

**Vestry Minutes**  
**R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church**  
**December 19, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Vestry of R. E. Lee Memorial Church was held Monday, December 19, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of the church.

**Present:** The Rev. Tom Crittenden (chair), Mary Doyle (Senior Warden), Melissa Cox (Junior Warden), Suzanne Carmichael, Doug Cumming, Punky Dod, Don Ellis, Tim Gaylard, Sarah Lanford, Howard Pickett, Steve Riethmiller, Gloria Smitka, Mary Webster, and Gail Dick, clerk. **Absent:** Alexandra Brown, Judy Glick, and Don Whittington. **New Vestry Members present:** Bob Glidden and David Hansen. **Guest:** Jerry Nay

**Opening and Prayers:** Tom noted current prayer concerns and opened the meeting with prayer.

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

**Presentation by Jerry Nay:** Jerry Nay is present this evening to make the Vestry aware of a special historical gift which has been offered to the parish. Fellow communicant, Colonel Alexander H. Morrison, VMI, emeritus professor, has had a Morrison family Book of Common Prayer (1867) in his possession for many years. This book originally belonged to Mary Custis Lee. It was used in the consecration of the sanctuary of Grace Memorial Church (May 30, 1886), later renamed R. E. Lee Church, and it is full of inscriptions (including one by General Francis H. Smith, founder of Grace Memorial Church). Col. Morrison has approached Jerry about gifting this book to R. E. Lee Memorial Church. Jerry has been working with a team (a list of the team members is attached to these minutes in the minutes' book) to make sure that this valuable book be preserved in the proper museum format. A solid walnut case has been built to preserve the prayer book and a plaque designed (a proposed copy of which is attached to these minutes in the minutes' book). Jerry has been in discussion with Rev. Tom regarding the proper place to display and protect this historical gift. Bob Glidden asked if Jerry would like a motion to accept this very special gift. **Melissa Cox made the motion to accept this historical Book of Common Prayer. Doug Cumming seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** Tom will work with Jerry on arranging a meeting with Col. Morrison to receive this gift.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Finance:** Suzanne Carmichael gave the financial update. The Finance Committee met last Thursday. She noted that pledge monies continue to come in. As of the end of November, we are still about \$12,000 *behind* the goal for 2011. However, the freewill and plate offerings are \$12,000 *ahead* of what was anticipated. The expenses are still under the budgeted amount. The church has received a \$10,000 bequest. The preliminary 2012 budget was handed out and discussed. The actual budget won't be available until January. The Finance Committee has recommended that the amount requested by the diocese be the amount given from R. E. Lee Church and any extra money be given to R. E. Lee's Christian outreach programs. Bob Glidden stated that the Finance Committee's expectation from the Vestry tonight is that the expenditures in the budget be looked at and approved so that current bills can be paid and then in January the budget can be finalized. **Mary Doyle moved that the expenditures listed in the preliminary budget be accepted. Melissa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Property:** Steve related that the Property Committee did not meet this month as there was, thankfully, nothing that needed to be discussed. Steve climbed up on the roof while it was actively raining last week and it appeared that everything was working fine. He called Alex Macheras and he will finish what needs to be done regarding the ceiling replastering. Tom brought up the subject of separation of the south wall and the structural stability of the bridge. Michael Barry-Rec looked at both of these areas and he was more concerned about the bridge. The problems in this area could be earthquake related and he suggested that pictures be taken to

document any change that might occur. He also suggested repointing the bridge and to keep an eye on it. The church has a contract with Gutter Helmet of Blue Ridge to fix the gutters. Apparently the price of copper has come down. The question was raised as to whether or not Gutter Helmet of Blue Ridge could be approached about this price reduction and get a new estimate breaking down materials vs. labor and perhaps to include the gutters on parish house as well.

- **Stewardship:** Howard reported that 182 pledges have been received for a total of \$413,688 pledged which is over the minimal target of \$410,000. On average, pledges were increased a total of 12%. Of the 182 pledges, 101 were increased. There were 14 new pledges. Ten anticipated pledges are still outstanding. R. E. Lee's last two years have showed continued growth. Bob attributed this growth to Howard's work on the Stewardship Committee and Tom's leadership and hard work and, in a very acceptable way, keeping stewardship foremost in parishioners' minds. Tom noted that he was pleased that parishioners have been prompt in getting their pledges in.

**New Business:** The only new business was to discuss the preliminary budget for 2012 and that was covered under finance.

**Old Business:**

- **2012 Vestry Organization:** Tom continues to remind Vestry members to consider the area of leadership where they might best serve. This will be discussed at the retreat.
- **New Wardens:** Suzanne and her committee will have a slate of nominees for the warden positions to be voted on at the retreat in January.

**Comments by the Wardens**

- **Mary Doyle, Sr. Warden:** Mary thanked the Vestry members for their support for the past three years. She also passed the basket (twice!) for Christmas contributions for our sexton, Connie Bryant. Howard raised questions as to how Connie was paid, if she had a contract, if she received benefits. He asked the Finance Committee to review this matter.
- **Melissa Cox, Jr. Warden:** Melissa thanked Sarah Lanford, Tim Gaylard, Don Whittington, Judy Glick and Mary Doyle for their work on the Vestry the past three years.

David Hansen echoed Bob Glidden in his feelings about the positive momentum of the church and that the 10% increase in pledges was very encouraging. He wondered if there were any large projects out there for 2012. Tom hopes that an associate clergy position may be able to be funded in the future.

- **Comments by the Rector:** Tom said they had a successful trip to China. He updated the Vestry on Sarah Elizabeth's progress. He thanked the Vestry and congregation for the continued support in this effort. There will be no meetings with the rector in January. The Vestry retreat will be January 13-14, 2012 at the Belfrey. There will be no regular Vestry meeting in January. Tom noted that progress is being made with regard to the election of a new bishop. He reminded the Vestry that the people who are selected as delegates to council in March will be involved in electing the new bishop.

Howard Pickett closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Dick, clerk