

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. We read Mark 10:46-52 (in which Jesus heals the blind man Bartimaeus) 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; Junior Warden George Pratt; Treasurer Aaron Twait; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Denny Davis, Alida Knoll, Jim Lee, Ann Marie Metzger, and John Potter; and guests Blane Huppert and Charlene Peterson

Absent: Elected vestry members Tory Hassenauer, Austin Ihiekwe, Janeen Leick, and Doug Sprinthall

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

Approval of vestry minutes: Jim moved that the minutes of the September 15th regular vestry meeting be approved, as amended to correct two typographical errors. Motion carried. Catherine will amend the minutes and resend them to the vestry members.

Treasurer's report: Aaron presented the September 2009 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through September 2009. There were several items of note. We ran a deficit for the month of September. Pledges remain slightly down; Aaron estimates that we were at 65% of total pledged income at the end of September (75% through the year). Deb commented that pledges usually increase in December. Charlene explained where we are with respect to pledge income; given the loss of three families, some families who are struggling, some families paying more than their pledge, and new pledges since the annual meeting, she feels good about where we are and where we will be at yearend. Two payments were made for copying expenses. Miscellaneous expenses included supply priests. We paid to have a tree removed, and a payment on our street assessment was made. We are caught up with Ernie's pension payments; Dana Fath Strande's pension payments have been made through June. Aaron noted that our investment accounts have begun to recover. In response to a question about the transmittal fund, which is for next year's Fall Festival, Aaron said that he thinks all of the Fall Festival bills are in; we delivered a truckload of food and some donations to the Christian Cupboard, but we lost ~\$400, perhaps due to decreased attendance. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

Draft 2010 budget: The Finance & Legal team put together a balanced draft budget for 2010, and this was discussed at the executive committee meeting. There are actually two draft budgets: one with a 1% cost-of-living increase, and one without. The team tried to hold total revenue the same as 2009; we will have better numbers after the stewardship campaign. In addition, most

expenses remained the same. There are some changes (both up and down) with respect to staff insurance. The Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG) will be less in 2010; the team assumed a 10% rate, which the diocese is recommending at convention. Denny noted that dramatic building and grounds expenses may be incurred in 2010. Ernie said that we will need a capital campaign to handle the deferred maintenance costs.

Stewardship plans: Blane and Charlene suggested a November 1 all-parish meeting to kick off this year's stewardship campaign, which will have the theme "We're all in the same boat." The meeting would cover the current situation and our parish's goals; Blane will ask if each pledging unit can afford to pledge an additional \$10 per month in order for us to reach our goals. Pledge cards will be collected in church on November 15. The vestry discussed the sustainability of last year's stretch and the need to recognize that not everyone can increase their pledge. Ernie will send a letter inviting parishioners to the meeting, and he will talk to Dana about Sunday school that day.

Diocesan convention (October 30-31): Ernie reported that the diocese will likely adopt a 10/12 split for calculating parishes' ACG in 2010, with parishes with income <\$300,000 paying 10%, and those with income >\$300,000 paying 12%. Ernie noted that many dioceses around the U.S. are decreasing their budgets, and ours is no exception. The five candidates for bishop had their Twin Cities walkabouts on Monday, October 19. Ernie and vestry members discussed their impressions of the candidates. Ernie noted that he did an Adult Education session last week on the convention, and this week's session will cover how to deal with differences among us.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: Denny delivered an extensive report. Briefly, the items discussed were a recent outside cleanup (with Rodger Pereyra, Pierre LePere, and Bill Heck as the "heavy lifters") and a second outside cleanup this Saturday morning, an upcoming inside cleanup (to be scheduled by Pat Jennings), the need for a new roof (to be coordinated by Dan Shoemaker and George Ham), the need for work to be done on the windows, the boiler room settings and log, and the need for someone to shovel the walk this winter (it was suggested that the team talk to Dana for recommendations of youth in the parish and to Tom Hunter for recommendations of Boy Scouts from our troop). We discussed whether to hire a new cleaning service; Ernie said that the team should make a recommendation to the vestry at the November meeting, and Aaron was asked to look at the financial implications of a change. Denny will talk to Mary Margaret about the office equipment's being part of both Building & Grounds and Administration. The issue of deferred maintenance was again discussed. Ernie said that, by early 2010, the team needs to develop a list of capital items that need to be dealt with in the next three years, prioritize that list, and estimate costs. The vestry then needs to give serious thought to beginning a capital campaign in 2010; the issue will be discussed at the next executive committee meeting. Deb asked that the team come to the next vestry meeting with a dollar value to be added to the 2010 budget for maintenance.

Communication & Marketing: None

Faith Formation: John reported that the team did not meet; they will meet during the first week of November. Sunday school is fully staffed with teachers. Adult Education has met twice, and themes have been developed for small groups.

Finance & Legal: Aaron reported that the team met last month. In addition to developing the draft 2010 budget, the team decided – after discussions with Deb and the diocesan counsel – to table the parking lot sign issue.

Inreach: None

Outreach: None

Stewardship: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: Jim reported that the team met September 16 to discuss Christmas services. The children's choir will sing on December 6, and the Advent choir will sing the second, third, and fourth Sundays of Advent. On December 20 the youth band will also be playing. An Advent retreat is scheduled for December 6. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 pm (with no coffee hour afterwards) and 8:30 pm (with carols beforehand and a coffee hour afterwards); the Christmas Day service will be held at 10 am, with a coffee hour afterwards.

Coffee hour: Ann Marie said that Jamie Mair has reconfigured the eight coffee hour teams; some have new leaders. Teams will – as before – have the freedom to handle coffee hour as they'd like. Deb Makousky will be the new coffee hour coordinator. It was noted that coffee hour is an important part of Sunday morning.

Junior Warden's report: George said that he was asked by a parishioner to convey to the vestry vehement opposition to a parking lot sign.

Senior Warden's report: Deb reported that the executive committee, which deals with personnel issues, is trying to add more structure to its procedures and documentation.

Rector's report: Ernie will be away on November 15; Henry Hoover will officiate. A new member orientation class will be held either November 8 or 22; new members will be welcomed two weeks later.

Final review: Catherine reviewed our action items:

- Catherine will amend the minutes of the September vestry meeting and resend them to the vestry members.
- Ernie will send a letter inviting parishioners to an all-parish meeting on November 1, and he will talk to Dana about Sunday school that day.
- The vestry is encouraged to attend an outside cleanup this Saturday morning.

- We are looking for someone to shovel the walk this winter; the Building & Grounds team will talk to Dana for recommendations of youth in the parish and to Tom Hunter for recommendations of Boy Scouts from our troop.
- The Building & Grounds team should make a recommendation regarding a new cleaning service to the vestry at the November meeting.
- Aaron will look at the financial implications of changing cleaning services.
- Denny will talk to Mary Margaret about the office equipment's being part of both Building & Grounds and Administration.
- By early 2010, the Building & Grounds team will develop a list of capital items that need to be dealt with in the next three years, prioritize that list, and estimate costs.
- The vestry will give serious thought to beginning a capital campaign in 2010; the issue will be discussed at the next executive committee meeting.
- The Building & Grounds team will come to the next vestry meeting with a dollar value to be added to the 2010 budget for maintenance.

Adjournment: Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 9:02 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk