

December Vestry Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2008

Present: M. Rita, Jeff Perry, Lew Phillips, Jim Blanchette, Patty Counihan, Nancy Dymond, Sue Gormley, John Pickering, Elizabeth Patches, Andy Tripp .Absent: Gary Creaser, Heather Souweine, Evelyn Lutz, Ken Huhn, Cassie Palmer

M. Rita opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Minutes for November 18 were changed to make the third line in the Treasurer's report read as follows: M. Rita and Ken Huhn will step in as chair for an interim period. With that change the minutes were approved.

There was no report from the Senior Warden.

The Junior Warden, Jeff Perry, reported the following:

*The natural gas line has been completed across the church lawn to connect John Baptist High School with the natural gas line being installed by Bangor Gas on French Street. It is now possible to connect St. John's property with the new gas line, so Jeff has ordered the new burner for the property at 234 French Street. It should arrive in 6 to 9 weeks.

*Jeff led a discussion about whether during the winter we should curtail activities in the undercroft of the church, Bethlehem Chapel, and parish house. It was decided that unless there is a pressing financial necessity, we will continue using the buildings the way we currently are using them.

*Continuing attention is being given to finding ways to reduce the loss of heat in the church and the parish house, such as installing heavy curtains over the library windows and blowing in insulation in the ceiling of the church. Jeff will be pursuing some of these ways in the coming months.

Treasurer Ken Huhn was absent so Andy Tripp gave the treasurer's report.

*In February income was received from UBS that was inappropriately credited as current income. This money has not been appropriately listed as investment income.

*Overexpenditures of \$2000 in outreach spending will be compensated for by the solid revenue received in December.

*Terry Reiner, CPA, is working with our books to trace funds and set up accounting and reporting procedures that will be used for future bookkeeping. A motion was moved, seconded and passed to have the Vestry thank Terry for his excellent work.

*The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Jim Blanchette gave the Stewardship report.

*Vestry members and stewardship committee members are still making calls to

members of the church who have not yet made a financial pledge to the church.

*A total of \$254,182 has been pledged by 106 pledges. This is still short of the goal.

*The Vestry particularly wants to thank Mary Wright for all the work she has done to support the stewardship campaign.

Old Business

*Fundraising Group :Nancy Dymond reported that the Fundraising Group had met in November and that many ideas had been discussed such as 1) putting the church logo on items and selling these, 2) a car wash, 3) a booth at the folk festival, 4) a dance. No definite decision was made by the group about which ideas to implement. The group will meet after the holidays to make a determination about what projects to implement.

*Vestry Nominations: Sue Gormley reported that the committee has not yet met. They will place nomination forms at the back of the church and also a box to receive the completed forms.

*The Fourth Sunday offering will go to Haiti Matrix in the new year. December's offering will offset 2nd Saturday expenditures.

*Winter Hospitality: M. Rita reported that so far there has been very little response. The Lutheran Church's program has appealed mostly to its neighborhood. We should still gather names of people who can help in this type of hospitality.

* The Vestry affirmed a vote that they took at the November meeting , but could not implement because they didn't have a quorum, relative to paying pensions funds and medical costs for Travis and Andy. (Refer to the November New Business item -Pension Payments and Diocesan Payroll- for the exact wording of that vote.)

New Business

*Marcia Connor (a new parishioner) is willing help prepare material informing members of the congregation with Planned Giving. Interested vestry members should inform M. Rita about their willingness to meet with her. Jeff Perry expressed an interest in doing so.

*The task force on Christian Formation presented its written report. Vestry members are to study the report and be ready to discuss it at the next meeting.

*A motion was made to set M. Rita's clergy allowance for housing for 2009 at \$40,000. This motion was seconded and passed.

Rector's Report

*There are about 10 people in the advent study group.

*Lessons and Carols will be set for the first Sunday in December for the near future years before evaluating the success of that time.

*The quiet evening in mid-Advent had 10 people attend. Ann Wilbanks will be working with others to bring more quiet evenings to parish life.

*Christmas morning 10:00 service will be in the chapel.

*The Epiphany Pageant will be presented on January 4th.

*M. Rita will not be present for the February Vestry meeting.

*Vestry retreat will be March 13-14 at Living Waters Conference Center in Waterville.

*M. Rita asked the Vestry to affirm its willingness to set aside a \$1000 reserve to send several people for training in conducting capital campaigns for older churches. If there are people willing to attend, there will be a make-up session in January and then a regular session in March. The Vestry did affirm its willingness to do so.

Discussion ensued about letting parishioners sleep in the Parish house when facing homelessness. After much discussion it was agreed that no one should stay alone and that in cases of urgent need 2 volunteers would need to also spend the night and that the Bangor Room and back lounge could be used. The desire to extend hospitality was expressed by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 so members could attend a Christmas gathering at the home of Bruce and LeeAnneMallonee.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Pickering, Temporary Secretary