

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Burnsville, North Carolina
Vestry Agenda
October 25, 2007**

Opening Prayer: *Reverend Bob Reese*

Attendance: *Reverend Bob Reese, John Davis, Jackie Murray, Charlie Stover, Joann Collins, and Diana Donovan for M&M Committee. Absent: Neal Culver, Robbie Robertson, and Pat Sharkey as Vestry Clerk*

Approval of agenda: *Jackie motioned to approve the agenda for today's meeting, John seconded, all voted in favor—put Diana (M&M) first.*

Ministry & Mission Committee: *Diana had issues for Vestry review-*

- 1. Confirmation (principally Latinos) to proceed? Yes. Nancy Byrd will be asked to head the teaching. Diana to ask Nancy. Bob suggested that Rev. A. Rios be kept informed of our progress, and thought Gus Boone of the Diocese could help with teaching materials/syllabus. We may need to transport the new confirmands to Bishop Taylor, or see if Bishop Johnson could come to St. Thomas.*
- 2. Church Fees for Day of the Dead Dinner (Nov. 2nd at 7 p.m.)? M&M will ensure the \$100 security fee is covered. Joann moved that St. Thomas waive the \$50 use fee, Charlie 2nd-Passed.*
- 3. Tickets for Day of Dead Dinner for the June 2007 confirmands? Some Latino families will pay; Vestry hopes that St. Thomas parishioners would sponsor families that can't pay. Suggested that all arriving be allowed entrance, and we pick up the check for those not able to pay.*
- 4. Next M&M meeting Nov. 14 at 4:30 p.m., as Simple Supper that night. Tom N. and Bob will talk about House of Bishops.*
- 5. Diana announced she'd be stepping down from Chairperson of M&M at year-end. Vestry very much appreciated her energetic and enthusiastic work on this important committee, and would like for the M&M Committee to nominate a replacement.*

Approval of minutes: *Minutes for August 22nd and September 15th were reviewed, corrected, a motion was made by Joann to approve the minutes, seconded by Charlie, all voted in favor.*

Selection of next vestry meeting: *The next meeting will be November 18th, following service.*

Financial Reports

- Finance Committee: Tom had provided Charlie with an Oct. 24th Summary Update, showing Total Income \$69,318, and Expenses \$48,888. Income Over Expenses remained virtually flat at \$20,258. Projecting to year-end, we anticipate that \$20,000 to \$24,000 of Income Over Expenses should be available from 2007 for 2008.*
- Building Fund: Current balance \$4,599. Estimated costs to complete the Basement Education Space, Memorial Garden, and Landscaping total \$10,285. The deficit of*

- \$5,686 will need to be made up by additional donations and/or transfusion from the General Fund. (Paying the \$35,000 Line of Credit off depleted the Bldg. Fund).
- Charlie moved and John seconded approving financial reports; passed.

Action Items

1. Parish Priest Search:
 - a. Lutheran Connection: John Davis & Bob met with Wayne Nelson (Luth. Bishop's office) and Canon Jim Pritchett Monday 22nd, along with Jean Chuvala, Jean Sautner, and Jerry Hoffman. The Bishops' reps continue enthusiastic for connection, and provided copies of Luth-Luth and Luth-Episc joint priest employment contracts as basis for ongoing discussions. Both congregations appear less motivated than Bishops' reps. We will appoint a Committee: John Davis, Margie Haaga, and Tom Niehaus to continue discussions with Messiah of Mtns. and make up a list of problems and opportunities to show action. (John will talk with Margie and find a third member). Bob recommended that the St. Thomas profile include language like "We want a priest who would cultivate a possible relationship with a local Lutheran congregation..." **However, we very definitely want to continue looking for a part-time Rector for a stand-alone St. Thomas, and not put the Search Committee into the bind of trying to get a full-time Rector for possibility of an agreement to hookup in some way with the Lutherans. When and if agreement with the Lutherans, we'll see how to implement at that point in time.**
 - b. PISR: Joann reported that the PISR should be ready for the Nov. 18 Vestry meeting; Search Committee wants to send report to Bishop and Canon Jim Pritchett before thanksgiving.
2. 2008 Parish Goals: We looked at Joann's summary from our Retreat Brainstorming Session, and agreed to review those further after hearing from Jim Haaga et al about the results of the Parish Survey.
3. 2008 Operating Budget and Review of Pledges Rec'd:
 - a. Pledges: Joann reported she'd received 27 pledge cards so far, totaling \$61,056! There are 8 or 9 more families who are regulars she's awaiting, but feels sure of a total of at least \$73,000 for 2008! That's up from \$57,000 for 2007 Budget. 13 of the 27 pledges were increases vs. this year.
 - b. Budget: We reviewed the 9/9/07 Budget from the Vestry Retreat, and felt that we could increase Pledges to \$73,000 from \$57,000, although Plate at \$13,000 would likely drop to \$10,000 as some of those contributors had filled out a pledge for 2008. Net effect: gain of \$13,000 in income. For the expense side, Charlie had made a list of possible places for increased spending. (We have been accumulating an annual surplus of \$10,000-\$20,000 in General Fund accounts, and feel this should be used, rather than kept. Toward that end, we approved additional expenditures totaling \$31,500. Details are found in the attached Revised 2008 budget form. Motion Charlie, 2nd Joann, passed.
4. Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting: Charlie presented draft; revisions made. He'll advise participants of the Agenda tomorrow.
5. Review and Accept 2006 Audit Report: Charlie reported that the Audit Committee carried out the required audit without significant problems, and presented the two-page

summary of recommendations. We accepted that list of recommendations with the following action and/or exceptions. Charlie moved and Jackie 2nd, to accept and Charlie to draft letter forwarding Audit Report to the Bishop: 11/18/07-Charlie sent letter 11/16/07.

- a. #2, UBS Brokerage Account-Charlie moved and Jackie 2nd to have UBS advised in writing to immediately sell stock when presented. Passed-Charlie will write the letter to UBS. 11/18/07- Joann will get account number & contact info to Charlie to allow letter to end up where needed in UBS.*
- b. #9, Dual Signatures-Increase the threshold for dual signatures from \$500 to \$1,000 to reduce hassle. The use of the payment authorization forms makes this dual signatures requirement less important.*
- c. #14, Petty Cash-We feel that this is more trouble than it's worth. The payment authorization forms seems to take care of this, and the Treasurer has not been unduly burdened by excessive check-writing.*
- d. #16, Land Transfer-Charlie will check with the Committee, as he couldn't find anything in the Manual that seemed to apply.*

Senior Warden's Report: *None.*

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds: John said we're lacking only grouting of the shower tiles (Lars is doing) and a few more bits of equipment for Godly Play (Charlie suggested Kerstin submit \$ to Building Fund for this initial setup). John should be able to get Lars' final billing soon. Bob reminded us of the dedication of the "Education Space" at 11 a.m., Saturday, November 24th. 11/19/07-Jon got \$490 invoice to complete payment for interior construction. Augusta and much of her extended family will probably attend. John is trying to catch Norm Evans to get OK to install sign at Reservoir Rd/Bowditch intersection. Canon Jim Pritchett thinks he can store the old altar at the Diocese but needs measurements to be sure it will pass through the storage door. John will measure and advise; Charlie offered his pickup to haul it, needing helpers to load and unload same. 11/18-John and Charlie got old altar relocated in basement of Diocesan office.

Stewardship: Joann was congratulated for the very successful Stewardship drive, and for the excellent presentations by parishioners, and for her thoughtful sermon. She has already gotten volunteers to talk during next year's drive! Bob suggested that we have a reminder, perhaps quarterly, for new people to fill out pledge card, Time & Talent Sheet, etc. to make Stewardship a process, rather than a single event. Joann is asking Haagas to do presentation on Environmental Stewardship in next month or so.

Other: Bob pointed out that we need 6 or 7 Readers for the Lessons & Carols service on December 23rd. Joann will get request into the Announcements for volunteers. 11/18/07-Joann has gotten list of 5 readers for this service.