

St. Mary's Vestry Meeting

April 10, 2013

Present: Robert Oliver, Abel Turner, Ann Gilmore, Sue Faulkner, Tom Hart, Linda Joseph, Jan Denson, Jack Newsome, Tulisha Carson, Rev. Susie Comer, John Cole, Carol Brown

Absent: C.M. Crawford

Rev. Susie Comer opened the meeting with a prayer. After examination of the minutes of 3 previous meetings, Robert Oliver moved to accept the corrected version of the 2/17 minutes as well as the others. Ann Gilmore seconded and all approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tulisha Carson presented the financial report for March. She cautioned that there are monies already designated that appear in the checking account balance. One such amount is \$2000 for Rev. Susie's pension, and there is \$7100 in designated contributions. That leaves a real balance of \$600. That is an improvement over February's amount, so we are making progress.

Year to Date the amount planned for pledges is down \$1000, but the money collected in the plate is up several hundred dollars. (The March 31 Easter collection accounts for some of that improvement.) There are expenses not in the budget. For instance the utility bill for February was larger than expected, and we have no budget for repairs. So we are about \$923 over on spending in the first quarter. We can either be overbudget, or the Vestry can move money from the Building Fund to cover the shortfall.

She pointed out two errors that she has made. The first was in figuring the custodians' fee. She had shown it as being \$3120 for the year, but it should be \$3380 to account for the four times in the year when there are 5 weeks in a month. Secondly, in figuring for Susie's pension, Tulisha had not accounted for the increase in the social security tax. So today she wrote Susie a check for \$84.21 a month for January, February and March. We will be overbudget in those two areas.

Tulisha explained that she has a separate spreadsheet for the designated contributions. When money is spent for any of those designated needs, she debits that column and knows where each category stands at any time.

Ann Gilmore moved that the report be accepted. Jan Denson seconded, and all said 'aye'.

Old Business: On the issue of recycling, Sue Faulkner said that they are now paying for scrap metal and aluminum cans only. She suggested that we let people do it themselves and get rid of the cans in the carport. Robert Oliver moved that we

suspend the entire recycling program at St. Mary's. Tom Hart seconded the motion, and all said 'aye'.

Robert Oliver brought up the matter of front lighting. He will pay to have the chandelier inside repaired and raised. The front porch light does not work. Linda Joseph said that that fixture was not historic, so it can be removed. Robert will put it in the shed. Abel Turner moved that we remove the front porch light and repair and raise the interior chandelier to illuminate the stained glass window. Jan Denson seconded and all said 'aye'.

Robert then brought up the matter of the QR Code. Tom Hart asked what it was and Robert and Susie explained that it provided information on a location to people whose smart phones have that app. Tulisha asked if it could link to our website, and Robert said it could. Robert moved that we accept a QR Code. Ann Gilmore seconded and all approved.

New Business: Susie said that after the strong windstorm recently, they found shingles on the ground and called the church foundation adjustor to have a look at our roof. He said there was damage to the ridgeline shingles and gave a repair estimate of \$1461. This year to save money, we raised our insurance deductible to \$1000, so we would have to pay that amount for the repair. Robert Oliver mentioned that it has been suggested to replace the ridge shingles with a metal strip down the ridge. It might be more expensive now, but it should last longer than the shingles. Ann Gilmore asked if we don't need to get several bids. Robert also suggested we have the belltower sealed with a plastic material advertised by Parsons Roofing. Abel Turner added that nothing would be foolproof. It would be best if we had a regular maintenance schedule of, say, every 2 to 5 years for resealing.

Susie added that the flashing around the vents on Hurst House needed work. Sue brought up the matter of rotten wood on the roof near the belltower. Susie asked how old the roof was, and it was estimated to be about 10 to 12 years old. She suggested that the rotten wood issue be addressed when the roof was replaced in 10 or 15 years. Robert mentioned that the adjustor told Susie that if his estimate was not adequate to cover the repair expense to let him know. He is from Georgetown. John Cole asked if the estimate included an equipment allowance. The roof is very steep and difficult to work on. Tom Hart suggested that Mueller could give us a list of roofers who could do the job.

After more discussion, Robert moved that Tom Hart get 3 estimates for repair of the ridgeline using asphalt tile/ metal strip, the bell tower sealing with tar / plastic, and new flashing on Hurst House. Ann Gilmore seconded the motion and all approved.

Discussion moved to the 4th Street Project. Sue Faulkner reported that she had spoken with Adam Alsbrook of the State Historic Commission. He knew of our concern and was waiting to hear from us. Sue told him that TXDOT said we could go

to the Commission for technical advice. Alsobrook said he was just going into a meeting with the head of the architectural division of TXDOT and he would get back to us after that. Sue said she would stay on top of this, calling every day if necessary. She had gone to the website to get Mr. Alsobrook's name. When she met with TXDOT they said there would be much vibrating involved with the street work. Susie mentioned that C.M. Crawford had written the Commission as an individual about our concern and she felt that his letter had been helpful in getting attention drawn to our case. Sue mentioned that this is the first time that the Historic Commission has been involved with us.

Susie reported on TXDOT's use of our lot across the street from the church. She told the contractor to leave our side open for parking. They could use the rest for dirt and pipe storage. The contractor told her confidentially that they were way ahead of schedule on the job and it appeared they would finish by the end of August.

Report on the Vestry and Wardens Conference: Sue Faulkner thought that it was better organized than last year. There were more interesting topics and there was more substance to them. Susie said she learned that the Diocese website had a lot of available information for her under "Administrative Services". Abel Turner cited the "Bring a Friend Sunday" idea. It is now a worldwide movement started by a man in Britain. There is a video available, though Sue said that that video is not as funny and interesting as the man's presentation in Houston was. Susie mentioned that C.M. Crawford was impressed with Bob Beal's presentation.

Senior Warden's Report: Sue Faulkner said that we needed to be more creative to make up for the low funds available for repairs, etc. Tom Hart should be the clearing house for things that needed to be done around the church. Let him know what needs attention. Also, could the Vestry Person of the Day come by on Monday, if there has been an event at the church Sunday evening, and check to see if things are locked up. Tulisha Carson mentioned that someone needs to see about the light timer in the church. The lights have been found on at inappropriate hours. She doesn't think anyone has ever been in charge of seeing to that. Sue suggested that Tom can find out. Robert Oliver said that there needed to be a time for "Vestry Person of the Day" training so they would all know what had to be done. Sue said she'd take up the matters of chair slides and recycling with Tom, our Junior Warden. Jack Newsome said that the knob to the office's outer door needed attention. Sue said that the minutes and financial reports ought not to be posted till they've been approved by the Vestry.

Junior Warden's report: Tom Hart thanked everyone for their help with various matters while he has been unavailable. He has been working on the pews, bolting them to the floor, as well as cutting tree stumps. He will report on the roof estimates at the next meeting. Robert Oliver said that Miller Heating had fixed the heater by the back pew.

Priest's report: Rev. Susie was glad that we made it through Easter. She gave the attendance counts for the services: Wednesday, 22; Maundy Thursday, 22; Good Friday, 24; Easter at 8, 29; at 10, 85. Last Sunday we had a total of 40 people. Last year's average attendance was 52. She found it nerve-wracking to be in charge, and she appreciated Millie Williams' help.

Susie will lead training for "Safeguarding God's People" around the Wednesday Potlucks. Be here at 5:30 for that training. She will only cover the 'exploitation' part, not 'harassment'. She will send out an email to find out when people's "Safeguarding God's Children" training expires.

There will be a Sharing Faith Dinner Wednesday, May 15. St. Mary's will do its own schedule. There will be more information to come on this matter. On the matter of the Columbarium, Libby got one bid that was high. We need one in our price range.

Susie will take her vacation on the 16th and 23rd of June and the 21st and 28th of July. She asked if we would prefer to have Morning Prayer or pay a substitute priest. The Vestry wanted to have Morning Prayer. She is on a waiting list for a California conference. If she's not accepted, she will go visit her mom.

Linda Joseph will offer "Safeguarding God's Children" training April 20.

Tom Hart wanted the office hours: Tu: 9:30-4:30; Wed: 9:30-5; Thurs: 9-12; Fri: 9:30-11:30. Phone: 556-5433.

Rev. Susie closed the meeting with a prayer.