

Report from the Vestry October 14, 2008

Your Vestry met on October 14, 2008. As the original draft of the minutes of the meeting have not yet been completed, this report will be somewhat less detailed than usual. With Father Howard out of town on vacation, the Senior Warden presided over the meeting.

The Finance Committee reported that revenue for August was extremely high due to the fact that there were five Sundays with August 31 falling on the final Sunday. Collections for August 31 were included in the August Financial Report. September's revenue was less than anticipated; however, when one considers both August and September together, the parish's financial performance was close to the budget. The Finance Committee recommended that the Vestry authorize it in managing the cash needs of the parish to borrow from time to time from the building fund in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. A condition upon the exercise of the authority by the Committee was that any such borrowings be repaid as soon as possible. As has been reported earlier, at the end of May, the parish's cash situation was such that it needed to borrow approximately \$40,000.00 from the building fund. This borrowing was repaid very quickly due to the exceptional collections that occurred in June and July. With these understandings, the Vestry approved the request from the Finance Committee. It was also reported that to ensure that the parish ended the year in the black, a number of budgeted items were identified as expenses that could be deferred if collections through the end of the year dropped off. The Finance Committee Chairman reported that the Committee is watching the budget carefully due to current economic conditions.

The Nominating Committee gave its report noting that it had compiled a list of nine parishioners who had been suggested as the slate of Vestry nominees. The Vestry members were requested to submit additional names for consideration by the Nominating Committee and as a result three additional names were submitted. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Randy Nichols, will contact each of the potential nominees and determine their willingness to be nominated. The Parish is encouraged to contact Nichols if anyone would like to suggest a parishioner for consideration. The final slate of nominees should be available for publication sometime in early to mid-November. The Vestry and staff have requested that a group of parishioners study the need for the adoption of an emergency response plan and additional steps that the parish should undertake in order to better respond to unexpected events. The Emergency Response Committee met for the second time on October 13, 2008, to discuss how to proceed. The first steps are to contact the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the City of Knoxville Police Department to determine the services available for training on security issues and other assistance available to churches. Contacts have been initiated with both agencies. In addition, the Committee members are individually studying the Emergency Response Plan Manual adopted by the Diocese of East Tennessee. The Committee plans to meet again in November.

The next order of business was the **election of delegates and alternates** to represent the parish at the Diocesan Convention in February 2009. The Vestry approved the following as delegates: Julie Hembree, Tom Ladd, Lida Barrett, Jim Phillips, and Joe Vrba. The following were approved as alternates: John Robertson, Wylene Vrba, Jane Phillips and Bob Wadley. These individuals were all included due to their past attendance and interest in the Diocesan Convention. It was felt helpful to have continuity within the ranks of delegates. The Senior Warden now will contact these individuals to determine their willingness to attend.

The next order of business was to approve the **establishment of discretionary accounts for Father Rob Travis and Deacon Brett Backus**. Father Travis explained that having such discretionary accounts was important in the ability of the clergy to respond to different kinds of need situations, and that such accounts were consistent with diocesan standards on such matters. The commissions reporting this month to the Vestry were the Great Commissions Commission and the Youth Commission. Each commission submitted a detailed statement and rather than attempt to recreate a summary of these reports, we have requested that staff place copies of these reports in the communication area for any parishioner interested in these two areas.

The last items discussed were planning for the **Pig Roast** scheduled for November 9, immediately following the morning worship service and the Vestry/Staff Christmas gathering which is being planned for December 21, 2008.

Tom Hale
Senior Warden