

## PARISH OF ST. PAUL - VESTRY MEETING

Wednesday, December 12, 2007  
at the home of Lee and Keith Hatfield

Present: Joan Brandmahl, Margaret Hummel, Lee Hatfield, David Montgomery, Betty Murray, Ellie Pandorf, Betsy Blagdon and (by phone) Bernice Cramer. Absent: Richard Pearce and Tim Dunn. Rev. Miriam Gelfer of Grace Church Newton and Dean of the Charles River Deanery joined the first part of the meeting as a guest. David had to leave at 9:50 p.m. (Items in **bold** indicate further action to be taken.). The meeting began with an opening prayer at 7:45 p.m.

Priest in Charge (PIC) Update. Miriam Gelfer informed Vestry that she has been in recent discussions with Gregory Jacobs of the Diocese concerning our situation and our search for a new PIC. Included in that discussion was the status of a particular individual for whom we have considerable interest. Greg informed Miriam that the individual in question was formally being considered for a possible joint rector position by the Vestries of St. Mark's and St. Mary's, Dorchester. Miriam in turn had spoken enthusiastically to Greg about this individual as a potential candidate for St. Paul's. Greg indicated that yet another candidate may soon be presented to St. Paul's by the Diocese for our consideration. Under these circumstances, Miriam felt it would not be out of bounds for us to signal our interest to potential candidates. With respect to keeping the parish informed of new developments, she suggested Vestry make "pastoral listening" calls to all parishioners to share recent developments and to hear concerns and anxieties from members of the congregation concerning the search process.

Vestry expressed to Miriam its concern about conducting the upcoming annual meeting of the Parish and soon thereafter hosting Bishop Tom Shaw's visitation (both in January) without the presence of either a rector or priest in charge. Miriam offered to be available for both events during what is routinely a significant transition period in the annual cycle of the life of the Parish. Vestry accepted Miriam's offer with gratitude. Miriam left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes. Upon motion duly seconded, the minutes of our November 14 were approved as presented.

Stewardship. So far approximately five or six pledge cards have been received. **Betsy will coordinate the logistics of assembling and re-distributing applicable information concerning time and talent on stewardship cards.** In-gathering is scheduled for Sunday 12/16. Before that date, so as not to confuse matters, **Vestry will make "pastoral listening" calls to members of the Parish. Following 12/16, Vestry will make follow up calls concerning stewardship to those who have not returned a pledge card.**

Membership Question. As head of our Evangelism initiative, Betty has recently been asked by newcomers about the mechanics of becoming a member of St. Paul's. In the past this has typically been handled by the rector. In the absence thereof, Betty spoke to a representative from the Diocese who advised that baptism (by any denomination) is the only real qualification of membership in the Episcopal Church and that transfer of membership is traditionally effected by requesting and receiving a letter confirming such baptism from such person's "home" church. **Betty is willing to meet with any persons wishing to discuss this further.**

Treasurer's Report. Net income is up and expenses are down resulting in our being \$17,400 in the black at this point. Upon motion duly seconded, the report was accepted as presented. **Lee will solicit budget requests for the coming year from the various committees. Lee, Joan and Margaret will meet soon to compile a draft budget for the coming year for Vestry's consideration at its next meeting in January.**

Down Under Yoga (DUY). The heating expenses for the entire church building are substantial and appear to have increased not just in dollars but in amount of heat used over the last year. How much of this increase is directly attributable to the use of our Parish Hall by DUY is hard to determine exactly due to many factors including the different average temperatures during applicable time periods. Recently we have incurred significant furnace repair costs to the tune of approximately \$12,000. Vestry was concerned that the amount paid upfront recently by DUY might not be sufficient to recover our own costs. Margaret has recently met with Justine to seek a substantial increase in DUY's use fee based on these increased costs and on the fact that DUY is beyond the start-up stage. Margaret also emphasized the need to finalize a written agreement between St. Paul's and DUY to govern our relationship. In response, Justine has signaled her willingness to increase the amount she pays from an annual rate of \$4,500 to \$6,000. [David had to leave the meeting at this point; Margaret took notes hereafter]. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Vestry agreed to offer DUY a contract until August 31, 2008 with the following terms: up to 6 cancellations for parish use, a total of 8 classes only (no extras), use fee at the rate of \$6000 annually (\$500 monthly), and a review period during the month of June, at the end of which both parties would have to express their willingness to continue the relationship beyond the end of August in order for the arrangement to continue. **Margaret and David will work with Justine to finish preparing same (Co-wardens to sign on behalf of St. Paul's).**

Annual Meeting. Following a brief discussion, Vestry agreed the **Executive Committee should hold a separate meeting** to put a plan together concerning the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee. Vestry has made a list of people to approach concerning joining Vestry and has designated **certain people to do the asking.**

Altar Guild. Joan asked for help with the brass polishing on Saturday morning, December 15, at 9:30.

Coffee Hour. Betty reminded the group that **the December 23 coffee hour will be hosted by Vestry** and that there will be a children's activity with tree ornaments.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Montgomery, Clerk