

Vestry Minutes
R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church
June 21, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of R. E. Lee Memorial Church was held Monday, June 21, 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, Mary Doyle, Sarah Lanford, Julia Littlefield, Dick Rathmell, Steve Riethmiller, Don Whittington, and Gail Dick, (clerk). **Absent:** Doug Cumming, Punky Dod, Tim Gaylard, Elizabeth Harralson, and Gloria Smitka.

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

Approval of May Minutes: Stand as published after making one correction.

Committee Reports:

- **Green Committee:** No report
- **Finance Committee:** Tom distributed and reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the period ending 5/31/10. Income YTD is greater than budgeted and expenses YTD are less than budgeted, leaving all bottom line figures in the black. Pledge returns have been strong through May. The Finance Committee did not meet in June, but will meet on July 6, one week earlier in the month than normal.
- **Property Committee:** Steve Riethmiller reported that scaffolding for the repointing project on the back wall of the church has been erected. Gratitude is owed to W&L who loaned the church a piece of equipment to unload the scaffolding from the truck. This saved the church about \$2000 in rental costs for the equipment. Steve will send a letter of appreciation to W&L President, Ken Ruscio.

Steve reported that the original cost of repointing the church did not include repointing the stone on the bell tower of the steeple. According to John Friedrichs, the stone in this area also needs repointing. The cost of the additional repointing would be (an additional) \$10,000. Scaffolding is already in place, saving the church \$5,000 – \$10,000, were we to complete this additional repointing at a later time. Steve encouraged the vestry to consider the additional repointing while the scaffolding is already here and set up. The Finance Committee has decided that funding for the original project will be borrowed from church funds rather than a financial institution. The Finance Committee will be consulted regarding the additional funding needed for the bell tower project. They will meet on July 6 and the Vestry will be notified after their meeting.

Steve talked about the new retaining wall at the end of the driveway between the parish house and the Hillel house. The wall is cinderblock. It has been suggested that the surface be covered with stucco to match the parish house and a cap placed on top of the wall. Another suggestion is to cover the cinderblock with stone and a cap. John Friedrichs and John Emore have provided cost estimates for the work. John Emore will be at the next Property Committee meeting to discuss the wall project.

Dick Rathmell asked about the status of the light which would illuminate the rear church window. Currently the pole is very high off the ground and the light bulb needs to be replaced. Tom had hoped that the scaffolding could be used to reach the light but it is not close enough. A preferred alternative would be to reposition the light fixture on a short pole with the light focused up onto the window. The light switch would be inside the church.

Steve mentioned that Gordon Woodcock has done a lot of work in the undercroft. Gordon and Steve have been working together and report that the leak has been fixed. Sarah Lanford presented a report from the Property Committee expressing their extreme concern about the fact that the ceiling in the undercroft had not been finished. The Property Committee would like it finished by the fall. John Milford

said that Tom Hart has already given an estimate for finishing the ceiling. The main consideration at this point is that if the ceiling is completed now, can any change be made if necessary in the future depending on how the undercroft is being used. The main concern for the delay up to this point was the desire to make sure the water problem had been fixed and it appears that it has been. Sound insulation will be put in the ceiling at the time of installation.

New Business:

- **Gadsden Trust Agreement:** The five year Gadsden Trust Agreement between the vestry and the trustees is up for renewal in 2010. John Milford has received a suggestion that a committee be formed to discuss this agreement. It may not be desirable or necessary to make changes to the agreement. Judy asked who might be considered for this committee and suggested that committee members represent members from e.g. the Finance Committee, Outreach, Property, Gadsden, Vestry and Trustees. Tom asked that any Vestry member who might like to serve on the committee to let him know. Elizabeth Harralson has already expressed an interest in being involved. Dick Rathmell suggested Mo Littlefield.

Old Business:

- **RATS transportation for Kendal:** Judy reported that there are two months left of the grant which provides transportation for several of our parishioners to and from Kendal each Sunday morning. Tim Root, RATS Executive Director, wants to continue and expand this service to other churches. He has applied for an additional grant. The question to the Vestry is whether or not the church wants to pay for this service if another grant is not received, and whether or not funds will be available for the remainder of this year, September-December, and then for the entire next year, 2011, if the funds are needed. The cost would be about \$200 a month. Tom encouraged the involvement of other churches. Judy will continue working with Tim Root.
- **Report on Signage:** In her absence, Elizabeth Harralson e-mailed an update on the signage progress of getting "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" sign at four entrances to Lexington. She reminded the Vestry that the City of Lexington does not permit signs like these within the city limits. In the county, they must be placed outside the VDOT right-of-way, which means they would have to go on private property. Elizabeth has written four property owners for permission to do this. She has received permission from one property owner and has two pending. A complication came up with the fourth and she will need to find another contact person.

Comments by the Wardens:

Judy: No further report

John: No report. John did ask about a July Vestry meeting. It was decided the Vestry would not meet in July, but a meeting can be called if necessary. He also mentioned that he is looking forward to Vacation Bible School at the end of July. It is a time well received by the community. Tom assured everyone that plans were well under way.

Comments by the Rector:

Tom said that his vacation was good. He reported his need to go to Florida this week for the funeral of a close friend. He will be back for Sunday services.

Tom reminded everyone of the Lake Robertson Parish Retreat on July 16-18. There will be overnight camping, a day of fun on Saturday, and church service on Sunday at 10:30. The 8:00 service will be held at the church with Bob Crewdson officiating.

Tom closed with Prayer.

Next meeting will be August 16, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall (No July meeting).

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail G. Dick, Clerk