

# St. Mary of the Hills

Vestry Meeting

June 15, 2010

Vestry members present: Michelle Capen, Betty Green, Kristian Jackson, Becky Johnson, Chip Myers, Mary Ellen Raulerson, Frank Thomas, and Diana White

Vestry members absent: Jim Ayoub, Alex Hallmark, Bob Miller, and Derald West

Others present: Fr. Rick Lawler, Orian Carter, Greta Wilson, and Katy Abrams

Fr. Rick opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Minutes from the May 18, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor changes.

Youth Director's Report: Katy Abrams presented a "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children and Youth", which she and Alice Cennamo obtained during a Planning Conference they attended at Valle Crucis Conference Center. This document has been adopted by the Western Diocese as well as the National Episcopal Church. It describes procedures and guidelines for protecting our youth. A copy is attached to these minutes. She asked the vestry to review the documents and recommend any changes it thought were needed. She also reported that she had just sent out care packages to the youth attending summer camp and to those serving as staff members at a camp.

Treasurer's Report: Orian Carter stated that the checking account balance to date is \$34,008.23, with available cash being \$35,504.26. At the end of May, we had income of \$29,436.50 and expenses of \$26,534.94. Year to date, our income is \$156,724.38, whereas we budgeted income of \$173,030.00. He said the actual year to date deficit is \$17,632.14 and the vestry had budgeted a deficit of \$6,294.45 so the deficit is higher than planned. He said the cause is primarily due to slower than normal pledge payments. He is not too concerned about this, and he presented a history of the percentage of pledge payments collected by this date for the past several years:

Years:	2007	2008	2009	2010
% of pledges collected:	50%	43%	49%	41%

He stated that we were scheduled to pay our quarterly outreach and our diocesan pledge at the end of June. He reported that all budgeted programs and items seem to be in line with just a few departments over budget by small amounts. The Charitable Trust has a balance of \$217,187.08 and the Capital Trust has \$41,433.51. He reminded the vestry that it had budgeted to take \$10,000.00 from the Capital Trust to be used as income. This is money that was paid out of our cash on hand for some capital projects completed a couple of years ago and the vestry decided at that time not to take the monies out of the Capital Trust fund unless we needed them. Chip Myers moved that the financial report be accepted, and the motion was seconded by Betty Green. The motion passed unanimously.

Orian Carter also stated that UNUM, the short term disability insurance company, had back dated Beth Postlethwait's date of disability to July 14th, the last day she worked. They reimbursed the church for 70% of her salary and we received a check in excess of \$5000.00.

Rector's Report: Fr. Rick stated that there will be a meeting on June 20th at 9:00 AM to discuss the "Dream Budget" for next year. This is just an informational meeting for sharing hopes, dreams and ideas for 2011. He asked the vestry to attend if possible.

Fr. Rick asked the vestry for advice on whether or not he should postpone the parish wide conversation on the state of the organ which he has set for July 11th at 1:00 PM. He has received several comments from interested parishioners. He presented an October 2004 committee report on the organ, which studied the problems and provided estimates on costs for repairing it. The vestry in 2004 decided to take no action. Jay Raddar, Frank and Meg Fary's nephew, is a consultant on organs. He came today and played the organ and then met with Fr. Rick and Greta

Wilson to discuss his opinions. He stated that the organ is basically a Level IV, cheap instrument. However, it has a "handful" of years left on it. It has occasional but not serious problems. It will continue to have more problems as time goes on. Presently, it takes about two years to get a new organ built. It was decided to go on with the meeting and at least get people thinking.

Fr. Rick announced that it's time to begin the vestry nomination process, and he asked vestry members to find good people to be considered. The present process is to present a slate of nominees at the annual parish meeting. However, if there are too many or too few people nominated, the nominating committee will have to convene and come up with a slate.

There was a conversation about directed or earmarked giving to the church. After discussing the pros and cons of such giving, it was decided that the parish should accept directed or earmarked gifts and not attempt to discern the reasons for such gifts. The hope is that this will not have a direct impact upon pledges.

Pastoral concerns: June 27th Evensong will be in memory of and dedicated to the life of Pat Morris, daughter of Margaret Morris and sister of Dale Dougherty. Margaret Morris has died recently, and we will be having a memorial service for her sometime after Rick returns from vacation. Derald West is still in the hospital and would appreciate short visits. Betty Green asked for prayers for her mother, Helen Hartley, who had cataract surgery and is failing a little. Warren Frers has been very sick, but is now home.

Sr. Warden's Report:

Jr. Warden's Report: Chip Myers reported that the stone work has been completed and looks great. Eric Gilbert of Full Circle Masonry did the work and charged approx. \$900.00 less than he estimated.

The energy audit will begin within the next couple of weeks. After the report is made, the vestry will have to make some decisions on the heating/cooling systems in the building.

The vestry went out and looked at the maple tree on the front lawn. There is concern that if it falls or a part of it falls, it will cause much damage to the front entrance to the church. Chip presented three options for the vestry to consider: taking the whole tree down for a cost of \$5500.00; remove approx. 1/3 of the tree at a cost of \$1925.00; or remove the branches hanging over the building at a cost of approx. \$700.00-\$800.00. No action should be taken until the fall after the growing season so the vestry made no decision.

David Wilson submitted a Facility Use Application which was denied. Said application is attached to these minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Fr. Rick closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greta Wilson