

Members Present: Dick Lawrence, Whit Rayner, Ruby Medlin, Reggie Sims, Pete Clark, Liz Risher, Hermine Welch, Seymour Pooley, and Nicole Stein

Members Absent: Pat Evans, Kenny O'Neal, and Leslie LeDoux

Others Present: Steve Downs and Mary Lea MacGregor

Vestry Clerk: Maridine Wall

Alston opened with a prayer. He welcomed Nicole Stein, the new Vestry member from the Youth and also welcomed Mary Lea MacGregor. Mary Lea made a presentation to the Vestry of a check for \$4,550.00 from the sale of the little porcelain keepsake boxes. She requested that the money be channeled through "Day in the Country" so that they would receive credit for it, and then would like this money to be a restricted designated gift to be added to the yearly payment on the Chapel debt.

Alston moved and Dick seconded a motion asking that this be done and that thanks be given to the MacGregors and all who helped in this loving project. The motion passed unanimously.

Ruby Medlin introduced Nicole Stein, our new Vestry member from the Youth.

Old Business:

Reggie moved and Pete seconded a motion that the September minutes be approved. The motion passed.

Alston asked for volunteers to fill two Vestry member slots to sit on the Wardens' Nominating Committee. Liz Risher volunteered, and Alston will ask for another representative to serve also.

New Business:

Diocesan Pledge: The Diocese would like the Chapel's pledge by October 31. Our current pledge is 12%. The Bishop would like to increase the Diocesan budget by \$500,000 in order to support clergy on the Coast who will no longer be receiving outside support. This had previously been provided for them because of Hurricane Katrina's devastation. Alston asked for discussion on this matter. Discussion followed, and it was decided that the Vestry would vote on the matter at the November Vestry Meeting after the Bishop's visit.

Vestry Election for 2008: Don Bates and Beth Yerger will serve on the Vestry Election committee along with Commission Chairs. Three new members will be elected. Alston is hoping for a slate of 10-12 candidates.

Bishop Gray's Visit: There will be a dinner at the Sims home on October 28 for Vestry Members and their spouses to honor Bishop Gray. Reggie also mentioned the dinner at

Leslie LeDoux's home on October 30 and emphasized that the Vestry members should plan to attend both.

Senior Warden and Strategic Development: Reggie reported that the Strategic Development Committee had unanimously recommended that the Vestry engage Jonathan Austin and Jim Ealy to give an architectural proposal for a new sanctuary. He also moved that we get Jonathan to provide a proposal (quote) on the cost. Seymour seconded the motion. At this point they will be considered the architect of choice. An independent architect will review the proposal to see if it is realistic. The choice of architect could change if the proposal isn't accepted. The motion was approved.

Commission Reports:

Finance: Steve Downs reported that we were approximately \$49,000 behind at this time. This is due primarily to pledges that have not been paid to date. He also reported that this is a typical pattern for this time of year and that many people wait until the end of the year to pay their pledges. Reggie moved and Ruby seconded a motion that the financials be approved as presented. The motion passed.

Steve also reported that he had reviewed the records since 1999 when 1.3 million dollars was raised. Since that time we have reduced the debt service by \$775,000. This has come from the Building Fund rather than the Operating Budget.

It was announced that Dale Markham will no longer provide financial work for the church. His wife Donna, who is a CPA, is willing to assume this responsibility. She would keep the same monthly books and records. The Finance Committee unanimously recommended that we retain her as the Chapel's financial accountant under the same terms as Dale's agreement. Whit moved and Pete seconded the motion that the Vestry approve the recommendation. It was approved. Dick recommended that we provide a gift to Dale in order to thank him for his long-time service. Leslie LeDoux will oversee the selection of the gift.

Day in the Country Update: Reggie reported that DITC was approximately \$3000 ahead of last year in terms of gross receipts but that final figures were not available.

Christian Growth:

Mothers' Morning Out currently has 21 enrolled and we are reaching capacity there. Plans are being made to have the program four days a week. Training is being planned for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The youth are doing well. Overall numbers, however, are down for attendance from this time last year. She also reported that the Men's Club had taken care of moving the wall between the acolyte vesting room and the Sunday School class.

Christian Service: no report

Building and Grounds: Alston reported that there will be a light pole installed in the back parking lot and that another one would be placed in another strategic location for safety. Tree trimming has been done. The air conditioning and heat was inspected, but the estimate for repair was high. Another estimated will be gotten. Alston will also make a recommendation for planting cedar trees along Highway 463. The air conditioner has been installed in the Parish Hall. Also, the foundation report is back, and future problems are not anticipated.

Wardens' Reflection: none

Clergy Reflection: The Chapel Staff will have a retreat at Gray Center on October 18. The office will be closed. Alston also mentioned the hard work and dedication of the Chapel Staff.

Nicole led the Vestry in Compline to close the meeting.