

**Chapel of the Cross**  
**January Vestry Meeting**  
**January 12, 2005--7:00pm**

Vestry members present: Al Doty, Sr. Warden, Scott Carter, Jr. Warden, Brad Ewing, Bill Fanning, Suzanne Files, Philip Gaines, Ruby Medlin, Keith Obert, David Senn

Others present: Ron DelBene, Interim Rector; David Christian, Associate Rector; Judy Barnes, Clerk; Steve Downs, Treasurer; Frank Spencer, Deacon

**SCRIPTURE PRAYER**

The meeting was opened by Ron DelBene. The scripture reading was from the Gospel of John. Ron presided over the meeting.

**CONSENSUS ITEMS**

Membership in Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi

Frank Spencer provided information regarding the formation of Lutheran-Episcopal Services in Mississippi, Inc. He described the advantages of both denominations joining to address needs within the state. He asked the vestry to approve the Chapel's membership in the organization and allow him to serve as the Chapel's representative on the LESM Board.

Philip Gaines made a motion that the Chapel of the Cross become a member of LESM and designate Frank Spencer as the Chapel's representative. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Files and approved unanimously.

Approval of December Minutes

David Senn made a motion to accept the minutes of the December regular meeting and executive session without changes or additions. The motion was seconded by Bill Fanning and approved unanimously.

Automated External Defibrillator

Suzanne Files reported a medical director has been arranged. She has gotten a price quote for the machine and collected training information. A parishioner has offered to raise funds to pay for the AED. There was discussion that ushers, vergers and clergy in particular should be trained in its use. The junior warden will be responsible for the routine maintenance and care of the device.

Suzanne Files made a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment, proceed with training details and approve Charles Warwick to arrange funds to pay for the AED. The motion was seconded by Scott Carter and approved unanimously.

Approval of Financial Report

Steve Downs presented the Operating Budget vs Actual and Balance Sheet reports through December 2004.

Brad Ewing made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Bill Fanning and approved unanimously.

2005 Budget

Al Doty noted the Finance Committee had worked very hard on developing the Preliminary 2005 Budget. After discussion, Brad Ewing made a motion to tentatively approve the proposed 2005 Budget to be formally approved by the new vestry at its first meeting next week. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Files and approved unanimously.

**UPDATES FOR OUR INFORMATION**

Parish Meeting Agenda

Ron asked the convenors to give concise verbal overviews of their commissions. He also asked the vestry members to sit at the tables in the front of the parish hall. If there are no nominations from the floor, one ballot will be used.

Christian Education Program

Ron said the work on the new catechesis room should begin as soon as possible. In the reorganization one or two rooms will be available for the knitting group and possibly another adult Sunday School class.

Office Renovation

Ron reported that Carrie and Judy painted their offices last weekend and the new furniture is in place. He invited the vestry members to check out the new look.

Christian Service Commission

Suzanne Files provided a handout describing the activities of the committees in her commission. Holly Guillory will be the new Pastoral Care chair. She said the teams had been very successful this year with Leslie's leadership and Carrie's help. They expect to have 3 cook days during the year and will be reorganizing the team leaders. Carol Hartman and Mary Kelly Secrest will be helping Lisa Ewing with the Hospitality Committee. David Senn noted that Leslie LeDoux will be chairing A Day in the Country and her co-chair, Heather Johnson, is moving. The Co-Sin group has dissolved. Suzanne suggested that Sports and Recreation organize a tennis team as well as a men's softball team.

Christian Stewardship Commission

Brad Ewing said all follow up phone calls may not have been made yet to 2004 pledgers who have not pledged for 2005.

Christian Growth Commission

Philip Gaines reported there is interest in another adult Sunday School class. The children's education area is going well thanks to Ruby's leadership in that area. The youth program continues to thrive.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

There were no additional agenda items.

WARDENS' REFLECTIONS ON MINISTRY

Scott Carter reported he was still talking with the adjuster regarding the parish hall roof damage. The Dewees House and garage need rotting wood repair and painting to protect them from further damage. The two quotes he has gotten were both about \$18,000. He noted part of the 2004 A Day in the Country proceeds (\$7500) was set aside for historic property preservation and there are additional funds in the DITC Fund that could be used for the project. There is also \$7000 available from a Dewees House roof damage insurance settlement.

Al Doty made a motion to use the \$7500 from the DITC 2004 profits already designated for historic preservation and repair, the roof damage settlement from Other Designated Funds and money from the DITC Fund to paint and repair the Dewees House and garage with a cap of \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Bill Fanning and approved unanimously. Al noted Scott has agreed to continue to follow up with the Dewees house painting project and he is also looking into converting the property from propane to natural gas.

Al Doty noted it had been an eventful year with many ups and downs. He thanked the vestry members for all their help and support during the year.

Celebration of Retiring Vestry Members

Earlier in the meeting Ron passed around to everyone lists of leadership characteristics and large drawings of award ribbons with the retiring wardens' and vestry members' names at the top. All were asked to choose the characteristics that best suited each retiree and write them on their 'ribbon.' He read the characteristics and gave each their 'ribbon.'

CLERGY REFLECTIONS ON MINISTRY

Ron noted his joy and excitement at being at the Chapel. He expressed appreciation for this vestry's hard work.

DISMISSAL BLESSING

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 16, 2005 10:00am ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 19, 2005 7:00pm FIRST MEETING OF NEW VESTRY