

Vestry Minutes
R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church
May 17, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of R. E. Lee Memorial Church was held Monday, May 17, 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, Tim Gaylard, Elizabeth Harralson, Sarah Lanford, Julia Littlefield, Dick Rathmell, Steve Riethmiller, Don Whittington, and Gail Dick, (clerk). **Absent:** Gloria Smitka.

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

Approval of April Minutes: Stand as published.

Committee Reports:

- **Green Committee** – Tom announced that next month will be alternate transportation month. Consideration should be given to walking, bike riding, or carpooling to church.
- **Finance Committee** – Don Whittington reported that the Finance Committee met on May 11, 2010. Revenue and expenses look good. Cash flow is o.k. The committee has carefully considered setting up a Maintenance Endowment Fund. The start-up funds will come from unrestricted endowment funds and the start-up amount will be \$25,000. There are funds from the George Brooke, Jr. bequest which could be used along with some other unrestricted funds to get this Maintenance Fund started. The committee will probably wait until the end of this year to get this new fund established. A few questions were asked about some line items in the budget. Tom asked Julia Littlefield to provide the Vestry with the minutes from the last Gadsden meeting which will be included with the Vestry minutes.
- **Property Committee** – John Milford reported that a successful workday had been held on Saturday May 8th. There were about 10 people who participated. The playground and parking area were cleaned up and some painting of walls on the third floor, in the stairwells, and around the elevator was done. A lot was accomplished but there is a lot more to be done. Another work day will be scheduled in the future to allow more participation.

Steve Riethmiller talked about the leaks in the ceiling on the top floor. They thought all the leaks had been fixed but when Alex Macheras came to replace the ceiling, he discovered there was still a leak. That will need to be fixed. The leaking has been solved in the undercroft. The wall has been repaired and replastered.

Steve has talked with John Friedrichs about the repointing of the church. John would like to begin the first week in June. Steve has also spoken with Mike Dickerson who is in charge of the scaffolding. Mike and John will meet and coordinate their efforts. Steve mentioned again that it was going to cost \$2000 to rent a forklift from Lee-Hi to get the scaffolding off and back onto the truck. Scott Beebe told Steve that there may be some piece of equipment owned by Washington & Lee which could possibly be used to remove the scaffolding from the truck. Scott will follow-up with that.

Also discussed among Tom Crittenden, Steve Riethmiller, John Milford and three gentlemen from W&L, was the playhouse in the play yard which needs to be removed. Mo Littlefield suggested that since this playhouse was on W&L property that perhaps they could help with removal. Apparently there is someone who is interested in having this playhouse and they may have it removed. The possibility of having the two large trees near the parking area in back of the church removed was also discussed. This would greatly improve church parking. Options for the play area property were also discussed. The church owns about ¼ of the property in the back and it is the area to the far left, behind the sanctuary, closest to the W&L campus. Tom will meet with the Property Committee to continue discussion of the possibilities for this piece of property.

New Business: None

Old Business:

- **Financing Proposal for Repointing** – Tom mentioned that he took the Vestry's concern to the Finance Committee about investigating and comparing interest rates at other financial institutions. A better rate was obtained at Cornerstone Bank but they needed to have collateral. Edward Jones has a policy that investments with them cannot be used as collateral with another financial institution. The church's financial advisor said that the church has enough investments in their own money market fund and suggested borrowing from those. Bob Glidden will now check with the Finance Committee about that option. Tom also noted that the committee is still waiting to hear back from a \$10,000 grant application. It will be August before there will be any word on that request. Tom said that the church can still move on with the repointing project and get the financing done in June.

Comments by the Wardens:

- **John** –John mentioned how impressed he was with the Christian education program at R. E. Lee Church. This past Sunday's Youth Sunday was inspiring with all the youth that participated and the great job they did. Next Sunday is the end of the year picnic when the teachers are recognized. He encouraged everyone to thank the teachers.
- **Judy** – Judy thanked everyone for their support.

Comments by the Rector:

Tom shared with the Vestry that a tourist visiting R. E. Lee Church fell down the steps to the sacristy while admiring the stained glass windows in the church and sustained a hip fracture.

Tom also related that he has been considering a program which would minister to the senior members of our parish. He would like to consider a part-time person who could stay on top of their needs by checking in with them and working closely with Tom thus making them feel more a part of the church. This would be a paid part-time position. Tom is not sure at this point how that position would be funded. It is a general idea to be considered.

The Vestry was reminded of parish day at Lake Robertson on Sunday July 18. Saturday July 17th will be a fun day at the lake with overnight camping.

Jay mentioned that Evensong at Lexington Presbyterian was an evening of wonderful music. However, there were very few in attendance. He wondered if more advertising would be beneficial. There was discussion regarding that perhaps the day of the week and the time of day may have affected attendance.

Suzanne asked Tom for feedback regarding the small group meetings with Vestry members which had previously taken place. She wondered if he thought they were beneficial. Tom believed they were beneficial and would like to start them up again. It was suggested that perhaps time and frequency be reconsidered. Tom will check his calendar and would like to meet once a month.

Next Meeting: June 21, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall

Closing Prayer: John Milford closed with prayer by reading the collect from Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Dick, Clerk