

**TRINITY CHURCH, POTSDAM, NY    VESTRY MEETING    12/8/09**

Present: Fr. Christopher Brown, Wardens Tom Mac Mahon & Sally Elliott, Rick Hunter, Dick Irwin, Nancy Kear, Nancy Kin, Lisa Littlejohn, Elaina Smith, Sam Vandervelde, Treasurer Rich VanLeuven, Kathryn Boswell.

**Vestry Devotions**

Upon motion by Nancy Kear, seconded by Sally Elliott, **minutes of the 11/10/09 meeting** were unanimously approved.

**Rector's Report**

- Pastoral concerns noted.
- Thank you to Elaina Smith for completing & submitting Faith Alive application which will hopefully be held the weekend of 4/23-25/2010. Tom Gizara will give presentation at the January Vestry meeting regarding this event.
- Anticipate having a second evening healing service starting in January. Deacons Lora Smith & Rick Littlejohn will share in conducting these services.
- In addition to the upcoming mission trip to New Orleans, there will be a summer mission trip to Peru (Amelia Brown to participate).
- Brief discussion regarding background and implication of recently elected Bishop Mary Glasspool of Los Angeles who is in a committed gay relationship. (informational hand-out distributed)
- Advent/Christmas events: sermon series (Fr. Christopher, Deacons Lora & Rick); showing of Nativity Story film on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>; Lessons & Carols on December 15<sup>th</sup>; Advent carol sing on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>; Christmas Eve services at 5:00 (with pageant) followed by pot luck supper (organized by Carol Hunter) and 9:30 service (preceded by special music).

**Wardens' Report**

Tom Mac Mahon reported that a cabinet for Sunday School supplies was ordered and has been paid for by individual contributions. Also commented on the meaningful job the healing team does.

Sally Elliott reported that the new Stephen Minister class was recently commissioned and the final session will be completed this week.

**Treasurer's Report**

It was previously anticipated that we would have to withdraw an additional \$10,000 from the Endowment, however, Rich VanLeuven was pleased to report that that was not necessary. \$1800 on hand toward choir robes will not be spent this year. \$1000 sent toward Diocesan Assessment and it is expected that we will be able to send another \$2000 at the end of the year. Trinity contribution made to TRIAD, organization which will purchase a bus to provide transportation to elderly people in the community.

Motion made by Rick Hunter, seconded by Sally Elliott to accept Treasurer's Report; all in favor.

## **Old Business**

### Nominating Committee Report:

Nancy Kin, Bret Zvacek & Kay Caldwell – 3 year terms as Vestry member

Mark Josephs – 2 year unexpired term (created by Rick Hunter's candidacy as Warden)

1 year unexpired term (created by Betsy Tisdale's resignation) not yet chosen

Rick Hunter – 2 year term as Warden

Building: Tom Mac Mahon reported that modification of flood map regarding parish hall expansion is moving along slowly. Beardsley Engineering of Malone is handling the appropriate paperwork which needs to be acted upon by DEC and subsequently by FEMA. This could take 30-60 days.

Thank you to Tom Mac Mahon & Ron Kaiser who hung Christmas lights in the tower.

## **New Business**

- ❖ Kathryn Boswell is in the ordination process and has been completing the necessary liturgical studies through Nashotah House in Wisconsin. As part of the Diocesan postulancy process, the parish needs to approve such candidacy. Motion made by Rick Hunter, seconded by Nancy Kin that the Vestry supports Kathryn Boswell for candidacy for the priesthood. Sam Vandervelde asked Kathryn to provide some background including her beliefs. Following her statement, above motion was unanimously approved.
- ❖ A \$10,000 unrestricted bequest was made by Harriet Siechen. Proposal made to make 10% tithes toward local outreach & worldwide mission and place the remainder in the Endowment. Motion made to approve such proposal but tabled further action until money is actually received.
- ❖ Budget review/discussion held. Upon motion by Rick Hunter, seconded by Sally Elliott to accept the 2010 budget as proposed by the Finance Committee. On behalf of the committee, Rich VanLeuven was pleased to present a balanced budget. One of the variables in the budget is salaries. The basis for recommendations (3% for Rector and 1 ½ % for Organist, Secretary and Sexton) was there was no cost of living increase. It was noted that due to the state of the economy, the Diocese had made a recommendation for 0% salary increases. Each parish to act according to their means. Dick Irwin stated that he felt salaries for all staff should be consistent. Rick Hunter disagreed due to flat inflation rate and noted that performance review might need to be implemented to justify salary increases. Nancy Kin also commented on the importance of performance reviews. Following lengthy discussion, motion made by Dick Irwin, seconded by Sam Vandervelde to amend the proposed budget to provide 3% salary increases for Organist, Secretary and Sexton—5 voted to approve, 3 opposed with 1 abstention. Motion made by Rick Hunter, seconded by Tom Mac Mahon to approve the amended budget by balancing salary increases under "other income" with amount to be contributed by Vestry member; all in favor. Regarding Diocesan Assessment, intent is to review budget toward end of 2010 and make additional contribution as appropriate. Upon motion by Rick Hunter, seconded by Lisa Littlejohn, amended budget approved with 1 opposed.

Elaina Smith will give a Fellowship & Formation Ministry Report at the January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M. upon motion by Sally Elliott, seconded by Nancy Kear.

Caroline J. Maloney, Vestry Clerk