

Vestry Minutes
Tuesday July 21, 2015

Present: Father Kevin, Jim Breakell, Jason Black, Laura Clarke, George Cadwalader, Peter Elsworth, John Flinton, Sally Schott, Amy Smith

Absent: Karen Murray, Bob Bauer

Due to the heat in the chapel, we met downstairs, and omitted Bible Study. Father Kevin opened with a prayer.

Minutes from June were not distributed prior to this July meeting, so they could not be approved. Jim will send them out with the July minutes and will be approved at the September meeting.

Rector's Report:

- 1) Kevin reported that three companies now have bids in for the organ repair. Kevin hopes to speak with a fourth, Andover Organ Company on Wednesday July 22 and ask them for a bit. In summary, Scott Huntington who has been maintaining the organ for years provided the first bid of \$35K for work that needs to be done now, and \$20K for additional work that should be done over time. The 2nd bid was from Noak, which came with little detail; their bid was 275 hours for initial work at a cost of \$24,850, with anticipated additional work over the next few years – no dollar amount of details for this were provided. Kevin will ask them for greater detail. A 3rd bid from Foley-Baker was also provided, with great detail. Bid was \$64,893 to do everything, with the work on the pipes for \$10K being not urgent (so \$10K could be deducted for now). Kevin and Jim discussed prior to the meeting that Kevin will ask Foley/Baker to resubmit their bid to be similar to Noak's where the mandatory initial work be broken out from the non-urgent work. All companies stated that this work will last 40-50 years, as long as the organ is maintained annually. This cost is about \$1000 per year, and should be in the budget.

This prompted discussion about how to sell this to the parish. Ideas discussed were:

- Start a Friends of Music Fund. Try to get 50 parishioners to give \$500 each, or 100 to give \$250 each.
- Try to get grants. George commented that his wife works for the Van Buren Foundation, and that we should pursue writing grants for Van Buren and other foundations.

- Sally commented that there is a Jamestown/Newport County foundation specifically for the arts (Joe & Nancy Logan?) that could be pursued. Laura volunteered to assist with the grant writing.
 - Jason commented that Scott Huntington, who is a one-person company may not look that attractive to foundations and that a company with more resources may be the way to go.
- 2) Kevin noted that this is the official last month of the capital campaign. We have collected about \$180K out of the \$225K pledged. Letters will be going out to: a) people who paid in full thanking them; b) people who haven't paid their commitment in full yet asking them to pay up; and c) to parishioners who were not here when the capital campaign started to see if they would like to contribute.
 - 3) Kevin mentioned the Spiritual Retreat for the vestry that he would like to have in October or November at SSJE in Cambridge. It would be a 2-night retreat, Friday afternoon till Sunday noon. It is a silent retreat for spiritual renewal. Cost would be \$275 per person, not funded by the church. He asked that we think about it and discuss at the next vestry meeting.

Senior Warden's Report:

- 1) Jim commented that he was very impressed with how well the Summer Fair went, which was run by the Vestry this year. However, he doesn't want it to always be the Vestry's responsibility, although Kevin remarked that he thought it was good for the Vestry to run it every once in a while.

Discussion followed about how the fair should be run. Options discussed were:

- a) The Vestry
- b) One person
- c) Fair committee of 2-3 people
- d) One Vestry member

Sally commented that it would be good to decide soon which way to go, while the fair is still on people's minds, and that a coordinator (or coordinators) and booth captains be asked soon.

John and Kevin reported that last year the fair netted \$12,700. The final tally is not in yet for 2015, but right now it looks like we will have netted \$13,310.

Junior Warden's Report :

No report, as Bob Bauer was not at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

John commented that he didn't have the balance sheet from Susan, but that he would get it and send it out via email. John noted that the stock market has corrected itself, and even with the \$32K that we have taken from our investments to date, we are still at \$625K, which he is happy about. It is in the budget to take a total of \$33K this year, so we have another \$1000 that we can take before the end of the year.

John reported that the Thrift Shop is a little behind this year because of the bad winter, but he is confident that it will be made up before the end of the year. Laura commented that the Thrift Shop had a \$600 Thursday morning, which was a record breaker.

Overall, on the income side, we are in good shape, and there is nothing "out of whack" on the expense side.

On the Capital campaign, we still owe the diocese \$1200 per month till the end of the year. In addition, we borrowed \$65,000 from ourselves, that unless everyone pays their capital campaign pledge, we will be writing off a large part, if not all of this.

John also commented that the budget for the summer fair was the same as last year, so it looks like we will net an additional \$1000 in income this year.

Other Business:

- 1) Amy commented that it was a shame to throw so much good merchandise into the dumpster after the fair, and that perhaps next year, we can arrange to put the decent stuff in the Pod, and arrange to have Big Brothers/Big Sisters come on Monday a.m. to collect it. Specifically there were a lot of good toys, strollers and baby items that could have been donated.
- 2) Laura announced that in September, she will take over as Clerk of the Vestry for Peter Elsworth.
- 3) Jason commented that the Newport Music Festival events held at the church are over and went well, and that the Jamestown Bridge Music Festival is yet to happen in July. He said that we are getting good publicity out of these events, and that they are excellent. We also need someone

from the parish or vestry to announce the musicians on Tuesday July 29th.
Laura expressed an interest; Kevin will follow up by email.

- 4) George commented that Kevin wearing the new logo shirt at the fair received positive responses. It was agreed that everyone in the Vestry will buy a shirt prior to the September picnic and wear it to that event, where orders will be taken. Details still need to be hammered out: colors, price, etc., but George will talk with the vendor and report back.