

**Report from the Vestry
Regular Meeting – May 8, 2007**

Following Eucharist and a lite supper, Fr. Howard called the meeting to order, and opened with the Prayer of Bishop Clay Matthews which had been the focusing prayer used at the recent Vestry Retreat.

We had 5 Vestry members absent from us. Those in attendance were: Fr. Howard Hess, Lida Barrett, Rick Deaderick, Tom Hale, Les Hargrove, Julie Hembree, Anne Kaminsky, Robin Kell, Tom Ladd, Randy Nichols, Jim Phillips, Vaiden Taylor, and Courtney Zirkle.

Minutes from both the April 10th meeting, and the April 27-29 retreat were approved.

Priest in Charge's Report: As follow-up to decisions made during the retreat, Fr. Howard related that Amy is moving forward with the Stephen Ministry. A material packet has arrived and a team of 5-6 people is being recruited to attend training beginning July 29 in Pittsburgh. Fr. Howard has also talked with Cannon Askew, who has agreed to help in the search for an additional priest for the church. Caroline Vogel will be with us 20 hours a week during May and June, increasing to 30 hours per week in July and August. She will become full time in September. Her duties will include working with families with young children, children's ministries, pastoral care, and some involvement with youth. Liturgical duties will follow later.

Senior Warden's Report: Tom Ladd received positive reports from several individuals following the summary of the Vestry Retreat which was presented during church on April 29. He is working with Fr. Howard in preparing the papers for Caroline Vogel's multiple contract roles.

Treasurer's Report: Operating revenues are up according to Vaiden Taylor. From these revenues the church has paid down the line-of-credit by another \$25,000 and completed payment for the sound system. Pledge revenue has been going up also. A short term loan from the building fund to the general fund was paid off at the beginning of May. Approval of the financial report is unanimous.

Finance Commission Report: For a number of years, our church has used SunTrust as its primary bank, but more recently has also maintained a line of credit with BankEast. Management and policy changes at SunTrust led the Finance Committee to explore alternatives. Rick Deaderick reported that Mountain National Bank presented a proposal offering the lowest fixed interest rate, a favorable line of credit, improved services, and appropriate segregation of our building and other debts. The Finance Committee recommended that the church transfer all of its accounts to Mountain National Bank, and that recommendation was unamiously approved by the Vestry.

Building and Grounds Commission: Jim Phillips reported that there is ongoing discussion of dead tree limbs. Posey's Congelton's group is reviewing landscaping needs.

Communications Commission: Fr. Howard announced that on Sunday, May 13th, there will be a Blessing of the Sound System and acknowledgment of the primary donor and those who have been involved in setting up/adjusting the system.

Education Commission: Courtney Zirkle reported that a presentation of the curriculum for children next year will be given on August 12 in the parish hall Sunday School class. The commission will confer with Caroline on her ideas about whether classes for children should be offered whenever adult education is held, particularly between now and the beginning of intergenerational classes.

In-Reach Commission: The Parish Hall will be the site for a reception/gathering to visit with one another after church said Fr. Howard. Fr. Howard also expressed appreciation for the help he is receiving in acknowledging and welcoming returnees and visitors. He encourages everyone to keep the momentum going.

Outreach Commission: Les Hargrove says Nancy Butler has spoken with the Episcopal School and that there are several opportunities available for Ascension to complete projects with them and also with Habitat for Humanity. An attorney will be needed to assist with transfer of the nearby property which heirs wish to give to the Lyons View Community Trust.

Pastoral Care Commission: Anne Kaminsky relates that Helping Hands provided a meal to help the family after a recent death.

Youth Commission: Approximately 25 young people are going on a mission trip to South Carolina during the last week in June.

Worship and Music Commission: Robin Kell provided lists of participants in church ministries where licensure is appropriate. The license process for these lay ministers is that they will be nominated by the Priest-In-Charge, recommended by the Vestry, and the names then sent to the diocese for licensure. Also nominated as licensed lay Eucharistic visitors are Bob and Margie Parrot and Bob and Laura Barnes. A motion to approve these lists was unanimously passed by the Vestry. Names will be forwarded to the diocese.

Old Business-Building Fund: Members of the Vestry had reviewed two drafts of letters to be sent to the parish regarding the fund remaining from the "Sowing for His Harvest" campaign. The drafts specified a number of options that might be offered to parishioners who contributed to the fund. Three options were approved by the Vestry, with one being a recommended option. The Wardens, with the help of Robin Kell and Tom Hale, are refining the entire communication regarding this matter, and will submit the refined documents to the Vestry for approval via email. This matter should be fully communicated to parishioners as soon as all the details can be finalized.

The Vestry meeting adjourned with a prayer.

This report was extracted in large part from the unapproved minutes from the meeting.

The next regular meeting is June 12.

For the Vestry,
Julie Hembree, Clerk and Tom Ladd, Sr. Warden