

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Monday, February 18, 2013  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ernie Ashcroft.

**Present:** Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Phil VanderHaar; Junior Warden Shannon Erickson; Treasurer Aaron Twait; elected vestry members Laura Eryou, Greg Guffey, Catherine Harrington, Jan Pereyra, Charlene Peterson, Jim Westcott, Sue Vold and Paul Fisher.

**Absent:** Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry member Dan Shoemaker.

**Prayer and study:** We read Luke 13:31-35 (in which some Pharisees tell Jesus to leave Jerusalem because Herod wants to kill him) using Gospel-based discipleship and three different translations of the text. After the first reading we asked ourselves, "What word or phrase struck me?" After the second reading we asked, "What is Jesus saying to me or to the church?" After the third reading we asked, "What is Jesus calling me or the church to do?" Ernie then led us in prayer.

**Approval of the agenda:** Jan moved that the agenda be approved, with the addition of an agenda item to discuss the Coffee Hour. Motion seconded and carried.

**Approval of vestry minutes:** With the absence of the Clerk, Catherine, Ernie stated that the January meeting minutes and the Annual Meeting minutes will be reviewed at the March Vestry meeting. Charlene moved that Shannon be appointed the Clerk for the February meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

**Finance report:** Aaron presented the treasurer's report for January 2013 and the balance sheet for January 2013. There were several items of note. Pledge income is substantially higher than usual. The numbers for Postage & Office Misc are switched in the report. Utility is running a little higher than usual. Staff & Housing has been adjusted for the yearly payroll increase for Ernie dictated by the Diocese. The Diocese has not published the official numbers, so Aaron has made his best estimate for the adjustment. The Hospitality item is for the celebration dinner. Aaron paid the fair share for January. The Office item is high due to a large paper purchase that should last 2 years, plus a special paper purchase for Palm Sunday and Baptism Cards. In the Balance Sheet there the basic checking looks high due to the Lily Grant. We were given almost \$50,000 total, of which 70% is for Ernie's part of the sabbatical, and 30% for the church during his absence. The amount in the Capital Campaign is being saved up for the next item which is the boiler. The estimate to achieve that amount is the next few months. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

**Review of the Annual Meeting:** Everyone agreed that Laura Eryou did a great job creating individual plates of treats for the tables. The meeting, in general, ran smoothly, and since the message of this annual meeting was to emphasize the fact there was no current crisis, most

people agree that it was a good meeting. One action item for the future would be to number the pages in the Annual Meeting Booklet. It was hard for some people to follow along.

**Review of Vestry Workshop:** It was reviewed as a meeting that ran well, and was productive for both established Vestry members, and new members. Ernie asked if the lunch was missed, but all felt the morning items, plus the cheese & crackers later, were enough for the meeting. In this same discussion we reviewed the item of George Ham's gift for ordination will not be able to be a secret as discussed at the workshop. Catherine Harrington offered to coordinate purchasing the gift. Options for funding were discussed. We could ask for donations for both the gift and towards a celebration party at the time of his ordination in June. Not everyone has to give to participate. The gift is from the congregation. We should remember to open the invite to Holy Apostles where George served his internship, and Catherine is going to reach out to their old youth group members from when they both attended Holy Apostles as youth members.

**Request from Christian Cupboard:** All donations during the month of March will be matched by the Council of Churches. Jan moved that the open plate be given to Christian Cupboard for one Sunday this month. Motion seconded and carried. Aaron estimated that we could get \$150-\$300 for loose plate offering.

**Lent & Easter:** This year Ernie will be doing a Lenten program on Sunday at Adult Forum, due to the Bible Study he and Mike Strande are doing on Wednesdays. The Lenten program theme on Sunday mornings will be Fear. The Lenten Retreat will happen on Sunday, February 24, with a 5PM Potluck supper and then the retreat. Ernie reminded the Vestry, that it would be worthwhile to attend more services during Holy Week, than just Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday to get the full meaning of the Holy Week.

**Review of Coffee Hour:** The new format for Coffee Hour is not working. People feel overwhelmed when they have to plan for both services, and sometimes even if they do only one service. All agree this is an important ministry. After discussion Ernie will find 8 couples, or leaders, to coordinate coffee hours every 8 weeks. The new leaders, in turn, will find 2 or 3 more couples between the 2 different services to help coordinate Coffee Hours. Ernie will recruit the 8 new leader(s) and report back at the next Vestry meeting.

### **Ministry team reports:**

Building & Grounds: Shannon will contact Pierre to let him know that Jim Westcott is the new Vestry liaison to that committee.

Communication & Marketing: Greg reported that there are new articles on our website and FB, and coming soon will be video interviews with Queen Obasi regarding her ACHI work supporting our 2013 Mission Project.

Faith Formation: Charlene reported that the Lenten retreat, (as noted above in the Lent & Easter section), would happen on 2/24 at 5 PM. She reported that they had great participation in the Silent Auction, due in part, to the good quality of donated items. She also noted that there were many comments not to use ready-made pancakes for the

Pancake Supper. There will be a Peer Ministry retreat at Ascension the weekend of 1/25 to 1/27/14.

Finance & Legal: Aaron reported that they have a meeting on 1/19/13.

Inreach (Pastoral): None.

Inreach (Small Groups): Sue Vold has been assigned to this team. Laura will email the names of the leaders of the current small groups to Phil & Shannon. Phil will contact them to give them an opportunity to have representation in this team.

Outreach: Catherine H. said they will meet in March, and the food drive will be organized.

Stewardship: None.

Strategic Planning: None.

Welcoming & Evangelism: Paul confirmed that they had 4 people attend the New Member Orientation. One will join, 2 are interested and 1 is unknown.

Worship & Music: None.

**Junior Warden's report:** None

**Senior Warden's report:** Phil reported that the August Vestry meeting will be the first one after Ernie returns from sabbatical, and suggested that we have a shortened Vestry meeting, and then a celebration for Ernie's return. Spouses would be invited. Shannon has offered her home as the location. There would be grilling and a potluck. After input from Vestry members, Friday, August 16, was chosen, so people can relax without worry of work the next morning.

**Rector's report:** None

Charlene provided a directory update: Charlene will have the final edit to proof on Friday, 1/22, and final editions should arrive 15 days after that.

**Final review:** Shannon reviewed our action items:

- Page numbers will be added to next year's Annual Meeting report.
- Ernie will contact 8 couples to be Coffee Hour leaders and report back to Vestry at the March meeting
- Shannon will send an email to Pierre introducing Jim Westcott as the new liaison.
- Laura will email Phil & Shannon with the names of the leaders of the small groups.

**Adjournment:** Ernie closed the meeting with prayer at 8:55 pm.

Shannon C Erickson, Appointed Clerk for February 2013 Vestry meeting