

May 13, 2014
Vestry Minutes

Present: Fr. Mark Collins, John Hatheway, John Ewing, Jean Geater, Susan Walker, Wendy Wright, Inez Lambert, Yvonne O'Neal, Fabio Mejia, Theresa Paolucci, Judith Jones, Lydia Colon, Donna Bradbury and Janice Ewing
Absent: Jean Blazina

Fr. Mark Collins called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. The Agenda was reviewed and there were no new additions.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer John Ewing.

Building use and income from plate offerings are up over the projected budget. However, we will have to look carefully at spending because we have had extraordinary expenses in several areas, mainly repairs and utilities, and decreased income in other areas.

Music has spent almost 50% of its total budget, \$24,893 out of \$50,000, which includes the \$20,000 anticipated fundraising (which has not occurred yet). Our necessary capital repairs, decreases in income and increased repairs will possibly create a deficit larger than the amount we may take from the general fund. Caution is advised as we enter the second half of the year.

There was discussion of whether or not the allowable expenditure from the endowment fund should be used or more aggressive cost cutting is preferable. Previously we had several years of very high withdrawals from the endowment funds and in spite of our fiscally responsible efforts to curtail deficit spending, we have not yet 'replaced' all of the extra money we took out a few years ago. There was a lengthy discussion about spending on music in this context. The new music committee will meet soon to set priorities and establish goals in the upcoming search for a new interim organist.

Buildings and Grounds report, given by Bill Ambler and John Hatheway.

Via Media has made no proposal and we will have to aggressively seek proposals for the repairs as well as a new gas fired furnace or other alternative heating methods. We must replace the furnace to reduce our costs for repairs and oil.

Discussion of other repairs needed and the requisite three proposals before choosing a contractor are under way. Until we have approval of our request for deferral of our diocesan assessment the vestry decided to defer proceeding with the work.

John Hatheway made a motion that the Vestry authorize the expenditure of \$10,000-\$15,000 for an engineering survey to determine the specifications for the new furnace. After this, 3 bids can be obtained and immediate replacement can begin so we have new furnace by October. This was approved

Once the **vestry** determines which contracts should be accepted, then the Preservation Trust Distribution committee may decide to reimburse the parish for the costs of the major capital project, which will allow us to do more on our prioritized list of repairs.

The next clean up date has not been set.

John Hatheway will re-file a request, a certificate of occupancy for the GYM for its original purpose, recreational use, along with a permit to reconfigure the hallway and fire doors by the bathrooms below Draesel hall. The elevator cannot be in stair hall by statute. The 2nd gym egress is a top priority to help increase income. The basement areas must also be repaired.

Warden Jean Geater presented a proposal for vestry approval of the expenditure of up to \$25,000 to repair leaks in the roofs of the church, rectory, the chapel, and the St. Christopher's House. This is based on a bid Franny Eberhardt obtained from Construction Solutions for \$18,000 to do the work. After some discussion, it was agreed that, although Construction Solutions is recommended by the Diocese, we will adhere to the practice of getting at least two, preferably three bids, on every contract. John Hatheway volunteered to get another bid within the next 2-3 weeks. Inez Lambert made a motion that the executive committee be authorized to approve the expenditure up to \$25,000 for the repairs once we receive the additional bid(s). It passed with one NO vote. The PPT Distribution committee has already approved the expense.

Thrift Shop Task force report, given by Susan Walker.

The rooms in basement have been emptied of the former thrift shop materials. The last of the bags of clothing will be removed by June 1. The furniture and books in the gym still must be disposed of. Now we need to clean the area. It was suggested that in addition to the task force it might work to have that be a target of Buildings and grounds clean up days. Susan particularly wanted to acknowledge the help of her volunteers, Wendy Wright, Inez Lambert, Elizabeth Durning, Jackie Price, Donna Bradbury, Helen Palmer, and Pat Voehl . The Vestry thanked Susan for a tough job, extremely well done.

Warden Reports

Jean Geater asked if Jim Synk had sent thank you notes to the head of the tables from Mayfair for their work. She will check with Jim.

John Hatheway felt we should have the music appeal SOON so it does not come too close to the Stewardship campaign in the fall. We must raise the money or there will not be enough to have a music program in the fall.

Fr. Mark Collins said he would call the music committee together to *discuss the issues raised*. There will be a barbecue for our 'Clericus', clergy and Vestries, Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 7 pm here at the Church of the Holy Trinity. The entire Vestry is invited.

Danny's last day, June 15, we will have a coffee hour PLUS.

June 8th there will be a town meeting following the 10:30 a.m. service with the Search committee preparing our Parish profile.

Fr. Mark Collins closed with a prayer and we adjourned at 8:25 p.m. to have a birthday cake for Inez. Happy Birthday Inez.

Submitted by the Clerk of the Vestry,
Janice Ewing.