us. The St. Mary's Guild has said that they will make \$1000 from their rummage sale available, if it is needed for the remodeling project; if not, they will use it later to help people in need.

**Plans for bathroom remodeling:** Aaron will work with Pierre LePere and Rodger Pereyra to recalculate the cost estimate for the project. Given that the building is scheduled for vacation Bible school and Bright Horizons back-up daycare, Ernie has told Pierre that he would like them to do the work early in the summer. Jim moved the following:

The vestry authorizes and delegates authority to Pierre LePere and Rodger Pereyra to serve as project leaders in developing a work plan and cost plan for the church's lower-level bathroom repair/remodeling project, with an initial overall expense/cost expenditure limit of \$8000 for the entire project and the potential for another \$2000 expenditure if needed but subject to further vestry approval.

The vestry authorizes Pierre LePere and Rodger Pereyra to make all final decisions on the remodel work, subject to the limitations set forth above. However, the vestry recommends that they consult with the team consisting of Catherine Harrington, Dave and Janeen Leick, and Jamie Mair for input on fixtures, designs, color schemes, and other decorating items before commencement of the project and as needed during the project.

The vestry further authorizes Pierre LePere and Rodger Pereyra to open a line-of-credit account at a retail store(s) to assist them in making purchases on Christ Church's behalf for the remodeling project, subject to the following:

(1) Pierre LePere and Rodger Pereyra shall be the sole individuals authorized to make purchase on the account(s);

(2) The account(s) shall have a combined dollar limit or expense/use of \$8000 in total;

(3) Pierre and Rodger shall request exemption from sales tax on purchases;

(4) Pierre and Rodger shall ensure closure of the account(s) on the earlier of September 1, 2009, or attainment of the dollar limit set forth in (2) herein.

Motion carried. Deb will type up the motion and send it to Catherine, who will circulate it to the vestry for final approval; once that approval is obtained, Catherine will send it to Pierre and Rodger.

**Parking lot repairs:** Weather permitting, the parking lot will be resurfaced and restriped this Friday. Attempts to repair the curbs will also be made. The work will be finished in one to two days, and the lot will be available Sunday. The parish will pay for the work after it has received the promised half from Metro Transit.

### **Ministry team reports:**

Building & Grounds: Denny reported that Pierre LePere would like to purchase a spreader and herbicide to control dandelions; the vestry approved of this measure. A crew has caulked, primed, and painted the windows on the south side of the first floor; the team is getting a bid for repairing the second floor windows. The nursery will be repainted and recarpeted. Denny said that he was disappointed that only two people helped during the scheduled outside cleanup. The inside cleanup will be rescheduled from May 23. Ernie suggested that a combination inside/outside cleanup be done. Deb suggested that a cleanup be coordinated with the parish picnic on June 20.

Communication & Marketing: None

Faith Formation: John reported that Wednesday, May 20 is the last night of Wednesday Nite Live dinner and youth groups. Alpha will begin Wednesday, June 17 and run through mid-August, with an orientation dinner on Saturday, June 6. A new member orientation class will be held on Sunday, June 7; 20 invitations have been sent out. Summer Stretch will be held on Thursdays, June 25 – July 30; there are currently 26 10-through 16-year-olds registered for this summer service program. Vacation Bible school will be held July 6-9. Dana believes that the youth ministry should be reviewed every four to six years; the current program has been in place for five years. A task force will review all programming this spring and summer.

Finance & Legal: Aaron reported that the team met last night and discussed the finances and mechanisms for financing the bathroom remodeling project.

Inreach: None

Outreach: None

Stewardship: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: The team did not meet.

Worship & Music: Austin reported that the African Thanksgiving service was held on May 17, and the group will plan for next year. Because we all enjoyed the service so much, the vestry encouraged Austin to organize such a service more frequently than annually. Jim reported that the team met last week. Anne Vander Haar will work on a flower policy with Jodie Anderson and Ernie.

**Small groups:** Ernie said that Thursday is the final class on small church groups at The University of St. Thomas, and he must make a class presentation. He will share his presentation with us at the next vestry meeting and then talk with the Faith Formation team about small groups.

**Junior Warden's report:** None

**Senior Warden's report:** Deb said that the vestry should advocate that parishioners come and work during cleanups; she suggested we do so via the coffee hour lists. She recently saw a father and his children using our parking lot to drive go-carts. Because this behavior is risky and disruptive to our neighbors, she asked him to leave. She asked that the Building & Grounds team investigate putting a sign at the parking lot entrance that indicates that the lot is for the use of church members and invited guests.

**Rector's report:** None

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

- Ernie asked us to think about what Jesus's love looks like, and how we are to love each other.
- Ernie and Deb will share some talking points with Catherine, who will write a thank you note to Dana Fath Strande that expresses the vestry's appreciation for her work on Ernie's installation service.
- Deb will type up a motion regarding the bathroom remodeling project and send it to Catherine, who will circulate it to the vestry for final approval; once that approval is obtained, Catherine will send it to Pierre and Rodger.
- The vestry should advocate that parishioners come and work during cleanups, perhaps via the coffee hour lists.
- The Building & Grounds team will investigate putting a sign at the parking lot entrance that indicates that the lot is for the use of church members and invited guests.

**Adjournment:** Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 8:28 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk