

Vestry Minutes
November 16, 2010

Present: The Reverend Michael Delk (Rector), The Reverend Maria Kane (Deacon), Gary Harvey (Senior Warden), Ann Cooper (Junior Warden), Fred Boelt (Treasurer), Carrol Bailey (Newcomers), Jean Hancock (Newcomers), Margene Hartsough (Children and Youth), Brig Lampert (Children and Youth), Lucy Rothnie (Outreach), Michael Smith (Outreach), Pam Stromberg (Pastoral Care), Mary Teale (Register) and Bill Teale, (Stewardship Committee Chairman).

Absent: The Reverend Lauren McDonald (Associate Rector), Melissa Casheros (Communications), Gay Forloine (Pastoral Care), and Ed Joyner (Stewardship).

Vestry Check-In: Vestry members shared personal news since the last meeting in October 2010.

Opening Prayer and Meditation: The opening prayer and meditation were led by Carrol Bailey.

Approval of Minutes: After a motion by Ann Cooper and a second by Lucy Rothnie to approve the October minutes as submitted, the minutes were approved.

Parishioner Comments: None

Treasurer's Report: Fred Boelt, Treasurer, said that the five Sundays in October provided the opportunity for "catch up" for pledges and non-pledges which finished the month over budget by \$\$4220 and \$1148 respectively while loose plate still lagged below expectations. Income for the month finished over budget by \$5058. Expenses for the month were under budget by \$388. Year to date income and expenses are under-budget by \$4543 and \$12245 respectively so that at month's end the budget is still in the black by \$7702. A motion by Carrol Bailey to approved the treasurer's report was seconded by Gary Harvey, and the treasurer's report was approved.

Junior Warden's Report: Ann Cooper, Junior Warden, said that she had attended several of the Stewardship meetings in the past month as well as Fr. Michael's presentation on the discernment of spiritual gifts.

Senior Warden: Gary Harvey, Senior Warden, reported that the light pole outside the Wilkinson Center had been damaged again, and it has been removed and will not be replaced. The missing bricks in the New Chapel that have allowed birds to enter has been covered.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Maria Kane said that she had attended several of the Stewardship meetings. She said that the interview with the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee in the Diocese of North Carolina on November 15 had gone well.

Associate Rector's Report: (submitted in absentia)

“I'm sorry that I can't be with you this month, but due to the change in meeting schedule, I will be on vacation. In the past month I have spent a lot of my time making pastoral calls. I also had the chance to preach for an Interfaith Service at Walsingham Academy for the 1st -7th grade students, and that went well.

Christian Formation

Children: Sunday School and Children's Chapel are going well.

Youth: Youth Group continues to go well. On November 7 we had lots of fun at WISC, playing laser tag with the youth groups from Bruton and St. Martin's. We still have some fluctuation in attendance due to busy schedules, but we've had between 7-17 kids each Sunday night. A highlight of last month was when the kids divided into groups to act out the story of Joseph and the many-colored coat.

Adult: Women's Spirituality will change its December meeting from December 18 to December 11 because of Diocesan ordinations. We will be discussing whether we want to continue meeting in 2011, and I'm guessing that we will. I am also planning to start a Praying in Color small group in the new year.

Outreach: Our next serving date for From His Hands is December 2.

Our LiteracyWorks project is going well. Parishioners are providing meals for the GED students each Tuesday night. Several parishioners will also be working with tutors. Stonehouse Presbyterian may be partnering with us on this project in the near future.

The Angel Tree project is coming up later this month. Nancy Snyder has the details.

There will be another Outreach Celebration on Tuesday, November 30 at 7 pm. The featured speakers at this celebration will be members of the Honduras mission team. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Pastoral Care: We've had a lot of pastoral care needs in the past month, and our teams have risen to the occasion, providing meals, prayer shawls, and visits. Betty Somloi has trained two more people to be EVs. The Healing Team will be meeting at the beginning

of January to check in. Gay Forloine, Pam Stromberg, and I met to begin the process of turning Pastoral Care over to Pam. A big thanks to Gay who has done so much for this ministry in her time on vestry.”

Rector's Report: Fr. Michael distributed the following report:

“Since our last meeting:

Transfers into Parish: Larry Fitch
 Eleanor and Shannon Hunter
 Betty Marsh

Burials: Edmund Branch Meanley – November 6
 (inactive member)

Worship

Work on our 4th liturgy has been delayed due to other priorities, but will commence as soon as possible. January is the intended launch date.

Christian Formation

Adult

The Men's Breakfast gathered on October 16th, speaker Don Seeterlin. Next breakfast, November 20th, speaker Wrenn Holland, owner and operator of a local Chick-Fil-A who will speak on the practice of Christian business and how a person can do well by doing good.

The Monday night Bible study on The Revelation to St. John the Divine commenced. Average attendance is 20.

I began teaching a series on Spiritual Gifts during the Sunday morning adult forum in preparation for more intensive small group work on discernment. A few dozen people have been attending. I hope that a few small groups will develop out of this class and that they will explore in greater intimacy than a large class setting allows their spiritual gifts on how they can be used collaboratively and with mutual support.

Youth

Attendance continues to be robust. Activities have included decorating place mats

for a Kairos renewal weekend at a regional prison, Laser Tag with youth from St. Martin's and Bruton Parish. On November 21st, the youth will combine with the youth group of Stonehouse Presbyterian Church for a service project.

Newcomers

Regular and swift contact has been established with all newcomers from whom we have received information. I have shared lunch with one newcomer and either spoken over the phone or exchanged e-mails with several others.

Outreach

The Honduras mission team to El Hogar was a great success. Complete report of this trip will be in the December edition of the Nuggets with a preliminary draft to be distributed to Vestry at its November meeting.

Administration

Personnel

Hope Brans's MMR went well.

Ed Godshall was postponed due to ill health and will be rescheduled.

The date of Maria Kane's ordination remains up in the air. She had a final interview with the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee in the Diocese of North Carolina on Monday, November 15th. It is possible that she will be ordained with her cohort in North Carolina or that Bishop Curry, with Bishop Hollerith's permission, will ordain here at Hickory Neck.

Communication

Video-taping of sermons is going smoothly with more parishioners being trained to handle the equipment.

Stewardship

Stewardship groups were well-attended, with over 90 parishioners participating and many lively and fruitful conversations. Celebration Sundays on November 7 and 14 have thus far yielded 81 pledges and/or Time and Talent forms for a total of \$246,114. There are currently 50

outstanding pledges and follow-up efforts will begin soon. I have been told that the video-taped portion of the event was well-received.”

Fr. Michael made the following announcements:

- Annual Vestry party at Delk's, December 10, 6:30 pm including spouses and significant others;
- HN Annual Meeting, December 5, 10 am; Bylaw revisions are on net for review;
- Liaisons should provide written ministry reports to Hope Brans by November 30; reports may be of any length but should be single spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman, and have 1” margins on all sides.
- Vestry Retreat at Fred Boelt's, January 28-29; will be working on discernment of spiritual gifts;
- December 14th Vestry meeting with attendance of retiring and newly elected Vestry members will conclude with a Eucharist. Fr. Michael will be announcing his nomination of Ann Cooper as Senior Warden and Lucy Rothnie as Junior Warden for the coming year.

Stewardship Report: Bill Teale, Stewardship Committee Chairman, distributed the following summary of information from the small group Stewardship meetings.

“Eight stewardship sessions were conducted from October 19th to the 28th. A total of 89 participants attended the sessions not counting the presenter. As designed, the time spent on the numbers was kept to a minimum with the emphasis being on ministries. We were very pleased with the sessions (no one threw food at us) and the excellent feedback we received. The following are the key points made during the session:

- ◆ Most groups felt strongly that salary increases or bonuses should be given to the Rector and staff and were comfortable with Maria Kane's employment (cut Diocesan pledge if necessary to fund above items);
- ◆ T&T: new committee sign-ups be paired with older committee member as “mentor”;
- ◆ More seating for the 9:00 am service;
- ◆ Usher training mandatory, have not had training for over two years. Appoint a new usher captain or co-captain to achieve this;
- ◆ Ann Johansen would like to help with PR and advertising for Fall Festival; has a background in this field;
- ◆ Carrol Bailey interested in helping folks reconcile bank accounts – perhaps refer to Health Team ministry. May be other bookkeeping needs for elderly;
- ◆ HNC is doing a good job with outreach, but a concern that our own parishioners may not always get the support that they need (crisis). Clergy cannot always share because of confidentiality, but need to be aware of congregation support

available

- ◆ Develop a Directory of Services: listing of all services and committees with brief description for each. Perhaps a line or two about each T&T category to help people understand what is offered and what is required to serve. Give to all members of the parish, but make effort to give to each new parishioner throughout the year. Ann Johansen is familiar with this and would be willing to work on it with others;
- ◆ Better coordination of parish calendar to include all events;
- ◆ Coordinator for scheduling parishioners for service tasks, to avoid double scheduling or double service scheduling;
- ◆ Small groups should be styled after EFM sessions with mentors;
- ◆ Bring back the HNC Leadership Institute in 2011 to help develop more leaders for the church;
- ◆ Group interested in older Toano families' involvement in growth of HNC. Discussed their own length of tenure at HNC and areas of service at present level;
- ◆ Don Seeterlin and Ann Cooper shared insight about discerning gifts. Don willing to be facilitator for smaller groups.
- ◆ One group discussed outreach and Fall Festival support for local charities. Interested in upper county churches working together for outreach in Upper County;
- ◆ Fred had a conversation after a session with Bunkie Righter who is very interested in helping with stewardship, endowment and future capital campaign, twenty years experience in these fields. Also has done study on day care facilities for a class that she took;
- ◆ Get new members in a Foyer Group;
- ◆ Have a monthly column in the Nuggets on the different ministries;
- ◆ Concern over our Newcomer program. This was brought up in several sessions, but was the main topic in the session at the Jundts'. We learned of a couple who came to HNC several times but never felt welcome and has gone off to join Bruton. (*Research after the stewardship session has shown that when a visitor's card is turned in, bread is taken and a follow-up phone call is made. For some reason this did not happen with the couple in question even though they filled out a visitor card.*) The group at the Jundts' came up with a number of recommendations:
 - ◆ We should go back to asking people to introduce themselves after the Peace. (We have become so large that new people can be missed.);
 - ◆ It was suggested that we have training for greeters;
 - ◆ Have a greeter or member of the Vestry near the Rectors when people are leaving the church so a Rector can “turn over” visitors to them at the end of the service;
 - ◆ The host could then offer them coffee, introduce them to people, possibly give

them a tour, let them know about our various services, get them to fill out a visitor's card and perhaps go to the adult education with them if it is the 9 am service; and

- ◆ Create a Newcomers Club with membership lasting several years with receptions, dinners and other activities with Rectors, members of the Vestry or Newcomers Committee.”

Fr. Michael responded to several entries on the Stewardship Report. He said that seating at the 9 am service has been increased by 12%. Hickory Neck's Emergency Assistance Fund has been used numerous times to assist its own population in any of several ways e.g. insurance fees, school fees, medical expenses.

Fred Boelt said that there was good participation from those that attended the Small Group meetings but there was not very good attendance. Bill Teale said that about 20% of the time at these meetings was spent discussing the budget; the remainder of the time was spent discussing spiritual gifts.

New Business:

2010 Budget

Fred Boelt, Treasurer, distributed copies of the proposed budget for 2011. Fr. Michael and Deacon Maria Kane were excused from the room during the ensuing discussion. The original proposed budget was \$442,279; however, because the actual pledges to date plus the expected revenue from outstanding pledges fell short of that figure, Fred made some adjustments to the original budget bringing the revised proposed budget to \$423,289. Michael Smith made a motion to accept the budget as amended. It was seconded by Carrol Bailey and passed by the Vestry.

Gary Harvey suggested that the congregation be informed of specific items that are in jeopardy if pledges are not made and recommended that this action take place November 21 to give the congregation time to respond so that a revised budget may be prepared for vote at the Annual Meeting, December 5.

Ann Cooper moved to extend a contract to Maria Kane as curate (Deacon/priest) for one quarter position (12 hours/week) for one year. Carrol Bailey seconded and the Vestry approved.

Newcomers

Carrol Bailey circulated one of 150 ceramic crucifixes that were made by Pam Stromberg and Carrol that may be given to newcomers by the church greeters.

Old Business None

Adjournment: Fr. Michael concluded the meeting with a prayer and a hymn. The next meeting of the Vestry will be December 14, 7 pm, in the Wilkinson Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Teale
Register