

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
July 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

The Vestry of St. Stephen's Church met on Tuesday, July 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Small Fellowship Hall. Those present were: L.H. Ginn, Senior Warden; Bev Bates, Junior Warden, Thomas Parrish, Register, Bill Armstrong, Treasurer and other vestry members: Richard Clary, Tom Coulbourn, John Gayle, Anne Hardage, Anne Hines, Emily Krudys, Freddy Moore, Peter Pastore, Anne Pole, Anne Satterfield, Stukie Valentine, Kristin Wickersham and Marti Thomas, President of the Women of St. Stephen's.

Also attending were staff members: Abbott Bailey, Associate Rector, Weezie Blanchard, Deacon, : Janet Allen, Associate for Membership and Development, Paul Evans, Facilities Manager and Mary Frances Siersema, Recording Secretary.

- I. Freddy Moore opened the meeting with prayer.
- II. Gary Jones gave a brief history of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and the vestry toured the Atrium where the children will worship each Sunday.
- III. The minutes of the May & June vestry meetings were approved.
- IV. Committee Reports:

Standing Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee: Bill Armstrong gave the treasurer's report which is attached.

B. Stewardship Committee – Peter Pastore reported that 8 vestry members had made their calls to canvassers. If you haven't made your calls please do so as soon as possible. The committee has decided that they would like to offer credit cards and bank drafts as an option for payment of pledges to the church next year. There was a discussion. A motion was made, 2nd and passed that this be offered as a form of payment for the canvass next year.

C. Building and Grounds

1. Parking Lot lighting – Tom Coulbourn reported that the lighting in the parking lot would begin soon and hopefully will be completed by the end of the month. The cost will be \$15,300 which is under the \$18,200 allotted for the lighting.

2. Front Lawn Signage There was a discussion concerning signage regarding our services.

D. Special Gifts

1. Parish House Flooring - L. H. reported that a gift of new tile flooring, matching the floors in the Fellowship Hall, is being given by an anonymous donor. This includes the painting, new treads on the stairs and carpet in the coffee room. This work will begin the end of July and go into the first of August.

- E. Front Door Ministry - L.H. said that we will begin having Greeters at all the services this summer. There will be 3 Greeters outdoors and 3 along the hall in the parish house with tables and materials. There will be indoor signage with directions concerning where to go. It will take 6 or more to do the job. Marion Chenault is in charge of this project.

Anne Satterfield asked that on Sunday mornings the usher standing beside the stairs leading to the main altar be aware of parishioners that need help going up and coming down those steps for communion.

Project Teams:

- A. Pictorial Directory – L.H. reported that almost 200 have had their pictures taken for the directory. You can sign up or they take walk ins as well. They are updating the directory information at this time also.
- B. Katrina Relief Mission Trips – David Anderson reported that 18 people went on the 4th trip to help with the Katrina Relief project. Parishioners from St. Stephen's as well as some people from smaller churches joined our group. We have become a vehicle for this project in the city. Lynn Ivey is heading the project team. The Episcopal church has a major role in the clean up and restoration down there. We will go again in October and hope to take around 30 people.
- C. Dominican Republic Fact-finding Trip – Bill Sachs and Buck Blanchard are with a group of parishioners in the Dominican Republic at this time on a fact finding trip. They want to see what needs to be done and how we can continue to be of help there.
- D. February Outreach Auction and May Fair Celebration – David Anderson reported that plans are being made for the 2nd outreach support function. Nancy Thompson and Donnon O'Keefe are going to chair "For the Love of Children" which will be a silent

auction here at St. Stephen's on February 1st. The items will be from St. Stephen's parishioners only and the funds raised will go to support the outreach of children.

- E. U2charist – Thomas Parrish reported that the joint service with Holy Comforter went extremely well with over 300 people attending. They raised \$2,300 for the Millennium Development Goals. Abbott did a great job and things went well.
- F. Centennial Celebration –L.H. reported that Alice Goodwin and John Bates have agreed to chair the Centennial Celebration.

VI. Rector's Report - Gary reported there was a wonderful article in the Richmond Free Press of an interview with David Anderson. On September 30 we will have "Hands Across Richmond" at the 11:15am service.

Vestry Leadership Program Gary said he would like for the vestry to think about activities that would be beneficial to our vestry. There are 6 people in each of 3 classes. He said it would be interesting for example if each 1st year class went on a spiritual retreat at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Boston. The 2nd year class could attend the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Churches and the 3rd year class would take a mission trip to work on Katrina relief, the Dominican Republic, South Africa, a special project with the Center for Reconciliation and Mission, or a special project in East End Richmond.

- A. Visioning Process – Where will St. Stephen's be in the next 10 years. There is so much going on here. We are a vehicle for rebuilding lives in Katrina, central to the efforts made at Fair Field Elementary School which is one of the best in the city now. We are engaged in an important ministry at Peter Paul Development Center. There are challenges in the Dominican Republic and there are children in South Africa that are heads of their household because of Aids and they can't get through the day without our help. During the 70's here at St Stephen's there was a proposal that we strive for a 50-50 budget. All that we do is outreach, but 50% of the budget would go to St. Stephen's and 50% to ministry outside the church.(Peter Paul, Dominican Republic, Katrina, etc.) (attachment) Gary said this would be a challenge and is a proposal to think about for a while.

VII. The vestry went into executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frances Siersema
Recording Secretary