

Vestry Minutes
R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church
February 21, 2011

The regular meeting of the Vestry of R. E. Lee Memorial Church was held Monday, February 21, 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, Punky Dod, Don Ellis, Howard Pickett, Sarah Lanford, Steve Riethmiller, Gloria Smitka, Mary Webster, Don Whittington, and Gail Dick, (clerk). **Absent:** Alexandra Brown, Doug Cumming, Tim Gaylard (who is on sabbatical), and Judy Glick. **Guests** this evening were members of the Finance Committee: Anna Crockett, Bob Glick, Bob Glidden, Jeff Grossman, and Woody Sadler, and members of the Stewardship Committee: Jay Crawford, Janet and Greg Lemmer, and Barbara Luton.

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

Approval of January Minutes: Mary Doyle noted one addition to the minutes. After making this correction they stand as published.

Stewardship Discussion: The Vestry received a handout from the Finance Committee with Recommendations for the Parish mailing. A copy of this recommendation is attached to these minutes in the Vestry Minutes Book.

Tom would like the congregation to be more involved in the stewardship of the church. The Finance Committee would like to see the Vestry more involved. Tom opened the floor to suggestions. Tom began by mentioning some of the suggestions which came out of the Vestry retreat discussions in January. It was felt that more sermons on stewardship should be offered during the entire year not just before the fall canvass. There is also a desire to hear more from lay people and to continue the articles in the Cross and Crown.

Bob Glidden suggested that everyone needs to think about the reasons people to give and also why they don't give. He noted that this year \$26,000 was used from the phased draw down funds from the capital campaign. Next year there will only be \$13,000 left in phased draw down funds. This year there was also a special one time anonymous gift to help fund the chaplain's position in the amount of \$4,000. That leaves an anticipated \$17,000 deficit already for next year. Bob also mentioned that the amount given after the pledge appeal needs to be looked at and even this increased amount needs to be raised by another 10%. People need to be made aware of the lack of flexibility in the budget.

Anna Crockett noted another area of concern which is the fact that even though there are young families coming into the church there are many who are approaching retirement age with diminishing funds being anticipated. Barbara Luton said that stewardship is a year round issue. She also brought up the idea of planned giving and the need for it. Discussion on this subject followed. Bob Glick noted that the endowments are growing but the yearly operating budget needs to be worked on. He brought up the idea of preaching on biblical tithing. It would be stressed that the operating budget is where these funds would go. One need not give the entire 10% in one year, but rather increase one's giving a percentage each year until the 10% is reached. Barbara asked how the people would be reached and be encouraged to tithe. Jay Crawford asked if the parents of the college students are being reached. Bob Glick thought the church should begin a tithing program and Bob Glidden felt the church should strive toward that goal. With five minutes left of the allotted hour time frame, Tom wanted to hear more about how lay people could serve by sharing in the stewardship ministry. One suggestion was giving short sermons, or perhaps moments for mission, throughout the year. It was noted that there are many capable people in the congregation. Another suggestion was to continue the stewardship articles in the Cross and Crown which often focus on

the smaller gifts. It was also suggested that there be talks about what giving does for the giver. Barbara noted again that the committee would like to see the Vestry more involved, perhaps having a Vestry member chair the Stewardship Committee and to have more Vestry members on the committee. Tom charged the Vestry to consider these suggestions and they will be discussed at the March Vestry meeting. He would like the Stewardship Committee to hold another meeting after the March Vestry meeting to discuss the Vestry's decisions. At 6:05, the Finance and Stewardship Committee members were excused.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance Committee:** Suzanne noted that free will offerings, plate offerings, and pledges are up for the year. Expenses are also currently under budget. Tom noted the need to wait until the end of the quarter to get an accurate assessment of the budget. \$17,819 is owed on the repointing of the church. After receiving the Gadsden funding, the Buford bequest, and using the amount budgeted for the year, a balance of \$4,000 remains being owed for the repointing. Steve made note there will be a refund of \$1800 on the water bill and he suggested that amount be applied to the balance due on the repointing.
- **Property:** Steve mentioned again that the church will be receiving a refund of \$1800 less one month's bill of about \$137, rather than a credit, stemming from when there was a water leak in the water line. Gordon Woodcock has been working with the young man who wanted to do some work to earn his scout badge. They have been working in the undercroft. The Property Committee has also continued to work on the needed improvements at the church. Southern Electric was at the church surveying the lighting concerns. Steve said he should hear back from them shortly.

New Business:

- **Betty Lou Plott Memorial:** A member of the Altar Guild mentioned to Betty Lou's family that a gift to the church would be made in Betty Lou's memory. The chairmen of the Altar Guild were not made aware of this decision. They would like to honor the request but asked the Vestry if an appeal to the congregation could be made asking for contributions of approximately \$4000 for the red vestments that are needed and suggested as a gift by the Altar Guild. The Vestry did not feel it would be appropriate to put out an appeal for donations for memorials.
- **Pastoral Care Committee and Welcoming Committee Petitions:** Tom explained the working of these two committees. The question was raised two years ago about changing the status of these two committees from standing committees to service committees. At that time, the Vestry wanted them to remain standing committees. The main concern with remaining standing committees is the regulations in the by-laws mandating the rotation of committee members every few years. These two committees do not want to rotate their members. These are service groups and do not make any decisions for the church. Tom proposed a resolution to redesignate these committees from standing committees to activity groups of the parish. Since these requests come from the committees, no second is needed. All were in favor. The resolution passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

Comments by the Wardens:

- **Sr. Warden:** Mary Doyle had no comment
- **Jr. Warden:** Melissa Cox thanked the Vestry for changing the status of the two committees. She would like to see them called something other than "activity groups". Tom will consider that.

Comments by the Rector:

- **Meet with the Rector:** Tom would like to change the informal meetings with Vestry members so that they meet before the meeting of the Rector and Wardens. Therefore, these next informal meetings will be Sunday March 13 at 9:15 am. and Wednesday March 16 at 12:00 pm.
- **2012 Delegates to Council:** The diocese says that delegates to council should be selected at the March Vestry meeting. Tom asked the Vestry to be thinking about who would like to be a 2012 delegate to council as he feels it is important to have Vestry members as delegates. Four delegates and three alternates are needed. The deMarias have already expressed their interest in being delegates for 2012.

Closing Prayer: Mary Doyle closed with prayer.

Howard Pickett will have the closing prayer at the March meeting.

Tom asked the Vestry to be thinking about the approach to be used for Sunday's Moment for Mission, whether standing at the lectern or standing up in the congregation. He asked everyone to be thinking about those in the congregation who have a heart for a particular ministry. Melissa suggested that whatever the Moment for Mission is for the month, that they be prayed for in the Prayers of the People each Sunday throughout that month.

Suzanne asked that we continue to pray for our military and noted that Pat Gibson's son and Suzanne and Mike's son will again be deployed to Iraq.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday March 21, 2011 in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted

Gail G. Dick, Clerk