

VESTRY MINUTES  
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

May 8, 2008

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Fletcher Montgomery, Rector  
Mary Moore Roberson, Rector's Associate

Bonnie Montgomery, Administration, Senior Warden  
Lee Rambo, Stewardship, Junior Warden  
Beth Blakeslee, Worship  
Hoyt Burnett, Properties  
Les Cotter, Finance  
Nancy Duvall, Newcomers  
Katie Gibson, Christian Formation – Children  
Steve McMillan, Christian Formation – Youth  
Anne Miller, Long Range Plan  
Ann Ruderman, Parish Events  
Eileen Schell, Pastoral Care  
Faxie Watt, Communications  
Tuck Williams, Servant Ministry  
Russ McCoy, Treasurer

Absent:

John Boylston, Church Renovation  
Michael Burkett, Christian Formation – Adults

The Rector opened the meeting with a reading from the Gospel of John and a prayer.

**Treasurer's Report:** Russ McCoy began his report by reminding the vestry that when it passed a deficit budget for 2008, the expectation was that the budget gap would be closed over the year with increased giving. He then stated that this increase is not materializing, and that he feels the situation needs to be addressed. Increasing revenue or decreasing spending are the two primary options. The deficit is roughly equal to the amount of the Heyward Hall debt service (\$70,000). Mr. McCoy raised the possibility of a debt retirement campaign, noting that if each pledging unit gave an additional \$22 per month, the debt service would be covered. Another option is spending cuts, either across the board or targeted. The Finance Committee recommends that this situation be addressed now and that ideas should be discussed. The Rector suggested that a special session of the vestry be scheduled for this purpose, and also recommended that we divide into two small groups with one discussing possible budget cuts and the other discussing a debt retirement campaign. The special session has been scheduled for Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30.

**Clergy Report:** The Rector provided an update on the situation with St. Christopher's in Spartanburg. The Bishop will be there on Pentecost and is inviting all worshipers in the Diocese to visit there on that day. The Rector also reported that he has been busy at Heathwood Hall in preparing for Baccalaureate and as they search for a new Headmaster. Pastorally, he reported that Press Jones is seriously ill, that Robert Hemphill is in a rehabilitation facility in Charlotte following complications from his stroke, and that George Pierce is at home. The Perez family had a baby girl. Ms. Schell encouraged members to call or visit Colleen Robinson.

**Wardens' Report:** The Senior Warden followed up after last month's discussion about a short spiritual retreat for the Rector. The Rector is planning to take the last two weeks in June for this purpose, preceding

his vacation during the month of July. The Rector's Associate will be here for most of the time, and Bishop Duvall will cover in her absence. The Rev. Bill Wight, a retired Army Chaplain who lives in Blythewood, will also be assisting. His duties will include: being on call during the week (Sunday through Thursday) if there are pastoral emergencies; hospital visits; preaching and/or assisting with Sunday services; and working in the office two days per week (roughly four hours each day). The cost associated with his service is \$3000 for a seven-week period (June 15 through the end of July). The consensus of the vestry was that the Rector and Treasurer should explore covering these expenses with part of the Rector's discretionary fund.

**Ministry Reports:** Written reports are attached to these minutes. Dr. Ruderman relayed that Anna Legare would prefer to be called "Kitchen Manager" rather than "Kitchen Hostess". Dr. Ruderman also suggested that all ministry team chairs should meet. The Rector agreed to call a meeting of chairs later this month.

**New Business:** Mrs. Rambo introduced two proposed alterations to the budget process: changing the timing of the first phase of the process and revising the budget request form. The proposed changes are designed to more closely align the priorities of the Long Range Plan with the budget, lay the groundwork for a possible stewardship campaign, and reduce Barbara's workload in the fall. Mr. Cotter moved to accept these changes, Ms. Schell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously by acclamation. Mrs. Blakeslee reminded members that there will be a music concert held on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Celia Tolar-Bane would like to be able to charge admission and use the proceeds to pay guest musicians on Sundays. The consensus of the vestry was that this should be permitted.

**Approval of minutes:** The Rector noted that Amy Montanez was misspelled. He also suggested that we strike the lines about Mike Williams' being deployed to Iraq as that situation has now changed. Mr. Cotter suggested that the following be added under Clergy Report: In the course of the clergy report, clergy referenced the Book of Common Prayer, p. 445: "The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Calendar items:

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Trinity Sunday/Youth Sunday/Parish Lunch

June 16<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> – VBS

June 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Youth Mission Trip

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Rambo