

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

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

**Absent:** Tim Gaylard (who is on sabbatical), and Mary Webster.

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

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

**Committee Reports:**

- **Finance:** Suzanne Carmichael noted that the income, free will offerings, and pledges are ahead of budget. She mentioned that pledges were ahead of budget at this time last year. In reference to the all member canvass, the possibility and feasibility of home visits were raised at the Finance Committee meeting. No decision has been made regarding that idea. The Finance Committee did agree that the current focus should be on the every member canvass and on pledges, leaving a capital campaign for a later date. Tom will call together a group of individuals who have had experience with past campaigns and/or with fund raising. At this time, the committee feels that the fund raising for the campaign should remain “in house” and that a fund raising company should not be hired. The ground work for the future campaign will begin this spring and consideration given to what the best time would be to begin the campaign considering the current economy.
- **Property:** Steve Riethmiller said the committee has been looking at a number of projects that need to be worked on. The committee is in the process of prioritizing these projects, which include paving the driveway, electrical work, patio repair, and lighting. Tom Crittenden and Mo Littlefield will present the list and the approximate cost to the Finance Committee for approval. \$76,000 is the approximate estimate for all the projects excluding window replacement/repair. An estimate from John Emore for the patio repair is \$24,000-\$25,000. An electrician replaced the malfunctioning fan switch in the nave. He said all the switches need to be replaced.
- **Stewardship:** Barbara Luton has stressed the fact that the Stewardship Committee is in need of restructuring. She has given notice that she will no longer be chairing the committee. She will continue to serve on the committee. The Stewardship Committee feels very strongly that a Vestry member should be the chair of the committee. Doug Cumming is the Vestry liaison to the Stewardship Committee and he is also a member of that committee. He feels another Vestry member should be the chair. There is also a desire to transition the committee from a fall all member canvass focus to a year round stewardship effort. Melissa Cox said that it sounded like more members are needed on the committee. She volunteered to serve on that committee. Howard Pickett volunteered again to be on the committee and said he is willing to chair the committee as well. Judy Glick feels that the Vestry must provide the leadership needed by the Stewardship Committee, by being willing to actively support the activities of the Stewardship Committee and by making a Vestry stewardship statement that is shared with the parish. Tom will get this new committee together and Doug will let Barbara know what transpired this evening. Alex Brown

asked if there had been any follow-up regarding the possibility of a Christian Ed Committee as was discussed at the retreat. Tom will check into that.

**New Business:**

- **Diocesan Survey:** Tom distributed via e-mail a survey regarding the restructuring of the local Episcopal Church Diocese. Scott West with the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia wanted to know if anyone else in the church should receive the survey such as past wardens of the Vestry or perhaps activity group leaders. A lot of rethinking and restructuring of dioceses across the country is taking place. Tom will schedule a meeting with Scott to discuss this rethinking with the Vestry. Perhaps this meeting can coincide with the April Vestry meeting.

**Old Business:**

- **2012 Delegate to Council:** Council is the last weekend in January and runs from 2:00 pm Friday until 11:00 am Sunday. Bob and Lynda deMaria have expressed their desire to be delegates this year. Mary Doyle and Judy Glick volunteered for this year with Melissa and Sharon Massie as alternates. Alex moved that this slate of delegates and alternates be accepted. Steve seconded. All were in favor. The slate passed unanimously.
- **Episcopal Signage:** The following is an e-mail sent from Elizabeth Harralson with an update on the signage:  
“I am elated to inform you that the Public Service Authority approved our request for placing a sign on their property! We now have permission from landowners at all four entrances to Lexington. The next steps are these: I figure out the wording for directions from all four positions; order the signs; get them placed. The order form says to allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. I have a man lined up to set the sign posts and attach the signs when they come. I hope this will be accomplished by the end of May!”

**Comments by the Wardens:**

Mary Doyle mentioned the e-mail from Kay regarding the hymnal survey. She feels it is very important to respond and provide an opinion. Tom said that apparently there is the thinking of some people that every 40-50 years the prayer book and hymnal need to be revised. He does not feel this expense is warranted at this time.

Melissa mentioned that she has heard no complaints from anyone in the congregation and wondered if other Vestry members had. No one commented. Suzanne asked about the attendance numbers thus far this year. Tom said they seemed to be down a bit for January-March.

**Comments by the Rector:**

Tom said that there is a group that is interested in putting together a Labyrinth, perhaps a Labyrinth garden of some kind in the back of the church. Barbara Luton will contact W&L about using some of their land out back and she will organize the group. Those expressing an interest in being part of this group thus far are Barbara, Libby Cumming and Suzanne Carmichael.

Tom announced that his next meeting with the rector will be Wednesday April 13 at 12:00 pm.

Judy brought up the need to revisit the bylaws stating that at the vestry retreat in January, Tom asked that the bylaws Article V, Section 2 (l) be revised to say that a vestry member is permitted to miss more than three consecutive vestry meetings "IF the vestry has approved the absence." This would allow for situations such as university persons who are away on sabbatical.

The Bylaws, Article XVI Section 2 say that:

*Any proposed changes in the Bylaws shall be given a first reading at a meeting of the Vestry (January vestry meeting), with a vote on the changes at a subsequent meeting of the Vestry no sooner than four (4) weeks following the first reading. Notice of the Vestry vote shall be made to the Parish a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the meeting. The Bylaws changes proposed shall be specified in the notice given for both meetings.*

*Proposals to amend, supplement, or repeal the Bylaws shall be approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Vestry.*

Tom agreed that this needs to be done.

Howard Pickett closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail G. Dick, Clerk