

**Vestry Minutes**  
**April 18, 2007**

**Present:** The Rev'd Jennifer Pedrick, the Rev'd Scott Gunn, Bill Dench, Richard Messier, Shirley Baker, Steve McGrath, Susan Hawryluk, George Kolb, Marilyn Fuller, Bonnie Wright, Michelle Callahan, Tammi Miller

**Absent:** Mike Seger, Carolyn McDonough, Bob Bergstrand

**Guests:** (for Part I only) - Laura Brion, Linda LeBreux, Virginia Rocha, Beth Dench

At 7:00 PM, The Rev'd Jennifer Pedrick opened the meeting.

**Part I** - celebration and "roast" of the Rev'd Scott Gunn on the occasion of his final vestry meeting.

**Part II - Business meeting**

Marilyn Fuller moved that the minutes of the March 21 meeting be accepted as presented. The Rev'd Pedrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Time** - Bill Dench

The March 2007 actuals and the most recent profit/loss statement were presented. Bill highlighted the fact that though the general fund is in the negative, the checking account is not. All St. Martin's accounts have been closed and the balances were moved into the Church of the Epiphany's accounts. Though some expenses (initial legal costs associated with merger, the Rev'd Shippee's salary, etc.) are ending, we will now need to tap the line of credit from the diocese in the next 10 days.

The profit/loss statement initially projected a \$2000 loss, but is actually a \$7800 loss at this point. Bill stated this is partially due to timing, but is also due to real losses due to the cancellation of chowder house dates. Those events were expected to bring in \$1213, but some of that has been made up by new pledges and an increase in open plate giving in the first quarter. Bill also reported that there has been an increased cost associated with additional hours worked by Beth Dench (about 25 hours per week vs. the budgeted 20). This is expected to decrease over time. Bill stated that we are indeed still on track to meet the budget, as pledges "are in good shape" to cover part of our losses while our stove is out of commission.

The Rev'd Pedrick questioned a remaining negative Tanzania line. The Rev'd Gunn explained that the remaining costs will be covered by a donation, but it just has not been set up yet to zero out that line.

Under the heading of "leadership", Bill then discussed his recent desire to do more than "watch the numbers". As such, he has felt a particular calling to pray for the deceased and their families, and has attended several wakes and/or funerals in the past few months. He cited this as an example of how he felt he could "lead not only the business of the church, but the spirituality of it as well." He called upon the vestry to think about what they might do to meet this need. The Rev'd Pedrick thanked Bill for the visits he's made and for his witness. Marilyn Fuller agreed that we as lay leaders need to be more visible as we move into a program church format.

**Merger Update** - property subgroup (Richard Messier, Marilyn Fuller, Steve McGrath, Bill Dench)

Marilyn reported that the group will soon be meeting with Olympus commercial real estate firm. Among other points, they will be asking whether it would be better to sell the former St. Martin's parcel as a whole, or whether it would be better to sell the parish house separately. They would also like the firm to evaluate options regarding the YMCA lease and will ask them to focus on keeping the building as a church if at all possible.

Marilyn also revealed that there is a party interested in purchasing the organ. It has been appraised, but was not part of the selling price set for the parcel. Richard Messier moved that we sell the organ, and Michelle Callahan seconded. In discussion, Richard said the organ was "part of the furnishings, not part of the church" and that "no one who has looked at the church has mentioned it". Steve McGrath asked if a purchase price had been proposed, and Marilyn answered that there was none, but that the party was aware of the appraisal range. Bill Dench asked if it could be sold as-is, and the Rev'd Pedrick replied that the specific terms would be delineated at a future meeting. The motion then passed unanimously.

Michelle Callahan then moved to amend the motion to state that if the purchase price were within the appraisal range, that the property subgroup be authorized to accept the offer versus bringing it back before the full vestry. Richard added that the acceptance should include the caveat that the buyer would be responsible for moving the organ. Marilyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The Rev'd Pedrick then stated that, as seen in the last meeting, the way we handle selling the former St. Martin's property and the business thereof is hard for many and that we need to remain aware of this. The Rev'd Pedrick added that we must "be sensitive to ways we may offend others unknowingly." Michelle Callahan added that it has been hard for some older former St. Martin's parishioners, who grew up in the church and whose families paid for pews and windows over time, to hear that it could be bulldozed.

Steve McGrath reported on the property title issues. After speaking with attorney Jim Hahn on April 13, resolution was still pending. Steve reiterated the need to resolve any issues as soon as possible. He reported Atty. Hahn stated that he still sees no problem and that the title should be cleared within 60-90 days, including any notice to heirs. Atty. Hahn further asked that if we receive a viable offer on the property in the meantime, he should be notified.

The Rev'd Gunn and Richard Messier next reported on the Diocesan Council meeting they attended this afternoon. The Council announced a draft policy delineating where the proceeds of the property sale should go. It states that "all net proceeds of the merger, to include sale of real estate/church and any endowments, minus any merger costs and liabilities" should be divided so that the "first \$500,000 goes to the newly created merged entity". However, a "clear strategic plan" for the use of the money must be presented before it is released. The remainder of the proceeds would go to the diocese.

The Rev'd Gunn added that a significant portion of that money would go to a congregational development fund within the diocese, and that we could therefore ask for those funds. Steve McGrath stated that such a policy acts to make our incentive in selling the property to be to make a faster sale, not necessarily a sale for a higher price, since our benefit is fixed. The Rev'd Gunn related that the draft policy includes the formation of a diocesan merger team, made up of clergy and lay folk, to handle merger issues. He said the people proposed were a "very capable, smart, detached" group, and that once this group is announced some concerns may be alleviated. Michelle Callahan then asked for clarification. She stated that a levy of 50% or more is excessive, and that beyond a fair amount, the proceeds should come to our church. The Rev'd Pedrick acknowledged that it was indeed a good question and an ongoing legal issue to be brought to our lawyer's attention. She asked that Steve McGrath relay the policy to Atty. Hahn.

The next Coffee & Conversation will be held in early June, after the 10:30 service.

#### Rector Time-The Rev'd Jennifer Pedrick

The Rev'd Pedrick began by saying that though things seem hard with the Rev'd Shippee and the Rev'd Gunn leaving, it's a great challenge for us. She stated that area clergy not otherwise employed have offered clerical ministry help. However, at the retreat, the vestry's job will be "prayerful discernment" to determine where clergy support is now needed and what the next assistant position will look like. She further noted we may take on a temporary assistant until we decide what type of person is needed.

The Rev'd Pedrick also announced that Carolyn McDonough has stepped down as Junior Warden. Steve McGrath had offered to take the position if he was so elected. Richard Messier moved to appoint Steve as Junior Warden, Michelle Callahan seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Richard Messier received a gift of a prayer book/hymnal as thanks for his tenure as Junior Warden at St. Martin's. He had been on vacation at the time of the annual meeting, when other awards were presented.

#### Assistant's Time - The Rev'd Scott Gunn

The Rev'd Gunn presented a draft "newcomer protocol" and "info sheet" to delineate the steps that should be taken to welcome and incorporate new church members, should they choose to become members. He explained that most people coming to a church for the first time are undergoing a significant transition, such as moving, a family change such as a new baby, a crisis, etc. He went on to say, "It's a holy thing that's happening (for someone to first come to our church). If God's leading them here, we don't want to screw it up." Clergy will make an early contact with a new member. If the person continues to attend Church of the Epiphany, it will be important for lay leaders to then invite them to check out the ways they

can become involved. Linda LeBreux will be organizing "newcomer evenings", a "no commitment" chance to learn more about what membership here means, participation in giving and parish groups, etc. Three times a year, on "Welcoming Sundays", new members will be invited to a dinner to connect and learn more.

Therefore, a new lay position of Newcomer Coordinator is needed, to map out and follow up on connections that need to be made in order for those investigating Church of the Epiphany to be engaged. The Rev'd Pedrick added that the positions of Youth Education Coordinator and Pastoral Care Coordinator are also open for anyone who may feel called to that work.

Regarding a third service, the Rev'd Gunn presented a general timeline, plan and budget. He and the Rev'd Pedrick had met to discuss a potential candidate for musician coordinator for a third service, therefore funding must be secured to hire someone. If the donor of the music grant and the vestry is amenable, then some of the excess in that fund could be used. The goal is for the service to be self-funding by 2009. Steve McGrath asked if that would shorten the life of the grant, and the Rev'd Gunn answered that it would not.

Richard Messier then asked why the service is planned for Sundays, not Saturdays. The Rev'd Gunn reiterated that the type of music, "church" language, and style of service would attract a different group of parishioners and new members. An alternative service which may have a flexible seating arrangement, different types of music (world music, percussion, as well as more traditional instruments, etc.) on Sunday evening at 5PM keeps Sunday as the Lord's day. Also, families and people who may go away on weekends may attend a service later on Sunday. The Rev'd Gunn also stated that this trial service is not meant to be a new version of a Saturday service offered at St. Michael & Grace some years ago.

The Rev'd Pedrick asked if there was a way to Google more information on such a service to give people an idea of what it might entail. The Rev'd Gunn suggested searching "emerging church" or "Church of the Apostles Seattle" for descriptions and music samples. Michelle Callahan asked if the Rev'd Pedrick would lead this service. The Rev'd Pedrick replied that at times she may, but that she is not the point person for it. The musician coordinator would take the lead in the design, and the new assistant may lead, depending on their role.

#### Senior Warden - Marilyn Fuller

Marilyn Fuller reported that we have raised \$10,719 to date in our fundraising campaign to replace and improve the kitchen and stove. Another reminder will be in the bulletin.

A representative from Bose met with Mike Seger and The Rev'd Gunn, and a quote was generated. Now The Rev'd Gunn and Mike will meet to outline our requirements so other bids may be sought.

No leaks were found in the sacristy after the most recent round of heavy rains, and after roof repairs were made. At next vestry meeting, ways to cover the repair cost will be discussed.

April 27 and 28 are dates for a stay-over Vestry retreat. The Bergstrands have offered their home in Little Compton as a meeting and lodging space, and other accommodations are available in the area. A consultant on congregational development will be part of the meeting. Vestry members coordinated lodging and food arrangements.

At 9:30 the meeting adjourned with a prayer from the Rev'd Gunn.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammi Miller, vestry clerk

