

VESTRY MINUTES ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
March 17th, 2008

The opening devotion was led by our guest Debra Slade with music, book reviews and inspiration for ministering to those who are ill.

PRESENT: The Rev. Mark Delcuze, Rev. Emily Richards, Amanda Beatty, John Brotherhood, Pat Carlson, Richard Cutting, Rich Duncan, Lizzy Hanson, Tim Klvana (part-time), Jamie Mosedale, Chris Mueller, Andy Robertson, Mike Rodgers, Marion Roth and Dave Wilson.

Absent: Patrick Misciagna **Guests:** Jean McPherson, Debra Slade.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 18th vestry meeting were presented with a motion by Tim Klvana, seconded by John Brotherhood and unanimously approved as presented.

II. REPORTS

Debra Slade: Debra Slade continues to discern her leadership position as a postulant for ordination to the Priesthood. She is completing rigorous studies/tests for the Masters of Divinity this summer. She reported on the relationship with a gifted mentor and her trip to Canterbury in England. She outlined many challenges and rewards in her studies, beyond law school, and her pastoral care work with children and families at the Blythedale Children's Hospital. Debra thanked St. Stephen's for the support she has received and asked for our continued prayers. Debra was excused from the room as a motion was made by Jamie Mosedale, seconded by Pat Carlson and unanimously approved to approve appendix V (b), the endorsement for Candidacy for Holy Orders, which will be sent to the diocese of Connecticut.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Robertson reviewed the financial reports and highlighted the Stewardship amount of 204 pledges received for \$559,488 of projected income. The total pledging families are down from last year, but average amount pledged is up by 14%. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Richard Cutting and seconded by Dave Wilson, all voted in favor of accepting the reports as presented.

Search Committee Process Update: Mark reported that the search committee (Dave Richiger, Rich Pereira, Lauren Van Meter and Amanda Beatty) had recommended a candidate and Mark tendered a verbal job agreement today to consolidate the work done by both Youth Minister and Children's Minister. The job was offered to a candidate who lives in Ridgefield and paperwork will follow. Discussion regarding the process and training of this candidate was held; and the committee and rector reported they found a fitting candidate and time was of the essence and they are pleased with the results.

III. CLERGY REPORT & PASTORAL CARE

Clergy Report: Mark distributed a Holy Week schedule and encouraged all to participate. Emily and Mark also announced they would be available to bless homes March-May per a published schedule or by request. Upcoming dates include vestry planning meeting May 3; Confirmation, May 17 at St. Stephens; the Hope Trip, July 13-19; and Nutmeg Festival, August 9, 2008.

Parochial Report: A motion was made by Rich Duncan and seconded by Pat Carlson and all approved the report as presented which will be filed with the diocese of Connecticut.

Budget/Finance Meetings: A discussion was planned to hold “listening meetings” per questions and comments from the Annual Meeting about parish participation. Meetings will be held both after church and on an evening to allow members of the parish to share their ideas. The meetings will be held on Sunday, April 6th after the service and on Monday, April 7th at 7:30pm.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Application for Alcohol: An application was received, read and approved by all for wine to be served at the Nursery School fundraiser, a Pampered Chef party. All present approved the application.

VI. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

Next Vestry Meeting: April 21st at 7:30 pm. At 10:15 pm the Vestry joined in the Lord’s Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Roth, Clerk of the Vestry

Note: Email business following this meeting: *On 3/31/08 a request for an application for alcohol was distributed to all vestry members to service wine with food at the listening meeting on April 7 at 7:30pm. The motion passed favorably by majority vote.*