

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, April 21, 2014
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

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

Present: Rector Ernie Ashcroft, Senior Warden Shannon Erickson, Junior Warden Dan Shoemaker, Treasurer John Potter, Clerk Michelle Rebholz; elected vestry members Catherine Harrington, , Mary Lee Isely, David Waletzko, Jane Pederson, Susan Vold, and Laura Niederhofer.

Also attending: Dave Leick, Blane Huppert.

Absent: Greg Guffey, Randy Pastorious, Matt Stiles.

Prayer and study: Ernie led the group in prayer. We then read John Chapter 20, verses 19-21. We asked ourselves, “What word or phrase struck me?” “What is Jesus saying to me?” and “What is Jesus asking us to do?”

Approval of the agenda: Laura moved that the agenda be approved; motion seconded and carried.

Approval of vestry minutes: Catherine Harrington moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

March Financial Statements: John Potter explained the financial statements. Pledge income is very close to expected. The main March expense was elevator repair. Pierre reported that utilities expenses are down 32%. Outreach looks high because last year we had a donation. The Seder dinner income hasn't come in yet. The Finance and Legal committee will review property insurance. Overall, everything is tracking well.

Preparing for Rector Transition (Data Gathering Committee): Dave Leick reported he has connected with all but one candidate for the Data Gathering Committee. His goal is for the first meeting in May; he is researching other congregations' processes. They will do a series of small group meetings starting in September. They will also gather information about Christ Church.

Rain Garden Project: Dave Leick reported that Christ Church is first on the list with our landscaping vendor, but frost is an issue. The staircase will happen first and is tentatively scheduled for May 12th. The contractor (Chuck) is aware of the Bishop's visit on May 28. Laura will help coordinate the planting, most likely on May 17. Dave will e-mail Chuck; Laura will follow up with Tom on the possible May 17th planting.

Capital Campaign Report and Recommendations: Dave Leick stated that as of January 1, 2014, the campaign has \$35,000. After air conditioning for the office and some landscaping expenses, \$16,000 is left. Four additional projects will be funded (Sacristy Improvements, Narthex Improvements, Cookware for kitchen, and Lighting for Stained glass). Last month the

vestry received a request to replace a window; since then, an anonymous donor has agreed to fund the replacement of all remaining windows, expected to cost approximately \$13,000. David Waletzko inquired about an emergency fund for emergency repairs once the Capital Campaign fund is gone. It was agreed that this could be addressed with the congregation at the next annual meeting; there would need to be strict guidelines on the use of the fund.

Executive Committee Report: Shannon reported that there was no written response to the MMS letter regarding Christ Church's request to more slowly transition into our increased Fair Share payment to the Diocese. Ernie reported that the Diocese appeared to look at funds including the Capital Campaign and Lilly Foundation monies, rather than operating income. The Woodbury Community Foundation is having May events and asked for information on the church. Shannon reported that the Finance and Legal committee stated a nomination process for the vestry is not in the bylaws. Shannon will put together a document on the nominations process since it only happens once a year. The committee also stated that their name will be changed to the Rector's Roundtable to clarify that the committee is not a decisionmaking committee.

Consent Agenda: reports were received. Michelle will circulate a new version with confidential information redacted.

Outreach Name Change: George has made a request to change the name of the Outreach Committee to Mission Ministry or Mission Opportunities. After discussion, vestry members observed that there are other committees with roles that could be affected by a change in the Outreach Committee. Catherine Harrington will speak to George, Sue Vold, and Mary Lee Isely about the Outreach Committee's role in light of the Small Group Ministries and Pastoral Care Committees' work.

Community Garden Proposal (Not on original agenda: NEW ITEM): Catherine also reported that George is interested in a community garden at Christ Church. Due to a community garden not being able to be situated on the church's property until the Rain Garden is completed, and the recruiting of volunteers for the project, this project will be tabled until the fall.

Woodbury Community Foundation: Already addressed above.

Junior Warden's report: Dan stated that he has successfully scheduled a meeting with the Bishop, for May 7 at 3:30pm.

Senior Warden's report: This is the last week of the fruit-named coffee teams.

Rector's report: Ernie reported that Jim Jennings' funeral is Friday at 11:00am. Sunday the 27th is the church's African service and all are encouraged to attend. Ernie asked that vestry members make a list of their thoughts on the Holy Week services and share specific ideas about improvements to services. Thoughts should be sent to Michelle who will then distribute them to the vestry.

Ernie also reported that he is now certified as a spiritual director. Ernie will do a short four week course in the fall on discernment, which will be helpful to the church as a whole because it will provide people will tools for their own use, to lead groups.

Final review: Michelle reviewed our action items and items tabled:

- Dave Leick will e-mail Chuck regarding the rain garden project and Laura will contact Tom on the planting.
- The issue of an emergency fund (including strict guidelines on the use of the fund) will be discussed by the vestry in fall and addressed at the next annual meeting.
- Michelle will send a new version of the committee reports with confidential information redacted.
- Catherine will contact George, Sue, and Mary Lee regarding the roles of the Outreach, Pastoral Care, and Small Group Ministries Committees.
- The issue of a Community Garden is tabled until the fall.
- Vestry members should send their thoughts on the Holy Week services to Michelle, who will compile and distribute them.

Adjournment: The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.
Michelle Rebolz, Clerk

April 2014 Committee Reports

Pastoral Care Committee (Mary Lee Isely)

George Ham intends to organize a group of Lay Eucharistic Visitors to take the consecrated elements to Christ Church members who, by reason of illness or infirmity, are unable to attend Sunday morning Mass. He will be placing a notice in the Good News sheet in coming weeks seeking interested parishioners. He also plans to reach out to individuals personally. The LEV will have to complete Safe Church training, be able to drive their own car, and do a brief preparation session. The LEV will be approved by the Vestry and licensed by the Bishop. Currently, only clergy in our parish are trained to do this ministry.

In addition to soliciting and training LEV, George plans to work on identifying homebound and ill/hospitalized parishioners who would like to have a lay visitor bring them Communion. The Pastoral Care Committee consists of just George at this time, and he hopes to find parishioners who would like to join him, since there are other tasks that could be considered this group's responsibility. Those duties are currently being handled by others because there's no one available on the Pastoral Care Committee to take them on.

Faith Formation (Matt Stiles)

Faith Formation did not meet this month.

Building and Grounds (Laura Niederhofler)

WINDOW REPLACEMENT:

Windows in the fellowship hall, the downstairs hallway and one in the nursery are going to be replaced. Pierre has been working with Beissel Construction on obtaining quotes for the replacement of these windows. (An anonymous donor has provided a donation to cover the replacement of specific windows in the Fellowship Hall, in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall, and in the Nursery.)

SNOW PLOWING & MOWING BID:

A quote was received from Outdoor labs (landscaping company) for both snow plowing and mowing for this year.

The quote for snow removal was \$1500/month and mowing was \$285.00/mow. Christ Church cannot afford those services, so we will continue to pursue volunteers to be part of the teams.

With the new pavers that will be put down, there are a few concerns with how we will be able to remove snow. Our snow blower will require some changes so that the pavers are not ruined during snow blowing. There are also yearly maintenance requirements related to the pavers that Outdoor Labs will inspect to make sure we are in compliance with.

MISC:

The carpets in the family room and the church will be cleaned the week of April 14th.

A/C units will be installed for the office area mid May.

Bldg. & Grounds committee will be having a grounds cleaning day in early May. We hope to have as many volunteers come out and help clean the church grounds before the mowing season begins.

PEST CONTROL:

A company was hired to rid the church of mice and future bugs that have been becoming increasingly a problem. Rainbow Pest charged us \$199.00 for two visits with a 60 day warranty for mice only and additional visits are \$109.00 to check baits & traps and replace as necessary.

Bldg. & Grounds committee decided that a clean up day in the fellowship hall and kitchen will be necessary in order to clean up all the 'left over mess' from the mice. A plea was made for additional 'seasoned' volunteers to be on the Bldg. & Grounds committee. Pierre pointed out that the average age for the group is 70 and they will not be able to continue to do all that is necessary, much longer, to keep the building and grounds up to par. Because there is so much involved in taking care of the church and its grounds, we'd like to begin recruiting others that are willing and able to help.

Small Group Ministries (Sue Vold)

Nothing to report.

Communications (Greg Guffey)

Nothing to report.

Welcoming Committee (David Waletzko)

Newcomer orientations are scheduled for April 23 and 27. Invitations were mailed to 15 family units, and we have had one signup and one who can't make it either time but would like a different time. However, it is "early" for some people to make a decision, and I will telephone those I don't hear from by April 20. Thirteen people are part of the Welcoming Ministry team, and they make a tremendous difference in the way visitors feel about friendliness of our congregation.

A reminder to all vestry members - please do not forget to be aware of those who have not been at church in three or four weeks, and please telephone them to see if they need help in any way (meals, illness, etc.) or if something has happened at church to upset them. Please let Ernie or Nancy Forman know what you learn.

Stewardship Committee (Randy Pastorius)

Has not met, so nothing to report.

Outreach Committee (Catherine Harrington)

Nothing to report. However, see request below.

Outreach or Mission?

Outreach –

Oxford Dictionary: The extent or length of reaching out; An organization's involvement with or activity in the community, especially in the context of social welfare.

Webster's Dictionary: 1: the act of reaching out; 2: the extent or limit of reach (the outreach of the Ohio floods); 3: the extending of services or assistance beyond current or usual limits (an outreach program); also : the extent of such services or assistance

Mission –

Oxford Dictionary: The vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith.

Webster's Dictionary: A ministry commissioned by a religious organization to propagate its faith or carry on humanitarian work.

I propose that Christ Church – Woodbury change the name used to refer to all ministry programs currently considered as Outreach Ministries, to Mission Ministries, and change the name of the Outreach Committee to the Mission Opportunities Committee, or in the alternative, the Mission Ministries Committee.

For reference, St. Christopher’s – Roseville has replaced the term Outreach with Mission and has recently changed the name of their Outreach Committee to Mission Opportunities Committee, although they are still working on updating their many references to “outreach” on-line and in publications. See their website, <http://www.stchristophers-mn.org/outreach-and-justice/>.

Kathryn Pratt is ready to publish a completely revised Christ Church “Enrich Your Experience/Get Involved/Ministries and Activities” book. I urge the vestry to approve this proposal at their April 14 meeting so that the booklet and other documents can be updated and released accordingly, and we can begin immediately to promote renewed involvement in Mission at Christ Church.

Rev. George Ham, Deacon

April 14, 2014