

**Vestry Minutes**  
Thursday, September 27, 2012  
[Amended October 25, 2012](#)

Present: The Reverend Patricia Rome Robertson, presiding; Maude March, Nancy McCormick, Linda Lewis, Phyllis Partridge, Stephen Mahoney, James Clunan, and Jacqueline Lowe (by phone).

Absent: Don Graves, Arthur Keller

**Opening Prayer and Discussion:** Patricia opened the meeting at 4:05 with a reading and prayer.

Continuing our consideration of the book *Leadership and Listening*, we had a discussion of the sixth and final chapter, 'Imagination'. Patricia directed us to imagine what our parish can become, and the interchange was interesting, particularly in light of our Cottage Meeting conversations in the parish, and the work of the Task Force. Patricia suggested that we need to assess our resources and the community's needs to best address the different ways we might lead and support from St Mary's and St Jude's.

Some thoughts expressed by those present this afternoon:

- Hosting youth from outside the parish (as an example, this weekend's confirmation class retreat from St Dunstan's in Ellsworth)
- Assisting the Mount Desert Nursing Association
- Elementary School Parent Forums
- Helping to launch the MDES Garden/Greenhouse Program
- Some hands-on involvement with the Nursery School
- A Listening Ministry with our community's elderly and/or shut-ins

It was suggested that we consider appropriate publicity for our various outreach endeavors so that we might also raise awareness in the broader community.

For our October 25 Vestry Meeting Patricia asked that we take time to talk about Donald Zimmer's book *Leadership and Listening* in its entirety.

**Approval of August 23 Minutes:** There were no additions or corrections. Nancy McCormick moved they be accepted as distributed; Phyllis Partidge seconded the motion. The motion was passed with one abstention, as Jim Clunan had not seen the minutes prior to the meeting.

**Business:** Patricia presented the nominating committee's proposal of Jacqueline Lowe to fill the unexpired term of Elizabeth Carey, terminating in May of 2014. Maudie seconded the committee's nomination, and the voting was unanimous and enthusiastic in its approval.

The finance reports were presented as emailed previously. Steve Mahoney, who is a member of the finance committee, reported that we are in good shape, and have not yet needed to request monies from the Leadership Fund. Jim asked why the salaries line seemed high for the summer months, and Patricia explained that the summer season does have some high costs, particularly the increased sexton hours needed to manage the three

properties, and the fact that payroll is bi-weekly and August happened to include three payrolls instead of two for this reason. Maudie moved that we approve the finance report and Steve seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Patricia reported on the proposed financing for the St Jude's parking area improvements, in Arthur's absence. Some \$40,000 has so far been raised in pledges from individuals, with an additional \$10,000 committed by the Centennial Fund Trustees. Jim Clunan moved that the vestry approve a sum up to \$90,000 be available for completion of the project. Any funds raised above the actual costs of the project might revert to the Foulke Fund. The buildings and grounds committee are overseeing the project and have decided to award the contract to BMC Construction of Northeast Harbor for the parking lot portion of the project. Jackie Lowe seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. The landscaping part of the project will be worked on in the spring. A detailed plan is being worked on by Sam Coplon.

Next followed a general discussion of the history and nature of the Leadership Fund, established in 2002 by Charlie Tyson and a group of parishioners. Patricia has unearthed documents that give a concurrent perspective of the Fund's purpose and general goals. It dovetails remarkably with the goals for change and relevance that we are considering as a parish today. Might the vestry reopen the planning for a continuing endowment drive in the future? Patricia asked that we put these newly found documents in our vestry binders for future reference.

Jim Clunan reported on the Stroud Fund meeting. The main item of business was the proposal made by Scott McFarland requesting a grant totaling \$20,00 to hire a part-time coordinator to manage the MDES Gardens and Greenhouse Project, which would ensure the continuity and professional oversight of this exciting program. The Stroud Fund proposed that they spread the \$20,000 over three quarters of the coming year with \$10,000 being granted this quarter and \$5,000 in the following two quarters. It was suggested that Maudie invite Scott McFarland, the principal of the Elementary School, to make a presentation to the parish in the future.

\$1,500 was also allocated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Steve Mahoney moved the grants be approved by the vestry, and Jim Clunan seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next item of business concerned the ongoing process of consolidating the checking accounts of the parish's several guilds and organizations. The last of these is the checking account of the altar guild, and when this has been closed the funds will be deposited to the Restricted Funds Account of St Mary's and St Jude's. Maudie made the motion that Patricia Rome Robertson, Rector or Lauri Fernald, Treasurer accomplish the closing of the altar guild account and the moving of the funds to the restricted account Linda Lewis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The vestry voted to approve moving funds from the Memorial Fund into the endowment Fund, leaving \$20,000 in the Memorial fund, they also approved \$250 for the Harpsichord cover, \$,1500 to purchase Pascal candle, stand and follower for SMBTS and an unknown amount to repair the candle sticks on the high altar at SMBTS. Motion made by Maude March to accept and seconded by Phyllis Partridge. The motion passed unanimously.

**Program Reports:** Maudie reported on the most recent Cottage Meeting, held on September 19<sup>th</sup> at Linda Lewis' house. Sixteen people participated, and a number of ideas were put forward. Community child care in our parish hall, in-home child care/babysitting to help young couples or single parents have much-needed time to themselves occasionally, organized homework help and/or tutoring, mentoring of high school students were all ideas that were discussed. It was suggested that we pursue the idea of a 'holiday child care' Saturday sometime in December, with families pre-registering for the session so that we could be prepared with the appropriate number of volunteers and equipment needed. Kathy Suminsby and Dorothy Clunan were two who volunteered to pursue this. The vestry needs to investigate what sort of documentation if any would be required by the parish. Maudie agreed to speak with some of the parents of school age children to find out their interest and needs for such a service. Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> has been proposed as a date to consider for our initial experiment, which means things need to be pulled together in the next weeks in order to be adequately prepared to pull it off successfully.

Patricia announced that the **stewardship letters** have been prepared and may be picked up from Kerry. Several people have volunteered to write personal notes on these letters. November 18 is the date for the ingathering of pledges, to be acknowledged and blessed during the Sunday service.

Patricia read a note from the Prayer Shawl knitters, thanking the Vestry for monies allotted from the Stroud Fund for the purchase of yarns and materials.

The November vestry meeting will be on the 15<sup>th</sup>, as the next Thursday is Thanksgiving; as in the past several years, we will not schedule a vestry meeting in December. The January meeting will be on the 10<sup>th</sup>, when the budget needs to be approved prior to the Parish Annual Meeting Part 1 on January 27.

Patricia will be on vacation from October 1-23, and The Reverend Vesta Kowalski will be the celebrant and preacher on those Sundays.

**Next Meeting:** October 25 at 3:45 pm.

After a prayer, Patricia adjourned the meeting at 6:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosalind Lewis, clerk pro tem