

VESTRY MINUTES
ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
September 10th, 2007

Mike Rodgers led the opening devotional at 7:30 PM. Marion Roth will lead the opening devotional at the October 15th meeting.

PRESENT: The Rev. Mark Delcuze, Rev. Emily Richards, Peter Bachmann, John Brotherhood, Richard Cutting, Tim Klvana, John Morrison, Jamie Mosedale, Chris Mueller, Andy Robertson, Mike Rodgers, Marion Roth, & Mike Ryan. **Absent:** Pat Carlson, Rich Duncan, & Dave Wilson.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 18th vestry meeting were unanimously approved as presented with a motion by Richard Cutting and seconded by Tim Klvana. The minutes from July 16th vestry meeting were unanimously approved as presented with a motion by Mike Rodgers and seconded by Jamie Mosedale.

II. REPORTS

Treasurer's Operating Report: Mike Ryan presented the financial reports, noting that income was within \$500 of projections. Discussion on \$24,000 bequest from a trust is continually delayed by the court system and the IRS. There are no changes in expenses. Andy Robertson moved that the reports be approved as presented, Peter Bachmann seconded and the reports were approved.

Stewardship: Brochures were distributed regarding a Bishops' Stewardship Conference on Saturday, September 15 at St. James Church in West Hartford, CT from 8:30am-2pm. All vestry members were encouraged to attend.

Property Committee: Many meetings have been coordinated between the town historical commission and the property committee. Doug Millan has done a wonderful job of working with this group to see that the rectory porches can be restored while balancing the high costs needed to comply with codes and historical significance.

Nominating Committee: Cindy Johnstone has agreed to be Chairperson for the vestry positions for the upcoming year.

III. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Another meeting will be scheduled with all committee head members, and any interested members from the parish, to continue the Holy Conversations format with the rest of the parish before formulating a strategic plan for the years ahead. Each vestry member was asked to contact their vestry liaison groups and invite them to attend the meeting on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 7:30pm in North Hall. Background information on the reading will be sent this week to all committee heads. The framework for this meeting is asking 'Who are we?', 'What are we trying to do?', and 'Who is our neighbor?' questions from the book 'Holy Conversations'. Mike Rodgers agreed to facilitate the meeting and John Morrison will share his CD with music/photos of church activities at this meeting. Anne Watkins will be at the October Vestry Meeting to assist with this ongoing process.

IV. CLERGY REPORT – PASTORAL CARE

Coaching Process: Mark and John gave an update to the coaching process between Mark and the consultant we hired to give a peer review and work on a leadership action plan. The vestry was given a verbal report from Mark and John that process is going very well. Both John and Mark felt the benefits to our organization are justified and they are both pleased with the process.

Pastoral Care & Mission: Emily and Daniel Richards have received word that a child has been assigned to them and that they will go to China to bring home their daughter, Maggie, in Mid November. She is 11 months old, and Emily will have 12 weeks of maternity leave. Emily reported on the Mission Committee's 3rd trip to Pass Christian, MS in late September and early October with 10 people going. Several are from our church and a few others are from nearby parishes. Volunteers are still needed for airport drivers coordinated by Doug Millan. Mark handed out a brochure of a support group which was started by Sandy Garrett, a 17 year old parishioner, to assist teens with grieving the loss of a loved one. The group is also supported by town social services and a professional social worker. Sandy is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award with this project.

Christian Education: Mark reported that 'Episcopalian 1.01' is offered once per month in the 9:00am to 9:45am on Sundays. A small-group series 'Companions in Christ' runs in 6 week segments on Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm. A Wednesday evening healing Eucharist will be offered at 7:30 pm also. Tuesday morning Bible Study will continue.

Retreats: A men's retreat will be held on Oct 19-21st at Trinity Conference Center, West Cornwall. A women's retreat will be held on Nov 16-18th at St. Helena's Convent, Vail's Gate.

Next Vestry Meeting: October 15th at 7:30 pm

V. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:45 pm with the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Roth, Clerk of the Vestry