

Vestry Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2008  
4:00 PM Library

- I. Present: Father Owens, Rev Royer, Dottie Bowen, Ray Cook, Linda Wakefield, Burt Harding, Ken Miller
- II. Absent: Alex Perri
  
- III. Father Owens opened the Vestry meeting with a discussion about numerous folks in the Parish who are grieving over various issues from the loss of a loved one, or a business reversal or the need to move. While the people were different, the grief was the same. Many people in our Parish are hurting, we need to be in prayer for them and to remember that we have a large, active and caring group of Pastoral Care Ministers to help in time of need.
  
- IV. Financial Reporting
  - a. Giving, while lower than historical, appears to be within normal ranges. The current economic condition is being watched and considered carefully, although we do not know what impact it might have over the long term, nor has anyone spoken with Father Owens concerning their inability to honor their pledges.
  - b. Expenses were higher than historic for the month. Because of our new banking agreement, the total expenses for the month reflect a 45-day cost of debt service.
  - c. Year-to-date income remains ahead of expenses.
  - d. The diocese proposed accounting and database management system, Shelby, has not yet been approved for adoption by the diocese. The original plan required a minimum of 10 churches to adopt the system in order to spread the capital cost. Only 8 have agreed to become participants at this time and the diocese will determine early next year if the project is financially feasible.
  - e. The Stewardship Committee report was given by Burt Harding.
    - 1. The Creative Giving article for this month will address "Charitable Rollover" of IRAs
    - 2. Financial Peace University will be offered to the Parish beginning on February 2, 2009. The team of Burt Harding, Tom Wheelan, Alan Ward, and Rich North will begin the process of advertising in early November. Attendance will be limited to 80 people. A preview of the program will be presented on January 12, 2009. The cost is \$95.00 and scholarships will be considered.
  - f. The loan refinancing package should be finalized by October 30.
  - g. The Annual Stewardship Campaign was discussed at length:

1. Father Owens will send a personalized letter to each member of the Parish thanking them for the time, talent, and treasure they have returned to the Lord over the past year. This letter will be accompanied by a "Time and Talent" Pledge for 2009 and 14-day devotional entitled "Test Me in This"
2. Each ministry leader will send a personal thank you note to all the members of their ministry.

V. Other

- a. St. John's Mission in Charleston.
  1. The Board of Trustees of St. Johns Mission and several churches in the Charleston area are in full support of "rebuilding" the Mission.
  2. St. Michaels is the mother church and will provide mentoring day-to-day support.
  3. Father Owens will present the plan to the Congregational Development Committee of the diocese later this month. If approved, funding will be made available from several sources to begin work immediately.
  4. Bishop Lawrence is in full support.
- b. Calendars through June 2009 were distributed.
- c. The Sarah Groves concert went very well.
- d. The potential of mission support through Gospel for Asia was discussed. Rev. Royer will discuss this group with contacts of his in Operation Mobilization and provide his findings to the Vestry.
- e. Dottie Bowen discussed her belief that the Holy Spirit is moving at TCOTC to step out in faith in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- f. Ray Cook will provide next month's devotion.
- g. Linda Wakefield and Ken Miller attended a week-long leadership training program developed and delivered by Stephen Ministries. The program was extraordinarily well designed and was attended by approximately ninety-five individuals, many of them pastors, from across the country and representing many denominations. Linda and Ken will be meeting with Father Owens to discuss the application of this "Breakthrough Leadership" approach with leaders of Parish ministries.

VI. The next Vestry meeting will be on Nov 20, 2008 in the Parish Hall Library.

VII. Rev Royer closed the meeting with prayer.