

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
**Burnsville, North Carolina**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19,2007**

**Opening Prayer:** *Reverend Bob Reese*

**Attendance:** *Reverend Bob Reese, Neal Culver, John Davis, Stacey Lane, Joann Collins, Jackie Murray, Charlie Stover, and Pat Sharkey as Vestry Clerk. Charlie made a motion to approve Stacy to take the place of Robbie Robertson, Jackie seconded, all voted in favor.*

**Approval of Agenda:** *Joann moved to approve the Agenda for today's meeting including additions, Charlie seconded, all voted in favor.*

**Approval of Minutes:** *Jackie motioned to approve the minutes from last month's meeting, John seconded, all voted in favor.*

**Selection of next Vestry Meeting date and time:** *January 23, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.*

**Financial Reports**

- **General Fund:** *Tom Bailey was not available to give his report*
- **Building Fund:** *Charlie reported there is a balance of \$6537 in the account. We are current on money spent on landscaping; therefore, all of this could go to the Memorial Garden.*

**Pastoral Concerns:** *Reverend Bob Reese has touched base with everyone who is sick, and he feels that Sunday attendance is maintaining itself.*

**Old Business:**

- *Charlie is going to contact UBS about selling stock rather than letting it sit around.*
- *Charlie wants to purchase a 4-door fireproof cabinet to be installed in the church office.*
- *Did anyone get together with Youth Ministries regarding what they needed? Stacy said don't know quite yet but after next meeting should have some information. Stacey is looking at creating a project the youth could be involved in. Would love to see that project grow whether it involved mentoring or other forms of assistance.*
- *Dominican Republic: Asked the Mission & Ministries Committee regarding giving \$300 for Tom Niehaus to go to the Dominican Republic to assist in translation.*
- *Regarding possible purchase of a van, Jackie commented about the liability insurance and chauffeur's driver's license. Rather than stipulating that fund specifically for the purchase of a van, why not offer it as a transportation fund, and use it to rent a van when transportation is needed? Charlie said it was a good idea. Jackie made a motion to change the budget from purchasing a van to a transportation account, Neal seconded, and all voted in favor. Neal said in terms of liability Jim Haaga and Jim McQueen took a youth group to a football game and they requested and received releases from the parents. Charlie asked if someone could contact Jim and ask for a copy of that release.*

**Action Items:**

1. **Parish Priest Search Process:** *The PISR got in before Thanksgiving but Jim Pritchard said we needed to finish the Profile and we hope to finish that by January 5. The Search Committee will get together for one final meeting before it is finished.*
2. **Update of Lutheran-Episcopal Conversation:**
3. **Election of Officers:** *Charlie said Neal cannot continue as Senior Warden, so we need to fill the Senior Warden's position. Neal talked about what happens to churches, such as the Lutheran Church, when no new children come in. Neal would like to offer John Davis as Senior Warden. He is an asset to St. Thomas as he is young and has a young family and he is a hard worker. Joann said she would like to second that motion. It was noted that in 2008 Charlie and John (having taken Marianne Dagenhart's place on the vestry) would come off; in 2009 Neal and Joann would come off; and in 2010 Stacy and Karen Miller would come off. John would be eligible to be voted in after 2008. Joann asked if John would serve as Senior Warden. He responded "Yes". John was accepted as Senior Warden by acclamation. Charlie said he would like to step down as Junior Warden. Neal said he would like to nominate Joann Collins as Junior Warden. Joann said she would be willing to be John's right hand person or whatever he needed to support him. Bob Reese said what he is interested in is a person he can go to in order to make sure that Sunday happens properly. To make sure we have bulletins and readers and so forth. Charlie said he would be prepared to look after the administrative things with Debora. Maybe Joann could do the weekly emails. Bob's role with Joann would be to let him know what goes on traditionally at St. Thomas and he could get with John regarding vestry issues. Joann said she would accept the nomination. Neal moved that we elect Joann Collins by acclamation. All voted in favor.*
4. **Inclement Weather Plans and Decision-making:** *Neal said last year Tom Niehaus would call him and tell him with the roads were like, then Neal would contact Jackie and ask her to initiate the phone tree if we need to cancel church. Jackie said she would continue the phone tree even though she will be off the vestry. Joann said she is real reluctant to cancel service due to weather and said Tom Storie said earlier that the city comes to clear the road up to the reservoir on Reservoir Road. Barry Kramer has said he will come any time to do service if Bob cannot get here. So the sequence of events on inclement days will be:
  - 1) Tom Niehaus will check roads
  - 2) Tom will call John
  - 3) John will call Jackie to initiate phone tree if service is cancelled
  - 4) John will call Bob Reese to advise of service status and to ensure he can attend if not cancelled
  - 5) John will call Barry Kramer if Bob can't attend*

*We can always have Morning Prayer even if we can't have a priest here.*

5. **Finalize Sunday Server Schedule:** *Charlie distributed a service schedule. There will be acolyte training on January 6*
6. **Reports:** *Charlie distributed copies of Job Descriptions for the Vestry Reps, Ushers, etc. that Margie put together.*
7. **Habitat:** *Mexican Lenten Habitat for Humanity – The Diocese is sending 3 teams that go for a week at a time. It is \$1200 per person. Joann asked Bill Thomsen if he was interested. She thought St. Thomas could pay half his fee, or \$600. The first week is*

*September 4. Bob suggested designating the Christmas Eve offering and the Easter Offering for this project. Joann remembered the vestry voting to give \$1000 toward this effort. If it has not been done yet, perhaps we could use that money. It was not budgeted for 2007. Bob suggested making a special pitch on Christmas Eve. Joann moved we designate the Christmas Eve offering for the mission trip to Mexico for Habitat for Humanity and the Vestry will make up the difference for a total of \$1200. Joann will contact Bill to make sure he want to do this and ask him to represent St. Thomas. Charlie seconded and all voted in favor.*

- 8. Stacy – Vote on Vestry since Robbie Robertson off:** *(Stacy had to leave the meeting early.)*

**Senior Warden's Report:** *Neal would like us to draw up a Resolution of Appreciation for those leaving the Vestry, Jackie, Robbie and Marian and present it to them at some service in the new year. (Pat will email Mariann's address to Joann) Bob suggested a gift of a prayer book or cross or something similar. The new members of the Vestry need to be presented at church. Jackie said she would like to offer some crosses that she made for the church Consecration to St. Thomas so that every member will have one. Joann will look at the cost of some prayer books. Neal would like to make a comment about how much he has enjoyed this past year. Starting with the Consecration, Valentine's Dinner, prison dinner, stewardship drive, UTO grant, the theatre dinners, confirmations and baptisms, getting Bob to be our interim priest, the search committee, the choir, and he is very thankful of our praying for Lutie. The Vestry in turn thanked Neal for his dedication, hard work and generosity throughout his time as Senior Warden.*

**Junior Warden's Report:** *Charlie said regarding cleaning the building, it might be good to have someone come and clean once a month. John suggested getting some quotes and will check with some people regarding quotes.*

## **Committee Reports**

**Mission & Ministries:** *Joann said that Dianna asked Diantha Stevenson if she would like to head up the Mission and Ministries Committee. Dianna said she would still be on the committee to assist. Regardless of who takes this position, it must be emphasized that the meeting minutes must be generated to the vestry on a continual basis. Joann offered to make a Job Description for the Mission & Ministries chair since there is currently not one.*

**Buildings and Grounds:** *The Memorial Garden has been put off till spring-time. John would like to get a Memorial Garden committee together with Peg Emerson on it. Charlie said the design committee would come up with the design and the Vestry would approve the draft of what they think should happen.*

**Stewardship:** *Joann is going to ask 2-3 people to help next year. We need to come up with something for UTO, and she would like help with in-gatherings. Wants to have David Johnson come in and give slide show during an art sale or rummage sale. Bob will preach on Stewardship expanding a definition of what stewardship is. Joann would like a church member to talk on what St. Thomas means to them, and do this once a quarter. It would be better for the out-of-towners to fill out a pledge card in the spring when they return to St. Thomas rather than in the fall when they are preparing to leave. We have \$91,500 in pledges for 34 or 35 families.*

**Other Business:** *Sunday after service Coffee Hour was discussed and the lack of participation. Pat offered to stock the freezer with bagels and cream cheese, and that way folks wouldn't have to purchase anything, just prepare what was there. No decision was made, but will be up for further discussion. If anything is purchased by the church, juices for the children should be bought also.*

**Calendar**

December 24, 2007 Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.

*Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jackie seconded.*