

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

Minutes of Vestry Meeting, September 15, 2009

PRESENT: Margaret Schwarzer, Mary Green, Beverly Hurney, Kitty Smith, John Turtle, Lynn Farnell, Jon Hayden, Elisabeth Rippy, Stewart Tucker, Elisabeth Comer, Mike Stevens, Paul Pyzowski, Nick DePeyster, Sarah Williamson

The Vestry meeting opened with a prayer by Margaret Schwarzer.

The minutes from August were reviewed and approved as amended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tim Green is doing a master schedule now, including acolytes, ushers and greeters and coffee hour hosts, which will set up a schedule through December. He would like to drop the acolyte activities after that. Sarah has been backup but the activities need a leader. Margaret is willing to do acolyte training with the new leader.

The loose plate offering on September 27 will be contributed to the Larry Walton memorial. It will be donated to the Wareham Area Homeless project. John Turtle did the work finding out what Joan Walton wanted. Information on the program will be put in the bulletin.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

Interim Report: Margaret will be giving the Vestry a written report every month. A copy of this month's report is attached. She asked about a preference for opening the service. She would like to try greeting the congregation before the service as well as just processing in. We will print the names of people on the prayer list in the bulletin. She asked for feedback.

Search Committee: Sarah reported for the Search Committee. The first batch of applicants has been reviewed. People seem interested in St. Mary's. The current names are coming from the church matching service. The next meeting on September 28th will be spent reviewing the next group of applicants. Yet another group will come from the diocese in October. Some candidates have been eliminated.

Stewardship: Stewart reported on the upcoming stewardship drive. Julia dePeyster has a letter ready to go out. Vestry members will get pledge cards in the letter. The Warden's letter will have rest of pledge cards. The Peter Chase Society will roll out after annual meeting. It may be presented at the annual meeting.

Investment Committee: Nick dePeyster had nothing specific to report for the Investment Committee. Stocks are rising but the budget will see only small rise.

Treasurer: Mike Stevens reported that the budget is mostly in line. Only pledges are slow.

Membership: Elisabeth Rippy reported on new members. Blue Ribbon BBQ will be on the menu for the Welcome Back BBQ on September 20th. A magician will be coming too.

Property: Jon Hayden reported for the property committee.

Rectory repairs are moving along except the bay window. The outside painting should be completed soon. An engineer looked at steeple. He reported that it is not leaning. Sprinkler and heating contractors have been through. There was some discussion on the heating system.

Mary Green reported on different funding sources. She has talked to several banks. Options include a line of credit and a mortgage on property. The diocese loan program is another option. It was agreed that time will be spent with Norman & Mike to see what would be best. Nothing will be done until next May.

Interim Priest & Staff: Mary reported that Margaret has been having staff meetings with Denise, Kirsten, Gwen, and Isabel. The phones are still a recurring problem. Mike has called Verizon and will call again.

Youth & Christian Ed: Kirsten, Lucille and Isabel will be doing the Christmas pageant. There was some discussion about moving the Christmas Pageant to Epiphany. The new Sunday School program, Godly Play, will be used this year. It will require some start-up funds. There are plans to hold a Children's Eucharist on November 8th at 10am. There will be an Evensong for those who don't want to attend the 10am as well as the usual 8am Eucharist.

Outreach: Elisabeth Comer will be having a meeting in October. \$2400 and \$2000 will be available for disbursement at the end of the year.

Women of St. Mary's: The booklets are here and ready for distribution.

Tenants: The rent for the Hills and Falls will be the same as last year because the CPI went down.

Churchyard: No report.

Worship: Margaret included the worship report as part of her monthly report.

Altar Guild: No report

Hospitality No report

Music: Kirsten sent in a report. There is a new bass section leader. (Tony Garza) She is looking for new junior choir members. Peter Lea Cox. will be here on Sept. 27th for a special music program of Bach music. The organ pipe repairs will be done on September 21st. Thank you for the \$1000 for Martha McGandy. It will be given to the special music fund.

Deanery: The October 8th meeting will be here. Bev and Mav and Olive will attend. A middle school trip to the Barbara Harris Camp will be leaving from St. Mary's.

St. Mary's Historian: A genealogical request came in to Beverly.

Margaret concluded with a prayer.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Farnell, Clerk