

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts

Minutes of Vestry Meeting, June 17, 2008

PRESENT: Peter Chase, Paul Pyzowski, Mary Green, Tom Holtey, Beverly Hurney, Bob Kelley, Elisabeth Rippey, Kitty Smith, John Turtle, Phyllis Campbell, Dick Sabin, Isabel Phillips, Elisabeth Comer, Mike Stevens, Stefan Braun

The Vestry meeting opened with a prayer by Peter Chase.

The minutes of the May 20, 2008 meeting were approved as amended. As previously approved by the Vestry, the amended and approved minutes will be reviewed by the Senior Warden or the Rector and posted to the website.

**NEW
BUSINESS:**

Trash Removal Contract

Mike Stevens recommended that we sign a three year contract with Waste Management @ \$160 per month. Cassella provided a competitive bid of \$286 per month. The new contract will begin July 12, 2008, and morning pickups will be made prior to arrival of the Hills & Falls students. **Motion made and approved** to sign the Waste Management contract.

Vestry Meeting Dates and 2009 Church Calendar

Fall meeting dates for Vestry were reviewed and agreed. The final calendar will be circulated to the Vestry.

It was agreed to hold the church picnic on the Sunday prior to Father's Day. Elisabeth Rippey suggested that the middle school Christian Education classes overlap with part of the 10 AM service to allow the older students to attend a portion. Stephan Braun suggested that a weeknight be considered instead of Sunday for Christian Education. See Youth & Christian Education Committee report for additional details.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

Stewardship: Julia de Peyster, Stewardship Chair, and Paul Pyzowski will meet to discuss parish expenses in preparation for the 2009 Stewardship Campaign.

Investment: No report

- Treasurer: Mike Stevens comments that St. Mary's is very unusual in having prior year's pledges honored on a consistent basis. There is a positive timing impact for the month on the transfer from endowment. The Education and Worship expenses are under budget.
- Membership: Members will have the option of a clip on tag for nametags or the new lanyards. Denise's assistance will be needed for printing the nametags. Stephan Braun and Dan Leonard were thanked for leading a successful picnic on a rainy day. It has been most unusual in the past 40 years to have rain on the day of the picnic.
- Property: New storm windows have been installed on the side of the parish hall. **Moved and approved** to accept the Whitla estimate of \$3,000 for the flat roof repairs. There is no update on the belfry. The next step is to remove the board in the choir loft. Historic reference points on the tower and asphalt to aid tilt comparison are no longer visible. The Committee will measure the tilt but will not have the comparative data. The front and attic lights have been repaired. The new thermostat has been installed in the Chapter Room. The lower front and parish hall side of the church will be painted in July. Stephan Braun recommends that the lawn sprinklers be reprogrammed to every other week. It was noted that the water sensor on the sprinkler system is not working properly. The holly bush in the corner will be pruned.
- Rector & Staff: Denise will have vacation time and work 8 AM to 1 PM as summer hours. Peter Chase will be here for most of the summer, except for three Sundays, and the Vestry is encouraged to check in with Denise over the summer.
- Youth & Christian Education: An ad hoc committee of Isabel Phillips, Peter, Paul Pyzowski and Joanne Flatley plan to meet on July 6. This meeting is also open to all Vestry members. Kirsten Johnson will be added as a Committee member, and Mary Green will serve as ex officio. Christian Education will be a major project for the summer with the small group to take up the suggestions from the Coffee and Connections discussion.
- Outreach: Checks have been written for the most recent disbursements. Paul Pyzowski has received interest from others in doing a follow up

trip to El Salvador in 2009; however, a volunteer is needed to volunteer to organize this as Paul may not be able to do so.

Women of
St. Mary's:

Phyllis Campbell reported the books have been audited and all is in order.

Tenants:

Dick Sabin spoke to Kathy Winters at Hills & Falls. The school can use the three closets under the church entrance and Judy LaPorto will clean these out. Peter has gone through the books which were damaged as a result of the prior sill problem. The decisions have met the Fire Department's time table.

Churchyard:

The June 8 walking tour went well with approximately 20 people, including three from St. Mary's and the remainder from Newton Lower Falls.

Worship:

Gil Wright's funeral has been held. There will be two baptisms in August. The 8 AM service will be discontinued as of July for the summer. Gwen Buehrens will be guest rector for several Sundays. Future services will include guest chaplains from local colleges and retired prep school chaplains. Gwen Buehrens' daughter will be married here in October by a Unitarian minister.

Altar Guild:

Summer vacations are accentuating the current staffing shortage. Wooden candle sticks and cross will be used for the summer. The problem with the wicks on the candles will be addressed. Flowers from the garden will be used beginning in July.

Hospitality:

No report.

Music:

Although the choirs are off during the summer, Kirsten's continues to put in many hours during the summer. Please see attached report.

St. Mary's
Historian:

No report.

Peter Chase closed the meeting with a prayer.
The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Green for Susan Griffin, Clerk