

**Vestry Minutes**  
**R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church**  
**May 16, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Vestry of R. E. Lee Memorial Church was held Monday, May 16, 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), Alexandra Brown, Suzanne Carmichael, Doug Cumming, Punky Dod, Don Ellis, Judy Glick, Sarah Lanford, Howard Pickett, Steve Riethmiller, Gloria Smitka, Mary Webster, Don Whittington, and Gail Dick, (clerk).

**Absent:** Tim Gaylard.

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

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

**Committee Reports:**

- **Finance:** Suzanne reported that the plate, free will, and Easter offerings were above the amount budgeted. Personnel expenses this month were higher than expected. It was felt that the cost for the Lenten speakers was included in the Personnel category this month. Tom concurred. Utilities were under budget this month, thought due to the refund received on the water bill. Music and choir were also under budget. The Finance Committee members spent most of their time talking about the funding for the prioritized projects submitted by the Property Committee.
- **Property:** Steve distributed a note from the Finance Committee, the subject of which was “Urgent and Ongoing Property Needs” as submitted by the Property Committee to the Finance Committee. This memo is attached to these minutes in the Minutes’ Book. Three out of the five projects on the critical needs list were considered by the Finance Committee to be low cost and could be funded from the general operating budget. Those three projects are upgrading of church and parish house electrical system, exterior lighting for church and parish house entrances, and fixing the leak in the bell tower. The Finance Committee is putting together a package to fund all projects within the next two years anticipating a matching grant from the Gadsden Committee. The total cost for all of safety/critical repairs and ongoing priority items is estimated at \$62,000. It is felt necessary to proceed with fixing the leaks in the Parish House. Steve feels that perhaps keeping the gutters clear may be the answer. Tom will e-mail a memo from Bob Glidden regarding the Finance Committee’s recommendation for funding of these above named projects. A copy of that memo is attached to these minutes in the Minutes’ Book.
- **Outreach:** Don Whittington reported that the Outreach Committee has been considering ways in which the church can help Haiti. It was suggested that The Rev. Kesner Ajax be brought to R. E. Lee Church. It is felt that he would be the one who could best advise us as to the needs of Haiti. He is the Executive Director of the Bishop Tharp Institute (BTI), Partnership program coordinator, Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and Priest in Charge of Ascension Church, Beraud. The costs to bring him here need to be considered. He will be at Sewanee in June and could perhaps come to Lexington after that and preach at R. E. Lee.
- **Parish Directory Update:** Judy Glick said that sign-ups for the new pictorial directory are going well. There have been 122 appointments made. The last time the directory was published, there were 109 who signed up. Picture taking will be held May 23-May 27.

### **New Business**

- **Floor anchors for choir pews:** Tom wanted to o.k. the cost for putting in place more permanent anchors for the choir pews. Currently the pews are anchored to the floor with wood screws which loosen when the pews have to be taken up several times. Tom Hart found a more permanent and secure system to anchor the pews. The cost for the new anchors is \$369. Some discussion followed but was ultimately approved by the Vestry.
- **Organ Committee:** Daniel has asked that an organ committee be set up to explore organ options for the future. Those on the committee are Daniel, Tom, Bob Glidden, Buster Lewis, Shane Lynch, William McCorkle, and Mary Webster. The cost and placement of a new pipe organ vs. a new digital organ was discussed.

**Old Business** – none

### **Comments by the Wardens:**

- **Mary** mentioned that, in the past, the Vestry had discussed the idea of informing the congregation regarding planned giving and wondered if this could be carried out. Howard Pickett advised that it is on the future agenda of the Stewardship Committee.
- **Melissa** brought up the subject of convocation and wondered how more parishioners could become involved. She noted that there is a lot of good information available and not many take advantage of it. There are also many opportunities to serve at the Diocesan level. She suggested distributing the “Connections” magazine during coffee hour and ask if one might be interested in knowing more about the diocese.

### **Comments by the Rector:**

- **College Chaplaincy:** Tom said Lyndon Sayers is still waiting to hear about the position of minister at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. It will probably be two more weeks before he hears anything.
- **Labyrinth Garden:** Plans for the Labyrinth garden are moving along. Tom shared that an estimated cost for this garden is about \$30,000. W&L is not interested in contributing any money toward this project.
- **Sunday School Picnic:** Coming up this Sunday is the annual Sunday School Picnic which marks the end of Sunday School and honors the Sunday School teachers.
- **Meet with the Rector:** Upcoming dates for meeting with the rector are Sunday, June 12, at 9:15 a.m. and Tuesday, June 14, at 12:00 p.m.

Tom gave the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Next Vestry meeting June 20, 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail G. Dick, Clerk