

**Vestry Minutes**  
**R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church**  
**November 15, 2010**

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of R. E. Lee Memorial Church was held Monday, November 15, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of the church.

**Present:** The Rev. Tom Crittenden (chair), John Milford (Senior Warden), Judy Glick (Junior Warden), Suzanne Carmichael, Jay Crawford, Doug Cumming, Punky Dod, Mary Doyle, Elizabeth Harralson, Sarah Lanford, Julia Littlefield, Dick Rathmell, Steve Riethmiller, Gloria Smitka, Don Whittington, and Gail Dick, (clerk). **Absent:** Tim Gaylard. **Vestry Elect Members present:** Melissa Cox, Don Ellis, Howard Pickett, and Mary Webster. **Guest:** Barbara Luton, Stewardship Chair person.

**Opening and Prayers:** Tom asked for any prayer concerns and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of October Minutes:** Stand as published.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Stewardship:** Barbara Luton was present on behalf of the Stewardship Committee. Follow-up letters have been sent out to those parishioners who have not returned their pledges. It is now the time in the all member canvass for follow-up phone calls. Barbara had a list of those people who have not returned their pledges. She read the names and asked for the Vestry members to volunteer to call these parishioners who pledged last year and/or are active members of the church. There were approximately 75 people to be called. Barbara asked that the lists and responses be turned into Kay Horner by December 1<sup>st</sup>. So far this year, 151 pledges have been returned totaling \$326,681. Last year there were 183 pledges totaling \$356,500. The goal for this coming year is \$395,000.
- **Finance Committee:** Suzanne Carmichael went over the current financial statements. She noted that free will offering income is down by about \$10,000. Tom noted that pledges are still coming in well. Utilities and maintenance expenses are running over budget for the year by about \$2,000, probably due to the severe winter. However, office expenses are down for the year by about \$2,200. Suzanne noted that a bequest from Lucy Buford's estate in the amount of \$50,000 has been received. The only stipulation to this bequest is that one half (\$25,000) must be used for repairs and maintenance of the church.

- **Property Committee:**

Steve noted that the church sign has been repainted and he will get that hung back up this week.

Steve went over the water situation again for the new Vestry members present. He noted that a couple of months ago he had received a call from Kay stating that a monthly water bill had been about \$1000 and this was thought to be due to the pressure washing during repointing. After a second bill showed the same amount, it was thought this was not the case. Steve called Stanley Dudley and Mr. Pruett to evaluate the situation. It was discovered that there was a water line break between the meter and the church. Mr. Dudley, Steve, and a friend of Steve's located the leak which turned out to be in very old pipes. It was decided to leave the old pipes in place but to run a new line between the undercroft and the parish house where it connects to the meter.

Currently the water is being shut off at night. Before tonight's Vestry meeting, Tom sent an e-mail to all Vestry members asking if they approve/disapprove of the Finance Committee's

recommendation that the Vestry approve an amount not to exceed \$5000 from Designated Capital Fund monies to repair the leak in the water line. The \$5,000 cap is desired should unforeseen conditions be uncovered while laying the new line. A majority of the Vestry members approved. This repair should take place this week or next. When the leak is fixed, Steve will write a letter to David Woody and a credit will be applied to the next bill.

Steve got an estimate for repairing the loose stone on the front steps of the church. This estimate from John Emore was \$2500. Tom suggested holding up on this for a while. However, Anna Crockett said there was money available in the Property Fund so the project to fix the front steps will proceed.

John Milford noted that there is now a new ceiling in the undercroft and encouraged all to take note. It was completed two days ago. John will meet with a lady from Southern Electric and get an estimate as to the cost of installing safety lighting outside and inside the church. A roofing man is to look at the flat roof area of the Parish House and provide an estimate for replacing/redesigning this part of the roof to prevent leakage. Steve noted that the gutter had been repaired. He did not know when or by whom. The gutters still need to be cleaned out.

#### **New Business:**

- **2011 Pledge to the Diocese:** Representing the Finance Committee, Suzanne Carmichael told the Vestry that according to the Diocesan formula, R. E. Lee Church's pledge to the Diocese this coming year would be right at \$46,000 (\$45,894.48). Our pledge to the Diocese since 2007 has been \$52,000 each year. This represents a \$6,000 decrease. The Finance Committee recommends that the Vestry give the Diocese \$46,000 for the year 2011.

**Suzanne moved that the Vestry agree with the recommendation from the Finance Committee to give the Diocese \$46,000 for the year 2011.**

Much discussion followed. Several Vestry members did not agree with reducing the pledge. Others stressed the budgetary needs of R.E. Lee Church. It was suggested perhaps pledging the \$46,000 but let the Diocese know that would be the minimum pledge and that more could be pledged if funds become available. Tom will keep this item on the agenda for a few months to remind the Vestry of the possibility of giving more.

**The motion passed to agree with the recommendation from the Finance Committee to give \$46,000 to the Diocese.**

- **Vestry appointment to Gadsden Committee:** Roger Crockett will be going off the Gadsden Committee at the end of December. This is a Vestry appointed position. Tom asked that the Vestry members be thinking of a possible candidate. Elizabeth asked that this appointment be made by the Gadsden's December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. This person must be active in the church and known to the treasurer. Current members of the Gadsden Committee are: Myra Brush, Roger Crockett, Dennis Cross, Bob deMaria, Lu Dooley, Julia Littlefield, and Louise Moore, who will serve through December and then Anna Crockett will take her place.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Gadsden Trust Agreement:** Tom asked that the Vestry come up with any changes to the Gadsden Trust Agreement at this evening's meeting. The Vestry and the Trustees need to agree on any changes that are made. Tom handed out the proposed changes to the agreement. Tom asked if the Vestry members were interested in **discussing** the major change to the agreement which is "automatically setting aside 25% each year from the Gadsden Endowment which would

be put into a fund called Vestry/Trustee Gadsden Capital Fund.” The majority of the members present were interested in discussing this change.

After much discussion, **Jay moved that the Vestry approve the wording in Proposal 4 as a change to the Gadsden agreement in Section VI. H. Those in favor were 10, those opposed were 4, no abstentions.** This recommendation will be sent to the Trustees for approval. The Trustees will meet on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Current Trustees are Anna Crockett, Bob Glidden, Elizabeth Harralson, Farris Hotchkiss, and Louise Moore.

**Julia moved that the other suggested revisions of the Gadsden Agreement be approved. These being items B, C, and E in Section IV and item B in section VII. All agreed.**

**Comments by the Wardens:**

- **Judy Glick** No comment
- **John Milford** noted that Ben Connelly is working on an Eagle Scout project. He wants to do something to help R. E. Lee Church. He needs to organize his project and find people to help him if necessary. Landscaping or improving the playground were two possible projects suggested by Vestry members.

**Comments by the Rector:** Tom noted that the Vestry retreat will be held Friday and Saturday January 14-15, 2011 at the Bellfry.

A parish finances session will be held Thursday evening November 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

The monthly meetings with the Rector and available Vestry members will be Wednesday, December 8, 12:00 p.m. in the Welles Room and Sunday, December 12, 9:15 a.m. in Kay’s office.

Tom also made it known that he has a full report on the financing of the repointing of the church available to anyone who would like a copy.

With there being no further business, Sarah Lanford closed with a prayer on outreach from the Prayer Book.

Next meeting will be December 20, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail G. Dick, Clerk