

Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
Vestry Minutes June 8, 2009

Voting Vestry Members Present: Berry, DeVore, Dotson, Doughty, Miller, Morgan, Northrup, Parks, Tarrant, VanMeter.

Voting Vestry Members Excused: James.

Voting Vestry Members Absent: Seevers.

Voting Ex-Officio Present: Fr. Seville

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Present: Foss, Hoffman, Slusher.

Meeting convened with prayers led by Alan Parks. July prayers will be led by Larry Seevers.

Guests attending the Vestry meeting were: Bob Flinn, Trish Prichard, Carolynne Cooper and Bob Crocker.

Motion to approve the Minutes as printed was made by Miller, 2nd by Morgan. Motion carried.

Hal Foss, Treasurer gave his report and the report was submitted and received for audit 2nd by Miller. The second part of his report was to inform Vestry that authorization time is up for the Roof Loan. Foss moved to renew the Roof Loan for two more years 2nd by Miller. Vestry voted unanimously in support.

Bob Flinn reported there is a roof leak in the 100 year old section of the roof. Foam spray was used to try to seal the leak but upon more careful inspection, the covered metal has rusted away. An estimate for repair dated 5/11 was \$6,500 however, there could be structural damage not visible and he won't know that until it can be looked at. Discussion followed. DeVore, Sr. Warden, moved to fix the problem immediately 2nd by Miller and use the line of credit from the "roof loan". Vestry voted to authorize the Treasurer to extend the roof pledge for 6 months. Motion carried.

Service Times and Sunday School. Bob Crocker, Carolynne Cooper, Trish Prichard members of the Youth Ministries Council made a presentation to Vestry asking for a 1 year trial of change to the schedule. The proposed schedule would look like this:

8:00 - 9:00 1st Service (Rite I) 9:00 – 9:15 Coffee

Quarterly Intergenerational Event with Breakfast, carrying through CE.

9:15 -10:00 Christian Education. 10:15 – 11:30 2nd Service (Rite II)

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee hour and Drama Group Practice, possible additional adult ed.

Advantages: More attractive to "unchurched" community; Earlier departure from church for most; Allows for kids to meet work obligations; 8 o'clockers able to participate in Adult Forum or as Sunday School Teachers; Coffee/refreshments available after both services; Asking for a one year trial.

Challenges: Acolytes, Service Assistants and Choir members may need to leave class a few minutes early; Earlier start for kids and parents; need a replacement for monthly breakfasts, possibly quarterly and linked to an Intergenerational Event. Adults w/out children may skip 9:15 AF.

Summary: TMC believes both children and families and the 8:00 congregation will be better served by the new schedule and this should attract and keep families with children. Ministry to children has always been a key focus of Good Shepherd. Change is hard but can be managed. Need strong support from leadership if Vestry agrees to proposal.

A very long discussion with Vestry followed the YMC proposal. Fr Seville stated "It is the Rector who sets the service times" and he would support this proposal but felt more input from the congregation would be beneficial. He also stated that in his experience, most churches have had the proposed arrangement.

Vestry moved to hold two town-hall meetings. The first meeting will be June 21 at 9AM and the 2nd meeting June 28 at 11AM. Motion was made by DeVore 2nd by Parks. Vestry members are expected to attend both meetings. Doughty moved the presentations be shortened in length made by YMC, motion 2nd by Northrup. Motion carried.

Words of Wisdom shared by Fr. Seville: (1) Leaders need not have the right answers; they need to ask the right questions.

(2) Are leaders called to lead a congregation out of problems and back to strength? Or is the present state of a congregation not a problem but a step toward an open future, the new thing God is doing? Deciding which attitude to adopt is an act of faith. Choosing which assumption to live by may be the most important act of leadership that will shape the congregation's future.

Paula Hoffman, Ministries Coordinator, gave her report: The Discretionary Funds for May were \$515.65, which helped 15 families- 6 with prescriptions, 2 with gas bills, 8 with water bills and 3 with electric bills. The Manna Food Pantry helped 15 families and 48 individuals in May.

The Gabriel Project helped 10 families-7 with diapers, 2 families with food, 6 families with clothing.

Paula reported the Easter offering was split between Gustke Youth Center and Horizons. The \$ amount was much smaller than in past years, a total of \$762.26 (\$381.13 for each)

Tony DeVore, Sr. Warden, informed Vestry that Kim VanMeter would be taking pictures throughout the church for insurance purposes. DeVore also canvassed Vestry for committees they knew of that might not have made the list in adult forum. All in an effort to get things in place for the beginning process of appointing committee members.

Sunday School Attendance stats for May: Average 138. High May 10- 153. Low May 3- 116.

Peoples Warden, Greg Dotson, reported a work day was planned for Saturday June 20 here at the church. Tree trimming, room painting and other outdoor improvements. Lunch will be provided.

Interim Rector's Report: Fr. Seville stated he had vacation beginning July 8 and will return July 25th. He has coverage for that time. He also stated his wife (Cindee) will be coming to WV for a visit this summer.

Motion to dispense with the Committee Reports made by Doughty 2nd by Tarrant.

New Business: Disposal of Cemetery Lot. Foss reported a single lot for the estate of Edie Carter. Two options available; sell the lot and get the money or hold on to the lot. Discussion followed. Foss made a motion to ask the Trustees to transfer the lot from the estate into the name of Good Shepherd for its use. Motion 2nd by Miller. Carried.

Good Shepherd's web site went live May 29th ahead of schedule! You can access the site at www.goodshepherdwv.org. The site is easy to use and has information for potential members and access to schedules and the church calendar for those involved in activities. Kudos to the site committee!

Vestry Meeting July 12. The Vestry normally does not meet in July and August, however **Vestry will meet July 12th** to consider the feedback from the two town hall meetings concerning the proposed changes of Service Times & Sunday School. A vote for a one year trial period will be taken at this meeting.

Good of the Order: Toni DeVore reported her son-in-law had been in an accident but was recovering nicely.

Motion to adjourn was made by Fr. Seville, 2nd by Devore. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Darlene Slusher, Vestry Secretary