

St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes for May 24, 2011

There being a quorum [Rev. Robert T. Jennings; Senior Warden Chris Zimmerman; Junior Warden Ralinda Gregor; Treasurer Tom Kelley; Clerk David Welsh; Bob Bortner; William P. Carrell II; Adams Lurding; Sheila Oliver; Phylis Semple; Bill Strench; and Tom Thornton], Gary England and Cindy Thompson also present, Robin Jennings called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and led the Vestry in opening prayer.

I. **Tom Thornton** - - ch. 3 of *The Good & Beautiful Life* – “*The Grand Invitation*”

- The Beatitudes are presented as an invitation to a blessed life rather than a prescription for being blessed;
- Among those Jesus invited to follow Him were many from marginalized groups in that society;
- Following Jesus’ example, the author calls us, as people of God’s Kingdom, to share this “grand invitation” in our daily activities and contacts.

II. **Robin Jennings** - - **The Rector’s Report:**

- Starting May 29, Vestry members will take turns serving punch following the 10:00 a.m. service.
- On May 29, weather permitting, punch will be served near the Memorial Garden, improvements to which will be dedicated at that time.
- On June 1, Robin and Chris will attend a meeting regarding the East-end Bridge.
- Robin will offer the invocation on May 25, for the St. Francis School graduation ceremony and on May 30 at the Peace Memorial on River Road.
- Sloane Graff is continuing to develop a plan for calling another priest. Part of this work includes analysis of key demographic measures, such as levels of youth participation in Sunday school and other activities. Bill Receveur noted the importance of looking beyond immediate challenges, urging that candidates for this position have skills and a calling to contribute significantly beyond initial responsibilities.
- Robin will be preparing a series of Lenten devotions for the spring 2012 edition of *Journey through the Word*.
- Gary England will help in several areas over the summer months - - leading a study of The Good and Beautiful God, leading a renovation project on a house owned by Cable Baptist Church, and assessing strengths and weaknesses of our 11:15 a.m. worship.

III. **Chris Zimmerman** - - **Warden’s Report:**

- Cindy Thompson briefed the Vestry on expansion of the Parents’ Day Out program, to meet increased demand for this type of outreach.
- Chris reviewed work upgrading the sound system in our sanctuary, initial phases of which cost about \$11,000.00. Our current budget includes no funds for this work, but interested parishioners have made designated supporting gifts. Tom Kelley offered, and Bill Receveur seconded, a motion authorizing the associated working group to solicit further contributions for completing this work; this was unanimously approved.

IV. **Committee Reports, etc:**

- Bill Receveur reported on the upcoming car show, mission to David KY and final planning for the Dominican Republic (DR) mission trip. Living conditions for this year’s DR mission will be somewhat rustic, compared to those of prior trips, but probably much more comfortable than St. Paul often experienced during his missionary journeys.

- Bill next reported on some unpleasantness with HVAC work at the vicarage, necessitating his followup efforts. He and Tom Thornton are making progress on the cooling-tower problem and expect to have it under control. As a final property issue, one HVAC unit has reached the end of its useful life and must be replaced, at a likely cost of about \$6,000.00.
- Ralinda Gregor reported on applications for scholarship funds and progress determining specific awards.
- Tom Thornton outlined efforts to deepen our shared discipleship with Cable Baptist Church. As reported at our April meeting, mite-box offerings were donated to support the child-development center at Cable. A dinner is scheduled for June 20, to establish prayer partnerships between lay leaders in our two congregations. As noted *supra* regarding Gary England's work, we will also participate in a joint renovation effort on property for Cable Baptist to use in their clothing-and-food outreach among needy people in their neighborhood.
- Tom Thornton offered, and Tom Kelley seconded, a motion for acceptance of Mike Simpson's minutes from the April 26, 2011 meeting; this was unanimously approved.
- Tom Kelley gave his Treasurer's report. Our major financial challenge continues to be maintenance costs, e.g., with HVAC equipment.

V. Bill Carrell - - "The Rule":

- Bill drew together parts of the Psalm, the reading from Acts and the Gospel lesson for this coming Sunday, showing their common elements and the consistency of the messages.
- We are called to proclaim God and His message to the peoples of the world and to keep His commandments.
- At Robin's request, Bill led closing of the meeting, at 6:50 p.m., as we read together the collect for Sunday.

VI. Next Meeting - - June 28, 2011.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

David Welsh, Clerk

The Rev. Robert T. Jennings
Rector

Approved signatures on original document.