

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Regular Vestry Meeting
June 15, 2009**

There was a regular meeting of the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill, on Monday, June 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Dixon House.

Those present were: The Rev. Cliff Cutler, presiding, also, Cathy Davis, Betsy Evans, Cathy Glazer, Sarah Heckscher, Matt Hyde, Alix Jones, Steve Heimann, Barbie Kimberly, Bob Martin, James Pope, Pam Prior, John Rollins and Van Williams.

Rev. Nancy Dilliplane, Pam Gagne and Jake Roak were absent.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Short Form of Evening Prayer

Reverend Cliff Cutler called the meeting to order and led the Vestry in a short form of evening prayer.

B. Listening Hearts Guidelines

Members of the Vestry shared instances of being drawn closer to Christ and the Listening Hearts Guidelines were reviewed. The Rector and the Vestry gave thanks for the wedding of Eric Gagne and Ashley Donohoe. Cathy Glazer thanked all who have helped deliver and sell the plants at St. Paul's that Bonnie McCausland donated from the greenhouse at Erdenheim Farm. The Rector reported that Sam Delorier has accepted our invitation to come to St. Paul's in October to celebrate the Centennial of William Hobart Hare, our second Rector.

C. Approval of the May 18, 2009 Minutes

The May 18, 2009 Minutes were approved with corrections.

D. Review of new members

The Rector reported on new faces at St. Paul's including Elizabeth and Camille Hofheinz and Kali Gross. The Rector reminded the Vestry to introduce themselves to visitors, or anyone standing around alone after church and at fellowship time.

E. Right of the Floor

Beverly Gast and Pat Voigt were guests.

Beverly Gast who teaches Godly Play in the Church School provided an update on the Godly Play education at St. Paul's. Beverly assists Marti Bondelid in the Godly Play I (ages 3-6) classroom. She noted that the Rector and Rev. Nancy Dilliplane have supported the

growth of Godly Play at St. Paul's; they have helped with purchasing materials, sponsored workshops, refurbished classroom and have taught classes. Rev. Nancy Dilliplane and Marti Bondelid are certified Godly Play teachers. Beverly reported on Marti Bondelid's teaching background, her hard work and dedication to keeping the Godly Play going, even in the summer. As a result, the Godly Play I classroom has the largest and most consistent attendance in Church School. Beverly proposed that Marti Bondelid become the Coordinator of Godly Play program and receive remuneration in order to recruit and train new teachers and oversee the continued growth and success of the program. The Rector and the Vestry thanked Beverly for her update, proposal and both she and Marti's hard work and dedication to the Godly Play program.

II. Coordinating Committee

A. Rector's Report

The Rector distributed copies of Rev. Nancy Dilliplane's sermon from May 17 – the Sunday of the Annual Meeting. He noted that the Church School end-of-year celebration had about 40 participants and the attendance at Church School continues to grow. The Parish Supper held on May 31 was very successful. The Rector also reported that Ann Stevens received an award from NIM at their banquet. He noted all the positive energy from these events.

B. Elections for the Coordinating Committee

The Vestry nominated John Rollins of the Stewardship Committee and Barbie Kimberly of the Property Committee to continue to serve, along with the wardens and officers of the Vestry on the Coordinating Committee. They agreed and their nominations were passed unanimously.

C. Accounting Warden's Report

Financial Report for May 2009 -- James noted that there was no written report because we are still in transition from Ed Manwaring to Sean Brennan & Associates.

Data Clean-up -- James noted that the transition to a new accounting firm, recent problems with letters regarding pledge amounts and the fact that it hasn't been done in a number of years, have prompted a clean-up and rebuilding of our financial data information from the last pledge cycle. The importance of keeping the data current and accurate was emphasized. The Rector noted that he has been very pleased with the work on this project and with Brennan & Associates.

D. Stewardship

6-month Pledges – John Rollins reported that pledge cards continue to come in. The Stewardship Committee will meet soon to clear up some issues with pledge letters and amounts. He noted the difficulties which we are trying to overcome with the deficit, attracting

new members, increasing the generosity of existing members, providing accurate feedback and increasing transparency.

III. Decisions Needed

A. RFP for Consultant for Development and Major Gifts.

The Rector noted that we are trying to increase major gifts and fundraising. The Restoration Committee has recommended that we hire major gifts fundraising expertise to assist the Committee and the Rector in on-going efforts to complete deferred maintenance projects and build a solid base of support for the future. This work would be funded outside our budget. An RFP and job description are being developed. Pat Voigt, on behalf of the Restoration Committee, presented these to the Vestry. She reported that the Restoration Committee has raised \$1.7 million, planned several events and developed a major grant to the Partners for Sacred Places. She noted the importance of building a philanthropic culture, cultivating donor prospects and being proactive in planned gift giving. There was a great deal of discussion from the Vestry present concerning the proposal, including support and next steps. It was decided to further refine the RFP and develop a group of candidates for the position. The Rector and the Vestry thanked Pat Voigt and the Restoration Committee for their work on this important endeavor.

B. Letter of Agreement between St. Paul's and Samaritan Counseling Center.

The Rector distributed the Agreement developed by Rod Gagne. The motion to accept the Agreement, with corrections, was passed unanimously.

C. Vestry Retreat.

Discussion was begun regarding the Annual Vestry Retreat, typically Friday night fellowship and a Saturday workshop. Cathy Glazer will begin planning this event for the fall.

IV. Discussion Needed

A. Service in Jesus' Name

Property Committee -- Barbie reported that new roof leaks have developed and the Property Committee is getting estimates for fixing what needs to be repaired now. There are some masonry projects involving patching that need to be done as well. Barbie noted that we have applied for a grant to help with this work for \$65,000 but we will need to raise \$130,000 ourselves.

Outreach – Partnership with Church of the Advocate in North Philadelphia

The Rector noted that the Church of the Advocate has determined they need coaching for their Finance Committee. If any members of the Vestry, Finance and/or Stewardship Committees are willing to meet with them, please contact the Rector.

Communication Committee -- The Rector and Matt Hyde noted that the staff has produced a Parish Events Calendar. Matt requested stories from ministry chairs that can be developed into articles for the Chestnut Hill Local and other venues. A Website Task Force has been meeting and the Press Release list is being revised, along with plans for an Open House for the Press. Matt will keep the Vestry informed of the work of the Communications Committee.

Evangelism Committee -- The Rector noted that this group is working with the Hospitality Committee to provide Breakfast/Refreshments between the 9:00 and 10:30 services during the summer months. The 9:00 service will continue through the summer and Faith in the Arts program for Church School, along with Godly Play, will start June 27.

V. Other Committee Reports and Business

No other business was reported.

VIII. Dismissal

Reverend Cutler led a closing prayer and dismissed the Vestry. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Anderson
Secretary

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry will be held Monday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Dixon House