

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

Minutes of Vestry Meeting, February 24, 2009

**PRESENT:** Peter Chase, Paul Pyzowski, Mary Green, Beverly Hurney, Elisabeth Rippy, Kitty Smith, John Turtle, Lynn Farnell, Dick Sabin, Mike Stevens, Jon Heyden, Maryjane Burgess, Stuart Tucker, Stefan Braun, Jon Hayden

The Vestry meeting opened with a prayer by Peter Chase.

The minutes from December 16, 2008 and January 20<sup>th</sup> 2009 were reviewed and approved as amended.

**NEW  
BUSINESS:**

All members introduced themselves. Paul Pyzowski had previously sent new member packets that contained a copy of the by-laws, the financial guidelines for spending money and an introduction to the work of the vestry.

There was a short discussion and review of the current spending guidelines.

**VOTE TO APPROVE THE GUIDELINES AS  
SUBMITTED.**

New members were asked to volunteer for committees. Stuart Tucker will be the liaison for stewardship. Dick Sabin will work with the investment committee. Jon Hayden and John Turtle will work on property. John Higgins, Andrew Hodgdon and Tom Holtey will be on the committee as well. Maryjane Burgess will be the liaison with the Women of St. Mary's and the Altar Guild.

All agreed that the budget with spending cutbacks was well received at the annual meeting.

Stefan Braun has agreed to chair the annual picnic in June.

We should have a podcast on the web site by Easter.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Stewardship: Mary Green reported that we have received pledges of \$236,668 to date.

Investment Committee: No report.

Property: No bill has yet to be received from the snow plow company. We will write a thank you at the end of the season. Devaney installed a new controller for the boiler. We still need a new valve estimated at \$1900. It was agreed to spend the next month investigating what should be done.

Rector & Staff: All are well.

Outreach: No report.

Women of St. Mary's: There is approximately \$10,000 to disburse for outreach. The program for Lent is set.

Tenants: The Hills and Falls lease is up in 2010. The sandwich sign is still up on the lawn. We approved a proposal to offer them the option to install a permanent sign under the white sign in front of the church, subject to the Vestry's approval of the design of the signage.

Churchyard: No report

Worship: Ash Wednesday services are set for 9:30am and 7:30pm.

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild is still looking for new members.

Hospitality: No report

Music: Evensong was well received. Special Music Sunday will be March 15<sup>th</sup> with a mass composed by Haydn.

Deanery: There will be a deanery program at Christ Church about El Salvador. This Saturday is the celebration of Barbara Harris' 20<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary.

St. Mary's Historian: No report.

Peter concluded with a prayer for the work of the vestry.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Farnell, Clerk