

St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes for August 23, 2011

There being a quorum [Rev. Debbie Apoldo; Senior Warden Chris Zimmerman; Junior Warden Ralinda Gregor; Clerk David Welsh; William P. Carrell II; Hugh Hill; Adams Lurding; Sheila Oliver; Bill Receveur; Mitzi Root; Phylis Semple; Bill Strench; and Tom Thornton], Sloane Graff and Raleigh Langley also present, Debbie Apoldo called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and led the Vestry in opening prayer.

- I. **Sloane Graff** - - reported that work developing financial support to add a third priest for ministering to young families is proceeding at a satisfactory pace.
- II. **Raleigh Langley** - - reported on results from a period of roughly one year, during which exploratory discussions were held with many potential candidates for service as Associate Youth Minister. Robin and Raleigh have extended this call to Karen Ellestad, who appears to have the desired skills and Christ-centered focus for this important leadership position in our parish.
- III. **Bill Receveur** - - as a change of pace from ch. 5 of *The Good & Beautiful Life*, we returned to ch. 5 of *The Good & Beautiful God*.
 - God's love for us doesn't depend on our first being good, in order to earn His love;
 - He loves us in spite of our fundamentally rebellious nature against His sovereignty;
 - He calls us to repent of our mutiny against Him and accept His grace.

IV. Debbie Apoldo - - The Rector's Report:

- Sunday receptions have been enjoyed greatly.
- Gary England will be ordained into the diaconate on August 27.
- Summer schedule ends with our parish picnic on Sept. 4.
- Our Fall schedule starts on Sept. 11; this will include Robin teaching on Jesus' parables in Tuesday Bible Study, beginning Sept. 13, and Duane Garrett teaching on the Gospel of St. Luke starting Wednesday, Sept. 14.
- Robin will be away over the weekend of Sept. 23 – 25 and will offer the invocation at this year's dinner for Medal of Honor recipients.

V. Chris Zimmerman - - Warden's Report:

- Chris asked Bill Carrell to report on progress regarding Music-Academy rent, which has remained at \$700.00 per month for more than nine years, during which time operating expenses for parish facilities have risen dramatically. At a recent meeting with Music Academy leadership, they presented financial documents and expressed willingness to accept a rent increase to \$725.00 per month, which would not begin to match our increased operating costs over the past decade. According to their financial documents, the Music Academy had, over the 11 months prior to Aug. 3, 2011, repaid \$11,000.00 of outstanding debt incurred for purchase of their grand piano. The remaining \$11,000.00 of such debt would presumably be repaid by July 31, 2012. After considerable discussion, Mitzi Root moved, seconded by Bill Receveur, to set Music-Academy rent at \$725.00 per month through July 31, 2012 and to increase their rent to \$1,225.00 per month through July 31, 2013. This higher rent was calculated by adding half of their \$1,000.00 perceived monthly disbursement savings after repaying the piano debt, i.e., \$500.00, to their \$725.00 rent for the lease period running through July 31, 2012. This motion was unanimously approved.
- Chris Zimmerman offered and Mitzi Root seconded a motion to accept phase I of the Preschool plan for their play area; this motion was unanimously approved.

- The Vestry day for helping with our Habitat project will be Saturday, Sept. 24, from 8:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m.
- Vestry listening sessions, seeking parish input on calling a third priest for ministry to young families will begin in Sept.

VI. Committee Reports, etc:

- Bill Strench reported on planning for the every-member canvass, which will include educational material on tithing and on the importance of having a third priest for ministry to young families.
- Hugh Hill reported on recent youth activities, including white-water rafting.
- Bill Carrell and David Welsh reported on Bruce Neswick, an extremely-accomplished and highly-acclaimed organist, who will shortly begin serving as our Associate Organist.
- Bill Receveur reported on completion of work installing sinks in the classroom area downstairs, to expand permitted use of these classrooms.
- The Treasurer’s Report was distributed but not discussed.

VII. Mitzi Root - - “The Rule”:

- The Gospel lesson for this coming Sunday is from Matthew, ch. 16, vv. 21 - 28. In Peter’s objection to our Lord’s telling His disciples of his coming sacrificial death, we see a profound contrast with his statement in last Sunday’s Gospel, that Jesus is/was “the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- Like Peter, any of us can easily slide from receiving and accepting God’s sovereign will for our lives to objecting and resisting.
- Jesus admonished Peter for having his mind set on things of this world rather than on divine matters, a warning applicable to every follower of Jesus, in every generation.
- Jesus then further explained to His disciples the unavoidable and generally high cost of following Him, which remains true. Not all of Jesus’ disciples died by crucifixion, but following Him meant staying focused on doing His will, regardless of threats and obstacles, without getting distracted by the prevailing, but very shallow, concerns of this world.

VIII. Chris Zimmerman - - adjourned the Vestry meeting at 6:35 p.m.

IX. Next Meeting - - September 27, 2011.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

David Welsh, Clerk

The Rev. Robert T. Jennings
Rector

Approved signatures on original document.