

Vestry Minutes
R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church
August 16, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of R. E. Lee Memorial Church was held Monday, August 16, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of the church.

Present: The Rev. Tom Crittenden (chair), John Milford (Senior Warden), Suzanne Carmichael, Jay Crawford, Doug Cumming, Punky Dod, Mary Doyle, Sarah Lanford, Julia Littlefield, Dick Rathmell, Steve Riethmiller, Gloria Smitka, and Gail Dick, (clerk). **Absent:** Tim Gaylard, Judy Glick (Junior Warden), Elizabeth Harralson, and Don Whittington.

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

Approval of June Minutes: Stand as published.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee did not meet in August. In Don Whittington's absence, Tom distributed and reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the periods ending 6/30/10 and 7/31/10. Pledge returns have been strong through August. Tom noted that expenses are almost \$10,000 under the budgeted amount. He commended his staff in being diligent in curtailing expenses.
- **Property Committee:**

Steve Riethmiller reported that the scaffolding is down and the repointing completed. W&L provided a great deal of help putting up and taking down the scaffolding and saved the church a lot of expense. It is anticipated that John Friedrichs' final bill will be less than first estimated. Steve got in touch with the roofers from Roanoke and they were able to fix the flashing on the bell tower while the scaffolding was still up. While fixing another leak on the roof, the roofers noted that a new roof will be needed at some point in the future. John Friedrichs and John Patterson were able to remove the trees and put gravel down for parking behind the church. John Friedrichs also arranged for the delivery of a yard of concrete which was needed on the side of the church. Kappa Alpha students came and helped spread the concrete as a part of their service project. Gordon Woodcock has organized a painting day for this coming Saturday. He has also put down yellow safety strips on the stairs in the parish house. Tom thanked Steve for all his hard work as Property Chairman.
- **Higher Education for Ministry:** Gloria Smitka reported that her committee met in July to prepare for the upcoming year. August 29th is Rat Sunday here at R. E. Lee Church. She has been updating the committee members as well. Host families for the Rats are needed for the Adopt-a-Rat Program. The committee is exploring new ideas for the Canterbury dinners. She noted that the Worship Committee met in May.
- **Stewardship Committee:** Jay noted that the Stewardship Committee met. Doug Cumming is working on historical legacy articles for the Cross & Crown. The committee will meet again in August.
- **Outreach:** Punky spoke on behalf of the Outreach Committee. The Haitian Boys Choir from a music school in Haiti is touring the United States. On Tuesday September 14, they will present a program at R. E. Lee. Sigma Nu will house the boys and R. E. Lee will provide a dinner.

New Business:

- **Memorial Chimes for St. Francis Choir:** According to Daniel, the total cost of the hand chimes for the St. Francis choir (\$2685) was covered entirely by gifts specified for the chimes, including memorials for Margaret Furgerson Gregory and Esther and Edsel Fitzgerald.

On behalf of the Memorial Gifts Committee, Julia requested that this purchase be approved by the Vestry. The Vestry approved this request unanimously.

- **Request for Gadsden Capital Funds:** The church is still holding funds to paint the balcony and the bell tower. Now that the leaks have been repaired, this project can go on as planned. The Property and Finance Committees are asking the Vestry for approval to request additional funds from Gadsden. The proposed requested funds are as follows:

\$12,000 to offset repointing

3,750 – half for the undercroft ceiling and half for finishing the retaining wall.

15,750

Julia moved that the Vestry ask the Trustees to request \$15,750 from the Gadsden Committee.

Discussion followed. Jay asked if the Vestry could request the allowed 25% from Gadsden. This would bring the total amount requested for the repointing to \$13,091 (which is an additional \$1091 to make the 25%) bringing the total amount requested to \$16,841. There was discussion on renovation of the undercroft with regard to the cost and feasibility of a new drop ceiling and insulation and if that project could proceed. **Jay moved to amend the amount requested from Gadsden to \$16,841. Dick seconded. Amendment carries.** Tom said he would bring this up with the trustees and ask that they get this request to the Gadsden Committee.

Old Business:

- **RATS Transportation for Kendal:** The grant monies that RATS received to transport Kendal residents to R. E. Lee Church each Sunday has run out. The usage of this service has been low and therefore we are faced with cutting off this service. The ECW has agreed to fund this service for four more weeks. After that time period, the church will need to look for funding in the church budget for the coming year if this service is to continue. Suzanne Carmichael has offered to transport the three regular Kendal residents to church each Sunday.
- **Gadsden Trust Agreement:** Tom noted that the Rector, Sr. Warden, and Jr. Warden will invite the trustees to meet with the Vestry to review the Gadsden Trust Agreement this year, in accordance with the stipulation in the document that calls for a review at least every five years. Tom asked the Vestry to select a date for this meeting. Sarah suggested that it be decided if the structure of the agreement or the - procedure for distributing funds be discussed. Tom doesn't feel that the structure of the committee would need to be changed. John suggested that a copy of the agreement be sent to Vestry members for review before this combined meeting. Mary suggested that a time frame be put on the meeting. Doug suggested that the Trustees be invited to the September Vestry meeting to eliminate the need for another meeting. John thought a separate meeting, 1½ hours long, would be a better option. Monday September 13th, 5:30-7:00 has been selected as the date for this meeting. Tom will extend an invitation to the Trustees to join the Vestry on this date.
- **Delegates to Council:** Delegates to Council need to be selected. Council is Friday and Saturday evenings, the last weekend in January 2011. Doug Cumming, Punky Dod, and Sharon Massie have agreed to serve. A fourth person is needed. Tom will ask Don Ellis if he would be willing. Alternates are Melissa Cox, first alternate, and Suzanne Carmichael, second alternate. This proposed slate of delegates was approved unanimously by the Vestry.

Comments by the Wardens:

Judy: Absent

John: John is pleased that so much had been accomplished this summer. School is starting up. New Vestry members will be elected soon. The elections have been moved up to October 10th. The Nominating Committee will consist of outgoing Vestry members, John, Jay, Dick, Elizabeth, and Julia. Tom requested a report from this committee at September's Vestry meeting. Vestry elections will be in October. The new

Vestry members may attend the November and December meetings of the Vestry but will not vote until formally taking office in January 2011.

Comments by the Rector:

Tom was pleased with the turnout for the Lake Robertson service. However, the camping part is not yet well received. Small meetings with the Vestry and Rector will continue/resume, with the next being Sunday August 29 at 9:15 and Wednesday September 1 at 12:00 (rather than 11:00).

Jay closed with Prayer.

Next meeting will be September 20, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail G. Dick, Clerk