

May Vestry Meeting
Minutes (approved)
June 20, 2016

The Vestry of R E Lee Memorial Episcopal Church met on Monday, June 20 at 5:00pm

In Attendance: Tom Crittenden (Rector), Woody Sadler (Senior Warden), George Brooke, Susan Cross, Doug Cumming, Carole Elmore, Keith Gibson, Julia Grossman, Catherine Marcus, Susan Lawrence, Holt Merchant, and Don Whittington

Absent: Elizabeth Knapp, Grigg Mullen (Junior Warden), Don Whittington, Daniel Wubah

Guest: Tom Gosse, Sharon Massie

Opening: Woody Sadler, Senior Warden called the meeting to order.

Prayer: Tom noted current prayer concerns and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The May Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

Standing Committee Reports:

Finance – report attached

Stewardship – report attached

Christian Education-report attached

Construction

Grigg Mullen is on vacation. It was reported that all asbestos has been stripped from the areas of the parish house that will be renovated. The outside ductless split for the kitchen air conditioner has been relocated for future access to the new elevator entrance. Merce Broke has been overseeing construction in Grigg's absence.

Property- report attached

Safety Preparedness Committee – report attached

Old Business:

Historic Tax Credits (per Tom Gosse)

Tom Gosse spoke about his further research on the historic tax credits.

In checking the tax files with the City of Lexington an error came to the church's attention. The City records showed that the plot of land that the church and parish house are located were owned by Washington and Lee University. A sketch was found showing that the land was owned by R E Lee Memorial Episcopal Church. Steve McAllister, Treasurer and Vice President for Finance at Washington and Lee University signed a letter that stated that W&L has no interest in the land. Subsequently the city assigned a value (\$85,000) to the land in the churches name.

Tom Gosse thanked everyone who attended the meeting with Gentry Locke. However, the attorney misspoke concerning the minimum amount needed to be spent to get the tax credits – instead of 50% of the **depreciated value** the amount needed is 50% of the **assessed value**. This means that the church needs to spend at least \$1, 100,000 to be eligible.

Several people have suggested that we might attempt to include previous construction, maintenance and repair items to be included for the tax credits. However, it has been advised by our Richmond (Historic Tax Credits) attorney that may jeopardize the eligibility, and we do not have the detailed expense records, which have been shredded.

The Finance Committee at its last meeting expressed concerns if total expenditures (Parish Hall, Organ, Undercroft) would exceed \$1,100,000 could we raise capital in excess of \$1,000,000. Consequently they did not recommend the signing of the engagement letter with Gentry Locke until those issues are resolved. Tom Gosse noted however, that the engagement letter did not obligate the church to pay any legal fees for work that was not performed.

Capital Campaign-

A chair has not been identified. After a lengthy discussion in which each Vestry member present spoke, the Vestry resolved to proceed on a Vestry led fundraising campaign for the elevator/college room construction project.

Clerk of the Vestry-

A clerk of the Vestry has not been identified. Sharon Massie has been taking minutes this year but has asked to be relieved of this responsibility. Vestry members have been asked to seek out a clerk. There may be a couple of parishioners that might be willing to work as a tag team.

New Business:

Ambry Candle/Light

The family of Vera Sadler has offered a memorial gift of an Ambry Light for the altar. An ambry light is a fixture that is lit when there are consecrated wafers and wine in the tabernacle on the altar.

Suggestion Box:

None this month

Program Director:

Sharon spoke about the recent Christian Education committee meeting and showed a chart of all the offerings at R E Lee Church that involved education/formation. The chart showed the following categories: Sunday, Weekday, Workplace/School and Retreat and then further categorized the offerings into topics covered by all programs: Tradition/Liturgy/Spirituality, Church History/ Theology/ Christian Ethics, Life Application/Ministry/ Christian Fellowship, and The Bible.

Sharon recently attended the Christian Formation conference at Kanuga where The Rev. Winnie Vargus was keynoter. Mother Vargus talked about her 7 year tenure as rector with St. Mark's in the Bowery, in New York City. Sharon invited Vestry members to borrow her copy of the keynoters address.

Sharon highlighted the upcoming *Our One Word* meeting and VBS. *Helping Hands: Sharing God's Love in the Neighborhood* Vacation Bible School is June 27-July 1. Lexington Presbyterian has generously offered their space for VBS this year. We will be partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran, Lexington Presbyterian and Trinity United Methodist Churches.

Christian Education will resume on September 11 with a Ministry Fair.

Comments by the Wardens:

The next Vestry meeting will be on Monday, August 15 at 5:00 pm. Woody encourage all Vestry members to help with the Community Table dinners one time a year as a Vestry outreach.

Comments by the Rector:

Tom just returned from a visit with his son in Cameroon, Africa.

The Church Healing and Reconciliation Reference Team will have its first meeting with the Rev. James Isaacs and Barbara Robbins on Thursday, June 30.

Tom asked for continued thoughts and prayers for the Congolese refugee family living in Lexington.

George Brooke closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 6:30. The next Vestry meeting will be on Monday, August 15 at 5:00 pm.

Committee Reports

The Stewardship Committee did not meet, but its support of a "time and talent" survey of all parishioners is being pursued by the Outreach Committee, as mentioned in my last report. A Survey Monkey form will be emailed out as part of the Stewardship campaign this fall, and mailed to those without email. It asks everyone to check any of three boxes for about 60 activities – if you are "Serving," "Interested," and want "Contact" in each area. This surprisingly long list shows just how much various parishioners are doing (we suspect), though they might not have thought of it as part of church or Christian work and it has never been quantified this thoroughly, parish-wide. The activities are bunched into 10 areas:

Worship, Christian Education, Pastoral Care, Christian Outreach (church-related program like Summer Backpack and Refugee Working Group), Community Outreach (not church-related agencies like RARA,

Boy Scouts, etc.), Stewardship, Parish Life (Men's Prayer Breakfast, DEO, EWA, etc.), Facilities, Parish Administration, and Informal Outreach (caring for a family member, intercessory prayer, "Other").

The survey as a half-page introduction that concludes with this:

"During Bishop Bourlakas's June visit, in talking about being missional, he made reference to lines in a hymn attributed to a poem by Teresa of Avila (1515-1582): "Christ has no body now but yours... Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, You are His body." We sincerely appreciate your time to complete the survey, and most importantly the time, talent, and treasure that you contribute in being the hands, feet, eyes, and body of Christ in our world."

The survey is in draft form. Comments are welcome. It will be discussed at the next Stewardship Committee meeting, to be held July 13.

Doug Cumming, liaison to the Stewardship Committee

The Christian Education Committee of R E Lee Memorial Episcopal Church met on Tuesday, May 31 at noon. Holly Pickett, chair, Diana Kenney, Tom Crittenden, Julia Grossman and Sharon Massie were in attendance. Sharon Massie opened the meeting with prayer and led the meeting.

Christian Education ended for the School Year on May 22 with a cookout after church. We may offer a *Dwelling in the Word* class in July but will hold off scheduling it until we know how the construction will affect the use of the parish house.

It was felt that for the 2015-2016 program year Christian Education were offered for all age groups, had appropriate content and were running smoothly. We charted all programs of the church that involved education/formation and put them into the following categories: Sunday, Weekday, Workplace/School and Retreat. After listing the programs we further categorized them into topics covered by the programs: Tradition/Liturgy/Spirituality, Church History/ Theology/ Christian Ethics, Life Application/Ministry/ Christian Fellowship, and The Bible.

Sunday School for children and youth was discussed at length. Attendance falls off about mid-year for middle and high school students. That is a frustration for teachers who come prepared to teach and have few students. The elementary aged attendance remained stable throughout the year. Many parents teach Sunday School. A trend among the families with youth is that they only attend worship once or twice a month and have opted out of Christian Education. We will continue to brainstorm Christian Education options for all and ways to engage the parents of children and youth, including a survey for parents about preferences for SS times and parent program interests.

Vacation Bible School, Helping Hands: Sharing God's Love in the Neighborhood will be held June 27 - July 1 at Lexington Presbyterian Church. We have partnered with Good Shepherd, Lexington Presbyterian and Trinity United Methodist Churches. Along with our Bible school lessons each day the children will visit a service agency in our community and help with service projects. These agencies include RARA Food Pantry, Rockbridge Regional Public Library, The Community Table, Meals for Shut-Ins, Project Horizon, and the Campus Kitchen Garden at W&L.

Christian Education will resume September 11.

Tom Crittenden closed the meeting with prayer.