

Parish of St. Mary and St. Jude
Vestry Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2012

Present: Rev. Patricia Robertson, presiding; Nancy McCormick, Janet Stratton and Peter Vaux

Present on Skype: Elizabeth Carey, Axie Diana, Donald Graves and Arthur Keller

Absent: Maude March

Reverend Robertson opened the meeting at 4:00pm with the lighting of a candle, a moment of silence and a prayer. The assigned reading from the book, *Leadership and Listening*, was discussed with a focus on how we could apply the text to our leadership. The assignment for next month is Chapter 3.

I. Minutes

a. A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting, with the amendment of the deletion of the sentence in parentheses and in red at section VIII/f, was made by Donald Graves and seconded by Arthur Keller. The motion was unanimously approved by all the vestry members present.

II. Nominating Committee Report

- a. The following names were put into nomination and approved by the vestry for service as vestry members:
 1. James Clunan
 2. Linda Lewis
 3. Stephen Mahoney
- b. The following name was submitted for re-nomination as chair of the Memorial Committee and approved by the vestry:
 1. Jacqueline Lowe
- c. Voting for the nominees will take place at the Annual Meeting Part II on May 27th, 2012
- d. Further discussion ensued regarding the filling of Carroll Fernald's unexpired term. It is hoped that a year round parishioner will be selected to finish that term.

III. Organist Provisions

- a. Andrew Mead will serve as organist until the end of July.
- b. A full time organist is needed for August
- c. Patricia has been in contact with Rita Steadman, Rector of St. John's in Bangor, who is also looking for an organist and may have some names to share. A long term possibility is to share an organist through us providing employment for the summer.
- d. We need to consider increasing the remuneration for organist services.

IV. Stroud Fund: the following requests were presented:

- a. Single mother, \$865 for rent
- b. Family that has gotten behind in their bills due to caring for a dying parent, \$1000 of \$1,137.06 requested.
 - i. US Cellular bill: \$317.81 – two months and necessary for work
 - ii. Patriot Insurance: \$486.00
 - iii. Coastal Energy: \$217.62
 - iv. Fairpoint: \$71.00
 - v. Child's Lunch bill: \$44.63
- c. **A motion to approve the requests was made by Peter Vaux and seconded by Janet Stratton. The motion was approved by all the vestry members present.**
- d. The Stroud Fund has \$32K per year to distribute and the vestry wondered if there were other ways to use the excess. Some suggestions were: help someone start a business, extend interest free loans.

V. Financial Report

- a. The consolidation of some of our many accounts is in process and will be accomplished gradually.
- b. As noted in the Finance minutes, the consolidated bank accounts will be organized as Non-restricted, Restricted and Designated.
- c. **A motion to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting was made by Janet Stratton and seconded by Nancy McCormick. The motion was approved by all vestry members present.**

VI. ECW Questions posed at recent meeting:

- a. Could we revisit the idea of not having the organ at the back of the church in the winter chapel? Some parishioners who have hearing aids find the loudness oppressive
- b. The area is congested because of the removal of pews to the side and, furthermore, it is hard to sit in those pews moved along the wall and kneeling is impossible.
- c. While we give to both the SWH food pantry and the Bar Harbor food pantry, it should be made clear that SWH receives monetary donations only and BH accepts food items as well as money. It was suggested that in addition to the basket at the back of the church for food, a canister be placed for monetary donations to SWH.

- d. Peter will turn the organ down for the meantime and play more softly.

VII. Plan for St. Jude's Building and Grounds

- a. Two years ago, erosion on the bank and concerns about the safety of the stairs leading to the church were noted as becoming a concern.
- b. Subsequently, the town's plan for building a sidewalk in front of the church has forced our hand to proceed with a plan for amelioration of these concerns. Although the exact dates of the start or finish of the sidewalk work are unknown, perhaps work will start around Memorial Day, it was deemed prudent for the church to start sooner than later.
 - i. As the new sidewalk will prevent parking along the road, a new parking plan has been created (drawings attached) that will upgrade the existing parking area and add parking in a newly graded, grassy area behind the church.
 - ii. It was recommended that at least 2 and, better, three bids be sought for the parking area work and that the Buildings and Grounds Committee be delegated to consider the bids and present their choice to the vestry for approval.
- c. The project is projected to cost more than originally estimated and it is hoped that monies will be provided by the Foulke Fund as well as St. Jude's parishioners and perhaps the Centennial Fund could be approached for funds e.g. create a challenge for parishioners to match a Centennial Fund grant.
- d. **A motion was made to grant the Buildings and Grounds Committee authority to seek bids for the project and the vestry authorized the expenditure of up to \$23, 500. to get the project underway. The motion was made by Arthur Keller, seconded by Janet Stratton and approved by all the vestry members present.**
- e. It was suggested that Tony Smith and/or Sam Coplon, the designer of the plan, to ascertain what town permits would be necessary to start the work.
- f. Abutting neighbors will be informed of the work to take place
- g. Rev. Robertson will approach the Centennial Fund committee to seek funds for the project.

VIII. Mutual Study of Ministry

- a. The ECW has been meeting monthly and the gatherings have been good opportunities for conversation.
- b. There is interest in increased social events that might bring the community together. Some suggestions are:
 - i. Progressive dinner
 - ii. Pot luck dinner with vestry and ECW
 - iii. Parish BBQ- perhaps after the St. Jude's service at the end of June.

IX. Other business

- a. The upcoming events on the calendar were reviewed.
- b. Maundy Thursday will be celebrated on April 5th and will include a soup supper
- c. The 9 am worship time this winter has been agreeable to the parishioners
- d. Questions about the summer music program were posed as Peter Vaux will not be organizing any concerts.
 - i. The taped music will continue if we can find volunteers for set up and closing.
 - ii. The sing-a-long, sponsored by the Summer Chorale, will be at St. Saviour's
- e. The vestry retreat is scheduled for June 23rd.
- f. The meeting concluded with a reading of the seven themes presented on page 31 in the day's assigned reading.

X. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 26 at 3:45. We will discuss Chapter 3 of *Leadership and Listening*

XI. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after silence and a prayer at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alix C. Diana, clerk