

St. Agnes Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of St. Agnes Episcopal Church, Little Falls, NJ opened with a prayer and was called to order at 7:45 P.M.

Present: J. Ceriani, A. Picazio, R. Patrick, T. Ploch, S. Schink, W. Drake-Schneider, D. Thomas and J. Skal (Treasurer)

Regrets: L. Barnett, M. Borden

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the August 7, 2007 meeting was made by W. Drake-Schneider, 2nd by A. Picazio and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Due to the limited time from the end of last month till this meeting, there is no August financial statement. Joan Skal provided an overview report of how our endowment and other funds are invested, noting that most of the money is in bond funds that were paying about 2.15% for the last 6 months (4.3% annual).

Pastoral Report:

- The Rev. Schink reported that she has met with a new couple that wants to get married at St. Agnes.
- We have had several new visitors in the past month
- The Rev. Schink will not be available from Sept. 18th through the 23rd. She has made arrangements for clergy to cover the Sunday service and has Fr. Mark Walden from Christ Church, Totowa lined up to cover any emergencies.

Financial & Legal:

- External Audit: We have contacted the firm of Haggerty and Bosch, LLP to conduct a full audit of our 2006 financial records, as recommended by the Diocese. It is estimated that this will cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000, but it could end up being less if our records are all in order and easy to audit. A motion to go forward with the audit was made by R. Patrick, 2nd by D. Thomas and approved unanimously.
- Stewardship Committee: W. Drake-Schneider, chair of the committee reported that October 21st is Stewardship Sunday and that one person will speak to the congregation about stewardship each Sunday, starting on September 20th. There will also be a letter from the Stewardship committee. We currently have 45 pledging units and 16 regular contributors who do not make an annual pledge. One of the criteria the Diocese expects churches to meet before they launch a search is that they have 100 pledging units.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Building and Grounds Committee: We are forming a new B & G Committee that will include both vestry and non-vestry members of the congregation. Tom Ploch will chair, joined by Linda Barnett, Robert Patrick and possibly “Chip” Smith.
- Landscape Proposal: We need to change landscaping services. The one we are currently using has relocated too far away to adequately service our property during snow events. We have a proposal from Fredco Landscaping that will cost about the same as what we have been paying (\$12,000 per year). There are several questions that we want answered, so R. Patrick will contact Jason, from Fredco, to clarify these points. A motion to accept the proposal, pending the final approval of the B & G Committee was made by W. Drake-Schneider, 2nd by J. Ceriani and approved unanimously.
- Painting front of Church: Tom Ploch reported that we have an offer from an anonymous donor to have the front of the church repaired and painted and they have recommended someone to perform the work.
- Broken Basement Window: There is a hole and a crack in the basement window below the women’s rest room. T. Ploch will contact Elliot glass to repair.

New Business:

- Repainting McKay Hall with SACC: We have an offer from SACC to repaint McKay Hall. They have 6 volunteers to help with the project. The Rev. S. Schink will follow up with Fred Batelli, from SACC on the details.
- Replacement of Door to Lower Level: The steel door to the lower level of the education building has rusted and will not always close properly and should be replaced.

Old Business:

- Clean Up Day Report: Eighteen people participated in the clean up around the parish hall and education building. Much was accomplished. T. Ploch is going to contact our cleaning service company about stripping and polishing the library and first floor hallway before the start of Sunday School this weekend.
- Bush Trimming, Pea Gravel and Ivy Removal: The pea gravel has been removed the play yard, dead branches have been trimmed and the ivy has been removed from the outside walls of the church.
- Update on Sexton Guidelines and Conversation: Wendy Drake-Schneider and Pat Keating will meet with the new candidate to be our sexton:
- Update on Plumbing & Electrical Inspection: Tom Ploch is trying to set up a date with the plumber. The electrical inspection is scheduled for 9/6.
- October Organ Concert: We are still moving forward, but have yet to complete plans for the reception following Rodger’s concert.
- Missing Members: Nothing to report.
- Name Tags: Still on hold, clean up projects took precedence.

- Welcome Back Picnic: Pat Keating is going to be providing a blow-up, bouncing toy for the young children to play on at the picnic. He has also made arrangements to have the hot dogs and hamburgers donated. There are sign up sheets for people who want to bring additional items.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 PM by W. Drake Schneider, 2nd by A. Picazio, and approved unanimously, followed by a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Robert J. Patrick, Clerk

Date of next meeting: October 2, 2007