

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
Burnsville, North Carolina  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2008**

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

**Attendance:** *Reverend Bob Reese, Charlie Stover, John Davis, Tom Bailey, Neal Culver, Joann Collins, and Pat Sharkey as Vestry Clerk*

**Approval of Agenda:** *Neal made a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting, Charlie seconded, all voted in favor.*

**Approval of Minutes:** *Charlie made a motion to approve the minutes as revised from last month's meeting, John seconded, all voted in favor.*

**Selection of next vestry meeting date and time:** *Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30pm*

**Financial Reports**

**- Finance Committee:**

*Tom distributed copies of the General Operating Fund budget for year end 2007. Plate income was \$9,000 more than the budget and pledge income was \$6,888 over budget. Actual amount pledged in 2007 was \$69,332 rather than the budgeted \$57,000. Total collections of \$81,753 are about \$16,000 more than budgeted. Total expenses for the year were about \$10,000 below budget, largely due to paying off the construction loan and saving \$7,200 in interest.*

*Bob said we need to have someone talk about stewardship once a quarter and have non-residents fill out pledge cards in the spring/summer rather than in the fall when they are getting ready to go back to their winter homes. Tom said we need to make allowances for non-collectibles in our pledge budget. We typically collect only about 93% of the amount pledged.*

*Joann said total pledges for 2008 were \$90,500 which, upon only considering 93%, would amount to \$84,165. John noted we need to bring the November 2007 budget to the next meeting for discussion. We have \$71,887 in unrestricted cash.*

*Charlie moved that we change the budget to reflect shortfall on income vs. pledges by 7% and leave line items same as they are and this will be the budget we approve next month. Joann seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Tom saw in the November minutes that we are deferring increased loan payments to the Diocese. Joann said that was in response to a proposal for an additional increase above the one already approved. Payments will remain at the budgeted \$7500.*

*Tom noted Bill Thomsen was having passport problems. No check has been sent to the Dioceses for him to attend Mexican Lenten Habitat for Humanity. Neal moved that we pay the Diocese \$1000 for the Mexican Lenten Habitat for Humanity, Charlie seconded, all voted in favor. Charlie made a motion we make up the balance of \$1200 for Bill's travel expenses over and above the \$928 of restricted funds that were collected for his travel on the trip and that Tom write the check to either Bill or the Diocese when we are assured his passport is okay. If he can't get a passport we will decide what to do with the funds at a later date. Joann seconded, all voted in favor.*

*Tom asked if he should get a CD with the money we were going to reserve for maintenance capital reserve? Charlie said we could take the \$7,000 and put it in a CD, and moved that we take the \$5000 major maintenance and capital reserve as well as the 2,000 for the fund to purchase a van and put that \$7,000 in a CD. John seconded and all voted in favor. Charlie moved that we accept the treasurer's report. Joann seconded, and all voted in favor. Tom asked if the M&M people will have a monthly outreach schedule. No one knew for sure but Neal said they are still looking for a new chairperson. Tom noted that January had already been paid and February will go toward the Valentine Dinner Dance, so we are set until March.*

#### **- Building Fund**

*Charlie said money continues to come in, \$1500 - \$2000, some of which was spent for mulch. There is very little likelihood that the General Fund will have to subsidize the Building Fund regarding the Memorial Garden, including any trees, which some people have come forward and said they would like to donate in Memoriam. Neal asked, and Charlie responded there are \$6,000-7,000 in outstanding pledges for Building Fund. Charlie sent out letter in December telling those they were short of their pledge but he got no response from any of those letters. Bob said in any kind of a church pledging situation you can count on about 15% attrition, so we are doing very well to be below that. Joann moved to accept the Building Fund report, John seconded, all voted in favor.*

**Pastoral Concerns:** *Installation of Vestry 2008 this Sunday. John will present the new acolytes, and needs a list of all of them. Jim Pritchard is very interested in our church by-laws, which we prepared last year. Bob said we are operating according to the by-laws. Need to make copies of them for all the new vestry members. Hispanic ministry going well; Bob had two meeting with parents and kids. Will meet Sunday after church and talk about communion. Bishop Johnson will be here April 13. We may have 12 children receiving communion. John asked about Austin Rios, Bob emailed him and told him to expect a call from Eloise Kaeck. Austin could present communicants to Bishop Johnson. Pat brought up the point that the Valentine's Dinner Dance is during Lent, and Bob said he would give St. Thomas a special dispensation regarding the event.*

#### **Old Business**

## **Action Items**

- 1. Parish Priest Search Process Update**
- 2. Lenten Lunch Service on March 5<sup>th</sup>** Joann will coordinate service; need soups and bread, iced tea and coffee; the youth minister from 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church, The Reverend Will Gaines, will lead the service. Bob asked if we will need music for this service? John said he would find out. Joann said Tom Niehaus' original memo said that the visiting pastor designs the service with 2 readings and 1 or 2 hymns.
- 3. February 2 Small Church workshop in Asheville:** Joann and John will attend.
- 4. Personnel Issue:**

## **Senior Warden's Report:**

- John distributed copies of the Vestry Handbook for the Diocese of Western North Carolina.
- Regarding the Lutheran's, John sent an email to Jerry Hoffman saying we are concerned about your decreased budget and attendance. John received an email back saying they didn't have a budget decrease. Told him we were proceeding with our search for a priest.
- Getting quotes from people to clean the sacristy.
- Search Committee: Jim Pritchard was waiting for profile to be complete. Will have a meeting with Barry Kramer. Everyone needs to keep in mind candidates we would like to submit.

## **Committee Reports**

**Mission & Ministries:** Diantha has not done minutes for the M&M meeting(s) yet. Bob suggested having a vestry rep on that committee as a liaison. Joan suggested having someone attend quarterly. Committee Members are Jim and Margie, Tom and Julie, Alice, Diana, Diantha, Donna Jean Dryer. Bob asked if Diana would consider continuing? Charlie said she needs to go to school. Joann will attend the March 6 Mission and Ministry meeting. Diana would like to have a silent prayer for peace; would like Vestry's approval to purchase a DVD of the Trinity Conference for \$90. Joann said we would like to hear more about the conference and have Diana give report to the church.

**Buildings and Grounds:** John said we will be graveling the driveway and the parking lot. Fox brothers did it last time. Charlie offered to call, said the last time it cost approximately \$300. If it is less than \$500 he will get it done. Should we wait till closer to Valentines Day? No. The money will come out of building expense budget. Neal made a motion to have the gravel work done if the cost was \$500 or less, Joann seconded, all voted in favor. Regarding the Memorial Garden, Peg will see who can lay out the design. Charlie offered to put some stakes in the ground marking the area of the Memorial Garden.

**Stewardship:** Joann would like to schedule some ingatherings and fundraisers. A breakfast fundraiser for David Johnson is scheduled for April 26. Steve Bredehoeft to

*Speak about the ERD (Episcopal Relief & Development Fund) in June. A presentation on the "Living Stones" program is planned for March.*

**Other Business:** *It was mentioned that we have had some new folks at church expressing their desire to join, namely Barry and Beth Kelly and Mike and Gerry Reif. Pat noted we have very little information about St. Thomas to give them, and offered to make up a Newcomer Packet with copies of the Thomas Tidings, Time and Talent sheet, our church profile, a pledge card, and write ups of our various ministries, especially children's ministries. Bob said you need to follow-up with new visitors within 48 hours of them coming to church. He mentioned the possibility of making up gift baskets with a loaf of fresh bread and a bottle of wine.*

## **Calendar**

**Valentine's Dinner Dance – Friday, February 15 at 6pm**

**Lenten Service and Meal – Wednesday March 5 at 12noon, Soup and Bread lunch at 12:30**

**Communion – Sunday, April 13, Bishop Johnson**

**David Johnson Breakfast – Saturday April 26**