

## **St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes for Sept. 27, 2011**

There being a quorum [Rev. Robert T. Jennings; Rev. Debbie Apoldo; Senior Warden Chris Zimmerman; Junior Warden Ralinda Gregor; Treasurer Tom Kelley; Clerk David Welsh; Bob Bortner; William P. Carrell II; Jason Kron; Adams Lurding; Sheila Oliver; Bill Receveur; Bill Strench; and Tom Thornton], Karen Ellestad also present, Robin Jennings called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and led the Vestry in opening prayer.

**I. Karen Ellestad** introduced herself and summarized the process leading to her call as Associate Youth Minister. Karen will work mainly with “middlers” and their families, a major goal being to encourage strong parental involvement in helping these youth grow in their Christian faith.

**II. Sheila Oliver** - - ch. 6 of *The Good & Beautiful Life* – “*Learning to live without Lying*”;

- According to studies Smith’s book cites, many forms of lying are regular parts of our lives.
- We may strive to excuse, rationalize or understand our reasons for lying - - to hide our true selves, to get something seen as important, to avoid an unpleasant result or person, etc. But, such efforts never turn a lie into anything other than a lie and may simply lead to more lying.
- Kingdom living calls us to honest speech, on a consistent basis, guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Smith suggests voluntary periods of silence, to learn to guard our speech very carefully.

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

- Several people have recently done substantial work improving our parish website.
- Robin will deliver the invocation, at an event this week for Medal-of-Honor recipients.
- On Oct. 2, our parish will host a “pet blessing,” Francis being the patron saint of animals.
- Moms of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) continues to grow and will hold another consignment sale during Oct. 13 – 15.
- The “Loaves and Fishes” ministry to homeless people has been reorganized as a charitable corporation separate from St. Francis. Application to be recognized under I.R.C. §501(c)(3) will follow shortly. Directors and officers of Loaves and Fishes intend to coordinate their programs with similar work at Cable Baptist, including their clothing-and-food outreach to needy people in their immediate neighborhood.
- Our parish will host an art show on Nov. 6, 2011.
- Three weddings and one renewal of nuptial vows have been scheduled for Sept. and Oct.
- Recent steps toward calling a third priest, for ministry to young families, have included several focus groups, getting parishioners’ thoughts on skills and motivation needed in such a call.

**IV. Chris Zimmerman** - - **Senior Warden’s Report:**

- Continuing discussion of matters related to calling a third priest for ministry to young families, the Vestry expressed their consensus in favor of taking all reasonable steps preparatory to extending such a call. Pledge cards to be distributed during the upcoming every-member canvass will include an opportunity for parishioners to make an additional pledge in support of this call.
- Delegates for the upcoming diocesan convention will probably be Chris Zimmerman, Ralinda Gregor, Sloane Graff, Tom Thornton and Mitzi Root.

**V. Committee Reports, etc.:**

- Bill Strench reported on the initial mailing to parishioners for the every-member canvass; this will be followed by further steps, prior to sending pledge cards, communicating the importance of stewardship in our lives as Christians.
- Ralinda Gregor reported on initial efforts, by the Vestry nominating committee, to fill vacancies after this year.
- Sheila Oliver reported on year-to-date outreach spending, which appears within budget, and on Vestry participation in Habitat work, on Sept 23 and 24.
- Adams Lurding reported on staffing matters related to the Little Robins ministry. He then offered a motion, seconded by Sheila Oliver, authorizing Cindy Thompson to retain Sharon Ward as Assistant Director for Little Robins. This motion was unanimously approved.
- Bill Carrell reported on the Music Academy having secured additional liability insurance, in compliance with our proposed lease. They are now having their financial statements and records reviewed, which should settle uncertainties regarding their financial condition. Bill Carrell offered a motion, seconded by Sheila Oliver, authorizing Chris to allow continuation of their rent at \$700.00 month, until we enter into a new lease agreement with the Music Academy. This motion was unanimously approved.

**VI.** Bill Receveur offered, Tom Thornton seconded and the Vestry unanimously approved a motion to accept proposed minutes from the August 23, 2011 Vestry meeting.

**VII. Tom Kelley - - The Treasurer’s Report:** Year-to-date total expenditures are staying quite close to budgeted amounts, but total pledges and other donations are significantly less than their pro-rata share for the year.

**VIII. Bill Strench - - “The Rule”:**

- Sunday’s Gospel lesson is Matthew ch. 21: 33 – 46, Jesus’ parable regarding a vineyard leased to rebellious tenants.
- Each character in this parable has an important role - - the landlord representing God, the tenants representing religious leaders of that day, and the landlord’s son representing Jesus. In this parable, Jesus foretold His coming death, at the hands of the religious leaders and their political accomplices.
- Concluding this parable, Jesus reminds His audience of prophesy, which they should have recognized from their scriptures, that the Messiah’s would be rejected and would be a stumbling block, - - Is. 28:16 and Psalm 118:22 – 23.

**IX.** At 6:50 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

**X. Next Meeting - - October 25, 2011.**

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

David Welsh, Clerk

The Rev. Robert T. Jennings, Rector

Approved signatures on original document.