

**MINUTES
VESTRY MEETING
MARCH 21, 2011**

A meeting of the 2012 Vestry was held in the Undercroft on March 21, 2011, at 5:30 PM.

Present: The Rev. Jim Sell; Barbara Hedberg, Senior Warden; Warner Marshall, Junior Warden; Heather Tookes-Alexopoulos, Treasurer; Carolyn Gould, Clerk; Candy Carl-Stannard; Peg Chambers; Carol Davidson; Laura Davis; Barbara Fennelly; Murray Harrison; Gloria Hoda; Barbara Lamb; Kim Morris; Doris Manseau; Bob Oetjen; David Phelps; Sara Stadler; Mary Ann Stroup; Jack Tebes; Rich Walser. Linda Sheehan, Church School Director.

The opening prayer was offered by Barbara Lamb.

Presentation of Godly Play

Linda Sheehan presented a Godly Play lesson she had designed to show how the curriculum helps children process their experiences with God by sharing sacred stories and bringing the light of Jesus to the heart of every child. The teacher tells a story and gives the children an opportunity to ask “wondering” questions; then the children use manipulative materials to do whatever they feel moved to do from the lesson topic. The children love the story-telling, and Linda hopes that Trinity will continue to use this curriculum in the future. It is now used for pre-school and grades 1, 2, and 3, and next year will be expanded for grades 4, 5, and 6. The parish may receive a request to provide some of the “manipulatives” that are used in the program, to save the expense of purchasing them. Linda is totally committed to the Godly Play curriculum and is impressed with the reception the children have given to it.

Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2011, Meeting

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on January 17, 2011, be approved. Mary Ann Stroup submitted a correction to the Bazaar Report, as follows:

Mary Ann Stroup reported that the 2010 Bazaar realized \$31,000, which brings the total from all Bazaars to \$338,000. When the Easter Morn window is returned, the last panel of a grisaille window will be restored, completing the restoration of the stained glass windows. Monies from the Holiday Bazaar will now be divided to establish a Holiday Bazaar Stained Glass Window Reserve for purposes of restoration and continued

payment of the Construction/Restoration of the bathrooms. The Window Reserve will be given precedence.

The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Associate Rector's Report

The Associate Rector, who was attending an outreach workshop, submitted a written report.

Karrie Hendrickson will be coordinating a going-away event for Lucy.

Interim Rector's Report

Jim reported that there is now \$664,440 in "free bed funds" held at Yale-New Haven Hospital, the accumulation of an original gift of \$30,000. It was **MOVED AND SECONDED** that the Chairs of the Finance Team and the Investments Committee (Sara Stadler and Carolyn Gould) be designated to investigate whether Trinity can manage the funds and use them for broader purposes than beds at Yale-New Haven Hospital. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. Laura Davis and Barbara Fennelly volunteered to assist in this process.

It was announced that a committee is being formed to welcome our new Rector.

The bequest to Trinity under the will of Frank Warner will go into the Trinity endowment, to be used for unrestricted purposes.

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that funds from the monthly contributions at Vestry meetings be used to send flowers to Elida Fuentes-Coty following the death of her father-in-law. The motion **PASSED**.

Warden's Report

Barb reported that she now has a copy of the contract with the Rev. Luk De Volder, who will become Trinity's new Rector in June. Luk and Tiffany will be visiting New Haven on April 27 and 28, and a reception in the Undercroft open to the parish is planned for Thursday, April 28 to give parishioners an opportunity to meet them. Gloria Hoda volunteered to help with the planning.

The Wardens are working on forming a Transition Committee of 6 or 8 people.

Barb expressed her appreciation to Jack and Heather for their work on the contract with Luk. Jeff Freeman is managing the communications concerning the new Rector; there will be a letter from Luk to parishioners going out next week, a poster in the Crosswell, and press releases. A copy of the contract will be provided to the Vestry.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer circulated a written report. Based on the 2010 pledges received to date, there is a deficit for 2010 of \$67,000, \$12,000 of which consists of outstanding pledges. The Finance Team met with Mike Haggerty of UBS to review Trinity's portfolio managers and to begin thinking about a strategy for allocating investments. The Investment Committee will be considering asset allocation for the endowment. The Finance Team will be meeting with the auditors, Harper & Whitfield, and will be talking to Committee heads in September. The Treasurer will report to the Vestry quarterly. We are trying to shrink the deficit gradually, with smaller budgets and more responsible spending. The current deficit is due mainly to overly optimistic forecast of pledges. There will be a follow-up with calls to those who have not fulfilled their pledges.

Stewardship

Jack Tebes reported that the new Stewardship Committee will consist of himself as Chair, Bob Oetjen, Barbara Fennelly, Mary Ann Stroup, and Peg Chambers. They will focus on infrastructure development, attracting people and a broad communications strategy. The year-long planning process will include Luk's vision. Jack circulated Rose Pawlikowski's "Stewardship Report for the 2010-2011 Pledge Campaign." Average pledges were up 10%, but 50 pledges were not renewed, and this will be a target for the coming year. There will be close communication between the Stewardship Committee and the Finance Team. The Warner bequest will mean \$50,000 in additional income; 50 new pledge units would result in another \$60,000, which would reduce the percentage drawn from the endowment. The targets are going to be realistic. Jack asked that updates in Committee membership be reported to him.

Earth Day

Rich Walser outlined plans for a combined service on May 8 to commemorate Earth Day. The Trinity Players are planning a creation story play, with the Spirit Singers. Rich also announced that Lucy Hess will head a group looking into using the "This I Believe" materials that Rich had circulated.

Apron Parking

Mary Ann Stroup raised the issue of the limited parking on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on account of the choirs and the difficulty that presents for holding committee

meetings not connected with the music program. There is expense associated with holding meetings on Mondays. There will be a Work Group for this issue, with Barb Hedberg as Chair. Barbara Lamb will contact LAZ at the Omni and the New Haven Parking Authority to see if there is a way to obtain discounted parking.

The Rev. Sell led a closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda

Minutes of January 17, 2011, Meeting

Associate Rector's Report

Interim Rector's Report

Letter to the Rev. LaRocca from William S. Gedge,
Senior Vice President, Yale-New Haven Hospital

Vestry Retreat March 12, 2011, Summary

Stewardship Report for the 2010-2011 Pledge Campaign

Monthly Schedule for April