

St. David's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

April 26, 2011 at 6:15pm

Regular Monthly Meeting

A regular monthly meeting of the Vestry was called to order by the Rector on April 26, 2011 at 6:21pm.

Quorum present. Those present were: John Barclay, Senior Warden; Pam O'Connor, Junior Warden; Frank Baldwin, Treasurer; vestry members Barbara Grove, Clay Carsner, Jennifer Gerber, Tim Parker, Carol Gebhard, Laurie Eiserloh, Gail Findlay, Carolyn Connerat, Ben Philpott, Dan McLendon and Gene Shepherd.

Not present: Paul Skeith and Anthony Chapple.

The clergy were not present.

John Barclay opened with a prayer for the Vestry.

Carolyn Connerat led a discussion on the Transforming Stewardship book.

- At St. David's, we are doing a number of things right, according to the author, such as the Newcomer's group, better signage, etc.
- Some areas need improvement such as the website.
- The author suggests that we nurture future leaders. Current examples of this are the Men's group and Rebecca Hall's small groups.
- The author suggests "budgeting with vision." Carolyn is interested in the annual giving and pledging pattern and suggest that we do more of this.
- The book also suggests the ACTS commission: Apostles, Contributors, Teens and Children and Seekers.
- Jennifer wants St. David's to teach "give, save, spend" for the kids. This will help us develop future stewardship and leaders.
- Importance of multifaceted program.
- Funding pyramid, the importance of all pieces.

- Also, the author discusses the outreach pyramid – meeting the needs of various communities. Pam pointed out that reaching out to newcomers is very important.

At 6:39pm, Timothy Parker moved that the minutes of the March 29, 2011 meeting be approved. The motion passed.

At 6:40pm, Carole Gebhard reported from the finance committee.

- Financially, things look good and started to turn in November 2010.
- Here are other topics from the Committee.
 - Historic church repairs: cost and where the money would come from.
 - We are awaiting a second opinion.
 - We also have a Stewardship job description.

Treasurer's Report, Frank Baldwin

- We are doing a better job of collecting.
- We are running \$30, 000 to \$40,000 ahead of where we were last year.
 - This is true even though we have \$70,000 less in pre-paid pledges.
- We are 25 percent into the budget year.
- We are 3 percent behind in total revenue.
- Lucas foundation distribution will arrive in May and will be approximately \$70,000.
- Awaiting a distribution from the Maxey estate. This comes to us through the diocese, approximately quarterly.
- Expect a distribution from the Anderson estate.
- Clay is concerned about raising \$10,000 for the children's choir. Clay wants to designate a point person involved with the children's choir for this year's fundraising effort.

Pam, O'Connor reported that Next to New raised \$13,000 last month and so we can expect a distribution of \$5,000.

At 6:52pm, Carolyn Connerat reported from the Stewardship Committee.

- Raised \$60,000 since the beginning of April.
- David will start phone calls to top givers when he returns.
- Carolyn suggests that David start with the top 20 pledgers.
- Jennifer is concerned about persons who consume church services, but who do not pledge. Jennifer wants to think of a plan to address these individuals and families.
- John Barclay discussed the importance of personal outreach to top pledgers.

- 560 pledging households. Last year our total number of pledging households at the end of the year was 59 percent. We are currently at 53 percent total.
- 219 houses have increased their pledges. 116 new pledgers.
- Carolyn and others met with the foundation board.
 - Got approval for the Foundation to match the \$30,000 for the stewardship position.
- Stewardship job posting is finalized. Sending job posting to Catherine tomorrow. It will be posted to various sources. Carolyn will send the job posting to the vestry. Vestry members may provide it to interested, qualified persons. First round of interviews on May 15.

Jennifer Gerber reported from the Outreach Committee. Talked to Rebecca Hall. A number of small groups coming up: St. David's history, poetry of TS Eliot, Full Inclusion, financial workshop and systematic theology.

Parish Life Committee. Jennifer, reading from an email from Mary Elliot:

- the Committee has hosted 7 events. These have gone well, but have some hit some minor bumps in the road.
- Easter went very well.
- Carolyn Connerat would like to reach out to newcomers as potential members of the committee.
- Parish picnic made \$28.
- Discussion about serving alcohol at the church. For events at the church, the policy is to always have a certified bartender. If alcohol is sold at the church, then certified bartender must sell it. If alcohol provided then at the church, then certified bartender must be present. There was a side discussion about alcohol being served. Laurie suggested that we continue to provide alcohol free events.

Gene Shepherd reported from the Mission and Outreach Committee.

- Committee had its 4th meeting on Monday.
- Added some members: Beth Platter and Anne Clark
- Issuing an electronic survey to the Parish.
- Need a new name for the committee.
- Reaching out to 17 churches (some non Episcopal) that are well-known for outreach and asking these churches about how much of their budget is going to outreach.
- Plan is to come back this summer with a report to the vestry.
- The committee wants to build upon the outreach we've already had.
- Gene met with Don DeGrass of Trinity. Gene and Don happened to be sitting next to a meet a Presbyterian who wanted to work on outreach too.
- Gene recommends a book called the Externally Focused Church.

Pam O'Connor reported from the Executive Committee.

- Resolution thanking the staff for its work with SXSU.
- Gene suggested, in addition to resolution, small gifts for staff who worked SXSU. Barbara Grove says not necessary.
 - Resolution unanimously passes. Does not need a second because came from committee.
- Resolution thanking Heather and Henry Chalmers for their work on the landscaping.
 - Resolution unanimously passes.
 - Paul Skeith will put both resolutions into form.
- Letter to St. Margaret's in Little Rock, Ark. commending Mary Vano. Sunday is her last day.
 - Paul Skeith needs to write this letter.

John Barclay reported from the Property Committee.

- The Sparks report pertaining to work on the west wall. Nancy Burns' property committee wants a second opinion on the Sparks' recommendation and then to bring that to the vestry. The hope was to start on the work this summer, but will not happen. Need to wait for second opinion. Need to bid it out. John reprised the history of the problem. John met with John Voltz and others. At this meeting with Voltz, John Barclay remarked that the potential cost of the project doubled. Here are a few "add-ons" to the project:
 - shore-up the bell tower,
 - test for asbestos,
 - test the paint.
- Clay asks, was there a concern about collapse of the roof. John Barclay responded, no danger unless unaddressed over the years.
- Pam says, if we have the work and stop the movement then the contractor will encase the walls.
- We are putting off major work for a couple of years.
- John Barclay explained that the concern about the paint has to do with color and not lead.

John Barclay gave the Rector's Report.

- David is with a seminary group in Mississippi.
- Men's group had a good meeting.
- \$500 from David Boyd's discretionary account will go to the Bp Rayford High retirement purse.
- Bishop Doyle will be here on May 22. We do not have details about whether he would like to meet with the vestry or have a social gathering with us.
- There is a purse for Mary Vano.
- Stewardship person, finalized and the position posted next week.

- Hiring a woman to fill vacancy left by Mary Vano's departure. In discussions with potential hire.

New Business. John Barclay. Nothing offered.

7:15. Motion to adjourn seconded by Pam O'Conner.

Submitted by Laurie Eiserloh, Acting Clerk of Meeting