

THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH
Rhinebeck, New York

Vestry Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2011

Present:

Father Richard McKeon
Joanne Brunson*
Clarence Clark
Chele Fox
Ron Hirsch, Warden
Leanora Kovacs
Victoria Rivera

Absent:

Heather Cassano
Kristy Carter
Dave Craft, Warden
Joanne Engle

Excused:

Robby Long

Others Present

Lorraine Turra, Clerk

Opening Prayer

The regular meeting of the Vestry was opened with a prayer by Father Richard at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Approval of September 13, 2011 Minutes

MOTION made by Joanne Brunson, seconded by Victoria Rivera to approve the September 13, 2011 minutes.
VOICE VOTE - ALL IN FAVOR

Rector's Report

- Father Richard confirmed that Church of Messiah is allowed to have 3 Delegates and 1 Alternate attending the Election of the Bishop on October 29, 2011 and the regular Diocesan Convention on November 19, 2011 (Ron Hirsch - Leanora Kovacs - Kate Long - John Maden)
- The web site www.nybishopsearch2011.org/videos/ has available the bios of all the nominees for Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. The elections report will be discussed at the coffee hour after the 10:00 am service on Sunday.
- Father Richard was asked to be part of a core group of Rhinebeck men to form a book group on spirituality; the first meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Donegan Hall. The group is open to the community as well as members of Messiah.

*Joanne Brunson new E-mail address: jhbrunson69@yahoo.com

- The Rhinebeck Historical Society will have a meeting at Messiah on Friday, October 18, 2011.
- Third Lutheran Church on Livingston Street has organized a community hymn sing on Sunday, October 23rd at 2:00 p.m. Three churches are participating and each church will choose two hymns to be

used in this service.

- A design group will be meeting this week to start thinking about innovative, creative projects for Advent.
- Father Richard and the Stewardship Committee are hosting a series of six parish-wide Stewardship forums beginning Friday, October 21st with a goal to have all parishioners involved in the planning process for Messiah in 2012. Each forum will be about 1-½ hours at the Rectory. The parish list was divided into alphabetical sessions and it is hoped to have 100% participation. The first half hour will be socialization and then discussion of the new programs and initiatives as well as seeking support through contributions (time, talent, treasure.) A meeting will be held with the Stewardship Committee after the first round and it is planned to have two members of the Committee at each of the forums plus one vestry member.

Following these forums there will be 4 - 6 weeks to finalize the stewardship campaign, phone calls to those who have not pledged and it was suggested that there should also be positive calls to thank people who have already pledged - acknowledge their pledges.

- Richard Mayberry will be at Messiah to discuss tracking and keeping new members on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Signs - Zoning Committee - meeting with Val Kilmer and Joann Engel as to how to move forward with a variance request to the Village of Rhinebeck. We need to come up with one sign that conforms to the requirements of the zoning code. The signs have to be a fixed two-sided sign and perhaps put up ten days before an event. They can not be A frame signs and also, banners are prohibited under the current code. The change to the Zoning Code is not the job of the Church, but something that the Village must change.
- Youth Minister - Pat Mitchell has information about similar positions in other churches; it is estimated that it would cost \$30,000 for a half time position with benefits. The goal is to get a really fine candidate with experience, so that we don't have to train that person, someone who has creative abilities and can design curriculum for various grades. The candidate for this position must have a lot of energy to organize the youth groups as well as have complete responsibility for the Sunday School and perhaps music experience to envision a youth choir, bell choir, etc.

Ron Hirsch will meet with Francois Weigel to put together a job description and salary package and then form a search committee. There was a question as to how you advertise for a Youth Minister and Father Richard explained that word of mouth and assistance from churches who have youth ministers would be solicited.

- The Church School has 45 - 50 children registered - the first Sunday of each month will be a Family Service. The Sunday before Christmas will be Pageant Sunday (December 18th)
- Sinterklaus will be the third Sunday in December.
- December 11th will be Advent Sunday with Carols, a Pot Luck Supper and entertainment in Parish Hall.

- Confirmation by Bishop Donovan is scheduled at Messiah on January 8th, 2012. Youth confirmation classes will be held on Wednesday nights and adult confirmation classes on Tuesday nights.
- Clarence Clark reported that they are just cleaning up some sponsorship monies before final figures can be tabulated. He noted that there will be a celebration of the successful completion of this year's Mad Dash at their home and a specific date will be announced.
- There will be a meeting of the Outreach Committee Wednesday, October 19th at the Rectory.
- Heather Cassano has done a great job with email addresses and there were 320 at the last count out of a pool of four to five hundred. The web site has instructions as to how to register as well as how to be removed from the web site.
- Update on Church Directory - changes and/or additions. There will be an end of year update in December and two or three new members have contacted the church through the web site.
- Leadership - Ron Hirsch pointed out that a list has not been finalized as to who would be invited and the meetings still need to be scheduled. It was noted that there are a lot of things going on at the present time; the Youth Minister position, vestry bios, time and talent, and how to develop Leadership - this as an ongoing effort. The process and the framework for that day need to be worked out.

Leanora Kovacs asked what the goal of the Leadership Conference is? Father Richard replied that it is to develop the leadership of the parish - we need to let people know that they are invited to a meeting where we talk about leadership opportunities. More work needs to be done to discuss the process and define what the leadership should be. Look at what the ministries are first and then invite people to join in those ministries. Father Richard added that stewardship has more of a financial implement. Ron Hirsch suggested that we not invite people to a meeting until vestry is comfortable with having a Leadership Conference. Perhaps this could be talked about at the Annual Meeting where Stewardship forms could be available. Parishioners need to understand what Leadership is and whether or not they would like to have a part in it.

Ron Hirsch pointed out that the church needs to keep moving forward and we need to think of it in terms of having an ongoing leadership dialogue as to how to get more people involved. Leanora Kovacs asked it we will be asking the Leadership Committee to do what vestry is doing now? There will be new vestry members elected in January 2012 and we need to be clear about what we are trying to do. Father Richard agreed that we need to make it feel like more than a task.

The current vestry needs to provide guidance to the new vestry members as to our vision for the future. Father Richard noted that we need people who will step forward with skills and ideas as to how to revitalize the church - where do we need to work to fill in the gaps. In early January vestry needs time together to discuss how we want the new vestry to go forward. Who will be on that committee? Who do we need to invite? People do not know where to put their enthusiasm. Model of ministry by invitation - thinking of how you can do more. Perhaps there needs to be a quiet day - a retreat or planning session.

Before the next vestry meeting, a list of current vestry members and terms is needed, i.e. who have served their full terms and are not up for re-election (two consecutive three year terms and then off for two years.) The Nominating Committee will consist of Father Richard (who will lead the Nominating

Committee) two Wardens and vestry members rotating off.

- Rector's Cross - can be given for extraordinary circumstances (not every year.)
- Parish Picnic - was great - committee for next year.
- Crop Walk - raised over 10,000.
- *Next Vestry Meeting - Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.*

Closing Prayer

Since there was no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Father Richard at approximately 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Turra
Clerk of the Vestry

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