

June Vestry Meeting  
June 17, 2008

Attendance: J. Blanchette, J. Perry, E. Patches, G. Creaser, M. Rita, P. Counihan, L. Phillips, E. Lutz, K. Huhn, H. Souweine, C. Palmer, N. Dymond, S. Gormley, A. Tripp.

Opening Prayer: M. Rita opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes with an appendix to be added of names of delegates for the Diocesan Convention.

Rector's Report

Summer Intern – M. Rita said that the intern has just started and that is proceeding nicely.

Newcomers Evening – This is still scheduled for the fall. S. Gormley joined the meeting already in progress.

Education – The adult education is proceeding on schedule with 6 students. Rita is meeting with St. James and St. Patrick's to start a youth group. The group is looking to meet once a month on Sundays. In addition, the Diocese has asked St. John's to host a middle school retreat in January. St. John's has done this in the past, but had a problem with vandalism. St. John's (and possibly St. James) responsibility would be to provide food for the attendees. The Vestry said that they would support hosting this event. H. Soweine asked if she could speak to the parents of the middle schoolers to help out with food for the event. M. Rita advised that St. John's should not agree to sponsor the event unless they would be gracious with food. She also suggested that a line item be put into the budget to help support this event. Youth Sunday was a wonderful success, with the recognition of graduating seniors, as well as a dinner for Sunday school teachers. E patches asked if children were missing Sunday school to sing in church. M. Rita said that families were asked to make a choice between Sunday school and choir, and most have chosen Sunday school.

Incarnational Witness – a planning meeting was held for choir camp. A decision was made to put more emphasis on advertising and volunteer help. Fred Jones has approached M. Rita regarding a monthly recital series with John Bapst. M. Rita will be meeting with the headmaster. In addition, the Haiti group is discussing hosting an art show in the future. E. Patches asked about the possibility of turning the show into an art auction .

Sr. Warden's Report: G. Creaser wanted to thank John Foster for taking over Second Saturday while he was away.

J. Warden's Report: J. Perry asked about the color of the new doors for the chapel. He recommended that the doors remain red, a motion was made and approved to keep the doors red. J. Perry also is looking into converting the parish to natural gas. Last year the cost for oil was approximately \$25,000. A projected cost for this year is \$43,900. He also recommended reducing the consumption of oil by having the attic insulated and conserving oil. L. Phillips asked if there was an option to use a combination gas and oil system. J. Blanchette mentioned using Efficiency of Maine to perform an energy audit. E. Patches cautioned about redoing the wiring in the attic before it is insulated. M. Rita asked about locking in at a particular price for

oil. J. Perry said that this should wait until more information is available about converting to gas.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Report/Capital Campaign Report: K. Huhn presented the Treasurer's report. Through May actual income against budgeted is ahead. Year to date we are approximately \$8,000 ahead of where we projected we would be. M. Rita asked about the outreach fund line item, A. Tripp replied that this was fourth Sunday plate collections. L. Phillips asked if the reporting format for finances would change for next year, K. Huhn replied that this would change. A motion was made to pay \$2,500 for the tuition for four students to attend the Montreal boys choir course. Under discussion L. Phillips said that one of the students cannot go, therefore the motion was changed to approve tuition for the three remaining students. The Vestry expressed its sincere thanks to Don Lewis and A. Tripp for the time and effort that went into creating the capital campaign report. A motion was made to table discussion of the report until August so that an appendix in the form of a spreadsheet can be made to further clarify the report. L. Phillips added that in order for the information to be presented to the parish, it would need to be simplified. M. Rita also said that the parish needs to know that there is a significant amount of money that needs to be covered from endowment or other funds. The motion was approved to table discussion of the capital campaign report until August.

#### Old Business

Columbarium/Memorial Garden – M. Rita asked Vestry to comment on the memorial garden proposal from last month. L. Phillips mentioned the issue of future land use restrictions. The Vestry was supportive of this as a service to the Parish.

Organizational chart and development of protocols for standing committees – M. Rita presented an organizational chart for discussion. It included a hierarchy with standing committees that would report to Vestry and groupings of ministries with common interests. The most important issue for Vestry is to determine what are the standing committees and who are on them. M. Rita also accepted the resignation of Patty Johnson on Finance Committee and approval of Joan Phillips as temporary head. J. Blanchette will also be stepping down as head of stewardship.

Fundraisers – M. Rita stressed the need for the Vestry to develop a fundraiser, or remove this line item from our budget. S. Gormley asked what the timeline would be, M. Rita said it would be a fall event. H. Souweine said that the Retro Rockers will play for an event if there is a firm date and scheduled plan of events. S. Gormley said that she would be willing to consider creating an event with help from others. N. Dymond said that she helped with a similar event where line dancing lessons were offered along with the event, which drew in members of the dance school. A consensus was expressed to have a parish event with food, drink, an auction, and music. The Vestry was asked to each come forward with three items for the silent auction. A motion was made to create an event with parish help and Sue Gormley heading the event.

#### New Business

Parochial Report Confirmation – A motion was made and approved to accept the Parochial Report.

Olan Mills – Olan Mills is coming on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. They offer a service of making a newcomers brochure, Vestry agreed to do this.

BDN Op Ed – There was an article in the Bangor Daily about a suit over a transgender boy using a girl's bathroom, and whether the girl's bathroom should be open to all. St. James has approached St. John's asking us to sign a joint letter supporting the transgender child. G. Creaser stated that the Vestry should not join the letter. S. Gormley also said that writing a letter would only add to the problem. M. Rita also asked about the larger issue of the Vestry taking sides whenever the Christian Civic League of Maine is involved. N. Dymond expressed concern that the letter does not offer support for both of the children involved in the issue. M. Rita will let St. James know that St. John's will not join the letter, but that we stand with them in not accepting the manipulation and using of children. In addition, we are not joining the letter because we are concerned about escalating the situation. Also, if the parents or children involved have needs, we would like to know what they are and if we can help in any way.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.