

St. David's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting October 21, 2007

Members present: Fr. Paul Winton (Rector), Fr. Todd Dill (Rector's Associate), Steve Cunningham (Senior Warden), Teddi McIntosh (Junior Warden), Chris Couch, Connie DeSanto, Andy Eberhard, Gail Greene, Jim Landers, Roger Mathis, Bill Sleeper

Members absent: Vicki Connelly (Treasurer), Charlie Gwynn, Rob Hungerford, Jill Sutton

Special guest: Sarah Adkins (Caring Committee Chair)

The meeting began with a luncheon at 1:05. Gail Greene blessed the meal.

A quorum was present.

Vestry Meeting Times: Over lunch, Fr. Paul opened a discussion regarding Vestry meeting times. After discussion, it was agreed that the full Vestry would meet nine times per year, alternating 4th Saturday mornings at 7:30 and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7:00. At the Rector's discretion, the Executive Committee will meet two to three additional times per year, during those months when the full Vestry does not meet. Next Vestry meeting will be Tuesday, November 27 at 7 pm. The December meeting will be Saturday, December 22 at 7:30 am.

Report of the Caring Committee

Jim Landers introduced Sarah Adkins, chair of the Caring Committee. Sarah explained that the committee's work is divided into four sub-committees:

- Caring Bakers – bake at home and stock the freezer with breads and desserts
- Cookathons – three times per year the members cook at the church to make main and side dishes to restock the freezer. Sixty meals are prepared at each cookathon, at an approximate per-meal cost of \$3.
- Caring Deliverers – each deliverer takes a 2-week shift. Becky Sullivan contacts the deliverers when a need arises and they deliver the meal at a convenient time for the recipient.
- Chicken Soup Group – for ongoing meal delivery needs (e.g., long-term recoveries), parishioners cook at their own homes and deliver to recipients on a schedule.

Last year, the Caring Committee delivered 100 meals from caring freezer and 136 chicken soup group meals.

Sarah asked that the Caring Committee's budget be part of the operating budget next year, after having been funded by clergy discretionary funds in the past. Her \$1500 budget pays for food for cookathons and bags to deliver food. Fr. Paul recommended that Caring be included as a line item in the 2008 budget, and asked that Steve Cunningham make sure the finance committee is aware of this change.

Minutes

The **September minutes** were approved as submitted. Fr. Paul entertained a motion to approve the minutes, Jim Landers moved to approve and Roger Mathis seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Junior Warden's Report

Teddi reported that many of the windowsills in the building are rotting and not closing well. This maintenance issue will be addressed in the new budget year. Because they are not standard-size windows, repair is more costly than one would think. Fr. Paul indicated that the staff is working on an affordable repair solution.

Senior Warden's Report

Steve Cunningham reported on Vestry nominations:

- The retiring Vestry members and Rector choose the slate of candidates. Retiring members (Bill Sleeper, Jill Sutton, Charlie Gwynn, Rob Hungerford) have not met yet regarding nominees.
- Four nominations have been received: Bonnie Underwood, Tom Nolf, Del Reichardt, Lance Patterson. The staff will contact these four to ensure they meet the criteria and are willing to serve if elected.
- Fr. Paul recommended that the nominating committee schedule a time to meet in the coming week. By that time, the Vestry members should have contacted parishioners they feel are qualified to determine their interest. They should then provide the names of those interested to Becky Sullivan. The goal is to develop a list of 12 suitable candidates. The Rector will write a treatise about the responsibilities of a Vestry member to give to prospective nominees.

Next, Steve reported on the Sabbatical Advisory Board recommendation for Fr. Paul's sabbatical:

- He read a memo from Rector outlining the committee's recommendations. Regarding the Rector's sabbatical in general:
 - There is no perfect time for the Rector to be away.
 - The Bishop strongly supports a sabbatical for the Rector in the very near future.
 - The Sabbatical Advisory Board feels strongly about the Rector's need for a sabbatical.
 - St. David's is contractually obligated as parish to provide a sabbatical.
- Fr. Paul reported that the advisory board advised his being gone Christmas and Easter –
 - Specifically, December 10, 2007 through March 30, 2008.
 - He will return for Deacon Julio's ordination and first Mass in January.
 - During his Sabbatical, he will send three articles with photos, suitable for printing in the newsletter.
 - One of the committee members will provide him with a parish prayer list every two weeks.
 - The Senior Warden and Bishop will know where he is at all times.
 - Fr. Todd will be the priest in charge, assisted by wardens and Vestry.
 - Fr. Paul will communicate details to the parish in next 10 days.
 - The staff will meet Tuesday morning to plan for his being away.
 - Currently, the schedule calls for the following stays:
 - Africa in December – Central Diocese of Tanganyika, plus time with his son.
 - Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX;
 - Cathedral of the Diocese of Dallas – study with Dean;
 - Potters House - Bishop TD Jakes;
 - Quiet House – may do some writing;
 - Monastery – in silence for time to rest.
- Steve inquired about funding for the Sabbatical, which will be discussed in detail by the Executive Committee at a later date. It is not expected to be expensive.
- The Rector proposed a vote. Steve Cunningham made a motion to endorse the sabbatical and sabbatical plan highlights as submitted by committee, understanding that the budget will be proposed by Rector and approved by the Executive Committee. Roger Mathis seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

In Vicki Connelly's absence, no Treasurers Report was submitted. Steve Cunningham will contact her for a copy to review with the Executive Committee and later share with Vestry.

Rector's Report

Pledge Campaign

Fr. Todd presented an update on the Pledge Campaign.

- During the 2007 campaign, the parish received 396 pledges totaling \$1.15M.
- As of 10/14/07, the 2008 campaign had garnered 182 pledges totaling \$652,862.
- More pledge cards were submitted 10/21; Fr. Todd anticipates the current pledge volume is approximately \$775K.
- Fr. Paul, Fr. Todd and Cathy Cheatwood (financial secretary), are scheduled to meet Tuesday to review the list of parishioners who haven't submitted 2008 pledge cards. On Wednesday via email, Vestry members will each receive a list of parishioners to contact (by Sunday) and encourage to submit a pledge.

Jeffords Fellowship Hall

- Fr. Paul reported that two banks have approved the financing in theory, and the parish should have a signed agreement soon.
- Once the signed loan documents are in hand, the Vestry will need to approve the financing.
- In a meeting last week, the Diocesan finance committee greeted the Jeffords Hall project enthusiastically and will recommend that the Diocesan Standing Committee approve the financing.
- The Bishop will send St. David's a letter of approval after the Standing Committee meets and grants their approval.
- Fr. Paul will be meeting Wednesday with some of the principals at Jova Daniels Busby, the architects, to resolve a difference of opinion regarding their fees.

Diocesan Annual Council

Fr. Paul reported that the Diocesan Annual Council would meet November 9 and 10 at the Cathedral.

Deacon Julio Lema

Fr. Paul reported that Deacon Julio's ordination to the priesthood is scheduled for January 10 at 7 pm. The Bishop will preach and celebrate. The Vestry is encouraged to attend. Julio will require a salary increase to meet the Diocesan minimum salary for priests. St. David's is consulting with Christ Church, Norcross and the Diocese to find a way to share Deacon Julio's ministry and split the expenses of his salary and benefits.

Nursery

Fr. Paul is addressing some personnel issues with the nursery and ensured the Vestry that the current management concerns will be corrected soon.

Ministry Fair

The annual Parish Ministry Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7. The event will be bigger than in years past.

Wednesday Night Program

The Advent Wednesday night program is currently under review due to the Rector's upcoming sabbatical.

Liaison reports

Roger Mathis presented a report on the Men's Club.

- The group would like to improve participation and are exploring ways to accomplish that.
- Men's Club recent events include manning the beverage station at the Starry Starry Night fundraiser and sponsoring the father/child campout at Lloyd Bowen's fishing retreat, attended by about 30 people;
- Upcoming events include a skeet shooting outing in November and elections in December.

Executive Committee

No meeting.

New Business

Ministry Liaison Updates: Gail Greene spoke with Becky Sullivan to arrange for a schedule of ministry updates for Vestry meetings, rather than reporting on every ministry every month. Becky has developed a proposed schedule, which Gail will email to the Vestry.

Oblation Bearers: Jim Landers suggested publishing an educational blurb in the newsletter about oblation bearers, because many parishioners are unfamiliar with the concept or the purpose. Fr. Paul asked Jim to email him to remind him to write an article for the Illumination.

Finance Committee Budget Hearings: Bill Sleeper asked about when the finance committee will hold budget hearings for ministry heads. The hearings, to be held October 25 and 30, are a new step in the budgeting process for 2008.

Rector out of town: Fr. Paul indicated he will be out of town Monday through Wednesday October 29 - 31 and Monday through Saturday November 11 - 16.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be Tuesday, November 27 at 7 pm in the Bethany Room.

Fr. Paul closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Betsy Candler

Co-Secretary to the Vestry