

St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes for June 28, 2011

There being a quorum [Rev. Robert T. Jennings; Rev. Debbie Apoldo; Senior Warden Chris Zimmerman; Treasurer Tom Kelley; Clerk David Welsh; Bob Bortner; William P. Carrell II; Adams Lurding; Jim Marquardt; Bill Receveur; Bill Strench; and Tom Thornton], Bob Quaife also present, Robin Jennings opened our meeting with prayer at 5:04 p.m.

I. Jim Marquardt - - ch. 4 of *The Good & Beautiful Life* – “*Learning to Live without Anger.*”

- Anger may be of a “visceral” nature or may be “meditative,” in that we let this second type eat at us and grow stronger over an extended period; either form of anger can be prompted by fear and/or unmet expectations.
- His promise to always be with us and to help us when tempted or otherwise challenged. Jesus’ teachings can be powerful tools, toward properly dealing with anger, especially
- Anger can be righteous and proper, as Jesus demonstrated.
- Learning to handle anger, so as to be faithful disciples, can be a slow process.

II. Bob Quaife - - Memorial Garden Fees:

- Based on charges at Cave Hill Cemetery, Bob recommended raising our charge from \$300.00, where it has stood for many years, to \$1,500.00. David Welsh offered and Tom Kelley seconded a motion to temporarily adopt this recommendation for the next 24 months, subject to modification by Rev. Jennings in cases of severe financial hardship. This motion was unanimously accepted by the Vestry.

III. Tom Kelley - - Treasurer’s Report:

- The greatest current issue is unplanned expenses, such as for maintaining and upgrading HVAC equipment, which have caused significant cash-flow problems.
- In the course of extensive discussion, Tom Thornton drew attention to the number of pledging/giving units, which appeared small compared to overall parish size. He committed to contacting 2 or 3 rapidly-growing congregations to learn more about their practices.

IV. Robin Jennings - - The Rector’s Report:

- Frannie Heyburn was recognized for her tireless work in the Martin Courtyard and her having organized a team of volunteers to keep this wonderful resource weeded, mulched and otherwise beautifully maintained.
- Sloane Graff continues working on issues related to calling a third priest.
- Jim Rightmyer and the choir will offer a program of special music on Sunday, July 3. There will also be a brunch at J. Harrods that day, in support of our Loaves and Fishes ministry to feed homeless people. All available tickets for our July 5 Bats game have been sold.
- Gary England’s ordination as a deacon is scheduled for Aug. 27, at Christ Church Cathedral. During this summer, Gary will assist with our 11:15 a.m. service and will lead a small-group study through The Good and Beautiful God.

- Cheryl Brandreth is working on special initiatives for newer members.

V. Chris Zimmerman - - Warden's Report:

- Thirteen applicants recently received scholarships totaling \$36,000.00 from this fund.
- After researching past practices with space leased to the Music Academy and our current leasing agreement with the preschool, David Welsh offered, and Bill Carrell seconded, a motion to approach the Music Academy with a clear explanation of our need to raise their monthly rent to \$1,635 for the lease year starting Aug. 1 of this year and to \$1,686 for the following lease year. This motion was unanimously approved, Bill Carrell and Chris Zimmerman agreeing to make these contacts with the Music Academy.

VI. Committee Reports, etc:

- Bill Receveur reported on the Holy Spirit's amazing work with and through our youth during this year's very successful missionary trip to the Dominican Republic. The weather was hot and humid; the work was physically challenging. Nonetheless, our youth, their adult helpers and our Dominican family in Christ made great progress on the construction projects and their growth as Jesus' disciples.
- Adams Lurding reported on the Holy Spirit's amazing work during this year's VBS and on related evangelism efforts.
- In early July, Little Robins' facilities will be inspected for adequacy to house a preschool.
- Bill Strench reported on initial work in support of this year's every-member canvass, which will be closely coordinated with efforts related to calling a third priest.
- David Welsh offered and Bill Carrell seconded a motion, which passed unanimously, to approve minutes for the May 24, 2011 meeting.

VII. David Welsh - - "The Rule":

- This coming Sunday's Gospel lesson follows Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, His extensive ministry of teaching and healing miracles and His openly enjoying meals with taxpayers and other "sinners." Despite overwhelming evidence of Jesus' fully-divine authority, people were no more responsive than they had been to John the Baptist's call to repentance, John's prophetic message of judgment and his ascetic lifestyle.
- Referring to children calling others to join in either joy-filled or serious play, but getting no response in either case, Jesus commented on failure of God's chosen people to take seriously His calls to them - - first through John and then through Jesus. These people had rejected/ignored both, so it wasn't God's mistake in His approach, given the obviously huge differences between John's and Jesus' ministries.
- Also in this Gospel lesson is Jesus' thanksgiving prayer for God's hiding His truths from wise and learned people while revealing Himself to people of lower status. This may be an important warning to those of us blessed with significant formal education, which can blind and deafen us to God's claims on our lives and His expectations for us.
- In the final verses of this lesson, Jesus graciously invites us to follow Him and find, in the process, that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. Total reliance on Jesus, rather than trying to control everything in our lives, based on our own strengths, is part of the message Jim had shared earlier this evening from ch. 4 of The Good and Beautiful Life. It is beautifully illustrated our next Sunday's Old Testament lesson about Abraham's servant relying entirely on God during his mission to find a wife for Isaac.

- Robin's closed our meeting with prayer, at 7:25 p.m.

VIII. Next Meetings:

- No regular meeting is scheduled for July 26, but available members are invited to participate in a brainstorming session addressing issues related to membership and pledging/giving units raised by Tom Thornton.
- **Regular** meeting on August 23, 2011.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

David Welsh, Clerk

The Rev. Robert T. Jennings
Rector

Approved signatures on original document.