

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting**  
**December 21, 2009**

**Members present** Wardens: Sally Phelps, Steve Webster. Members: Jon Augspurger, Heidi Barnhill, Chris DeMarco, Benjamin Farrow, Michael Ferris, Michael Leland, Kara Pagano, Joshua Peacock, Stan Richardson, Judy Rose, Linda Savage Carole Trone, Brad Kennedy. Treasurer: Sparky Watts.

Newly elected members: Mary Ann Germanson, Terry Gibson, Kenn Jeschonek and Alfred McCoy were also present, with voice, but no vote.

1. Welcome by Senior Warden, Sally Phelps.  
Devotions introduced by Rector Jonathan Grieser. *Lectio Divina* on the *Magnificat*.
2. **Approved:** Minutes of 11/16/09 Vestry Meeting and Minutes of special meeting on 12/13/09.
3. Finance Report

(a) Treasurer Sparky Watts commented on the Finance report as follows:

Total Revenues minus Total Expenses through November show that we are under budget. That is, 82% of budget actual vs. 92% expected.

The substantial market underperformance of budgeted interest income and dividends is another story. Compared to a budgeted deficit of \$51,000 for the year, the outcome after interest and dividends was minus \$80,300.

Pledge income was 91% or 1% under target while Open Offering year to date was \$22,825 or 14% under budget. Easter/Christmas Offering fell behind 2008 YTD; however, as was remarked in the Finance Committee, the December offerings in the past have been fruitful. Interest & Dividends is up due to Baxter stock dividends and interest on Home Savings Bank accounts. The soda machine revenue is making a comeback n account 4240.

In the Rector Compensation & Benefits section, we expect to wind up about \$20,000 under budget at year-end.

The Property & Liability #s reflect billing which included some premiums for part of 2010.

Account 5760 Hospitality includes All Saints, Patrick's reception and Jonathan's installation. Some expenses are expected for the latter item.

\*Discussion included the following comments: (1) The main reason for the deficit is the recession. (2) Pledges are ahead of the budget. (3) We should look positively at "growing the church," not at cutting back. (4) Need to rethink the way our endowment is handled.

**Approved:** to accept the Financial Report

(b) Jonathan and Sparky have been working on a job description of the Assistant Treasurer. A draft is available to anyone who wants to see it.

© Josh Peacock has reviewed and updated fiscal policies. He will be sending them to vestry members. [History: An original draft was prepared in 11/07. On 5/08, it was decided that a sub-committee of the Executive Committee were to improve that draft.]

**Approved:** The Vestry recharges the Executive Committee to examine the fiscal policies. All Vestry should get comments to the Executive Committee by 1/15/10 to be discussed at the February meeting.

(d) Kenn JeSchonek, Stewardship Report: 118 pledges to date, (2009 – 141). \$318,000 pledged (2009 - \$357,000). Kenn will follow-up in January. Jonathan will ask Janet to prepare a report detailing new pledges, pledges lost by members moving or by death so that we can see trends. Report to be ready for examination at vestry retreat.

(e) Slightam estate: Earlier in 2009, Grace accepted an unstipulated gift of \$136,000 from the estate of Gertrude Slightam. The estate has sent an additional \$13,636.

**Approved:** To accept the gift.

**Approved:** To put the additional \$13,636 be put into the General Operating Fund.

(f) Other: Baxter stock valued at approximately \$18,000 has never been cashed in.

**Approved:** To cash in the Baxter stock and put the resulting \$\$ into the General Operating Fund.

4. Standing Rules of the Vestry. Michael Ferris detailed the changes to the proposed Standing Rules. Copies of the rules and the recommended changes have been sent to vestry members.

**Approved:** By common consent, the new standing rules were approved as recommended.

**Approved:** The Vestry expresses its appreciation to Michael for his work on the Standing Rules.

\*Copies of the amended rules will be sent to each member of the Vestry.

5. For information only: There was a discussion of how best to manage the Nettie Chase Fund, Consolidation of the Clergy Housing Fund, Special Purposes Fund and the General Endowment Fund. Two separate groups have been working on the mission and protocol for the Chase. Heidi, Michael Leland, Jon Augspurger and Kara Pagano were appointed to define a mission and a protocol for the use of Chase Fund. A sub-committee of the Finance committee is working on combining the other three funds and has decided to include the Chase Fund in the recommendation.. The vestry needs to decide whether the Chase Fund should be included with the other funds to create a broad fund for the mission of the church. The committee intends to make a report to the Vestry in January or February. Since a change in structure will require education of parishioners and the congregation must approve it, it would have to be adopted at the 2010 annual meeting. In the meantime there is still a need to have guidelines for using the Chase funds.
6. Rector's Report: At the last Vestry meeting, Josh asked for an update on our relationship with the Diocese and the Bishop. (a) Jonathan reports a helpful and supportive relationship with the Bishop. There are not major conflicts. Jonathan is participating in Fresh Start, a program for clergy new to the Diocese. The Bishop will be leading a Lenten program for Madison parishes on Wednesday evenings at Grace. Grace has received the requested grant from the Diocese for funding the Hispanic Mission. Rectors of Madison parishes meet together regularly looking for ways to cooperate. Jonathan has been appointed to the board of St. Francis' House. There has been a joint Evensong.

Wardens of the Madison parishes are beginning to meet together. Jonathan is in conversation with Shannon Kelly, Chaplain at St. Francis' House in our search for a part-time youth director.

(b) Jonathan is beginning to involve himself in the downtown Madison community as well. He has joined Downtown Madison Inc., attended their annual dinner, and serves on their Quality of Life Committee. He is also involved in Madison Urban Ministry in their concerns for how to respond to homelessness. He is in conversation with Porchlight about dealing with the needs of the men in our shelter, especially in times of emergency such as the recent snowstorm.

7. The Vestry retreat will be January 15-16 at Durward's Glen. We will begin to develop a Mission Statement and long-range plan. Vestry members are invited to suggest other items that should be part of the program. Deacon Carol Smith and Judy Rose will be planning food for the retreat.
8. Grace Fund: (a) There are some Grace Fund members whose terms are up, and we need to appoint their replacements. Members should be considering possible names of those who could be helpful in managing and distributing the fund. The new people should be appointed in January.  
  
(b) Discussion of ways to simplify the process in which \$\$ from the Grace Fund are made available for contingencies.

**Approved:** That a capital expenditure contingency fund be established, to be funded by a request to the Grace Fund, in the amount of \$66,000.

9. Tellers' List. Since the number of Vestry members has been reduced in the newly approved Constitution and By-Laws, there is a need for a larger pool of tellers on Sunday mornings. It was moved and seconded that retiring vestry members can serve as tellers for 2 years after retirement from the Vestry. An amendment was proposed to increase the time from 2 years to 3 years. The vote was tied, and Senior Warden Sally Phelps broke the tie by voting in favor of the amendment.

**Approved:** That retiring vestry members can serve as tellers for 3 years after retirement from the Vestry.

10. Information: Google groups have been established to facilitate communication between Vestry members and the whole vestry. See attached.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deacon Carol Smith