

**Grace Episcopal Church
Elkridge, Maryland
Vestry Meeting Minutes
11/29/2011**

Present: Rita Chelton, Keith Cameron, Ginny Stickles, Jean Williams, Norm Peddicord, Dave Blackburn, Fr. Taylor Smith Jody Nation, Ryan Griswold, Julia Locke, Charlotte Aldridge, Dan Gerlowski

Absent: Tim Wolf, Shannon Fuller

The meeting opened at 7:15 pm with a prayer for the mission of the church.

1. The reflection was "Staying Awake".
 - 1a. The web pay site will be set up by mid December.
 - 1b. Norm raised the issue of accurate graves records. This was tabled after some discussion.
2. Agenda- adopted as submitted.
3. Minutes- accepted as submitted.
4. Previous action items- Charlotte wrote a newsletter article about The Mustard Seed. Vestry nominations were forwarded to Rita. Location for the retreat was found. Taylor has written a draft response to the diocesan allocation questions. Keith is still working on drafting a fund policy.
5. Treasurer's Report- We have net income of \$1781.13 for the year to date. Preparing next year's budget was briefly discussed. Keith raised the issue of guaranteeing living wages for the secretary and bookkeeper. The report was unanimously accepted. **Action Item- Keith will complete the fund policy and the draft budget for next year by the next meeting.**
6. Stewardship- Taylor announced that to date we have received 38 pledges totaling \$147,922. We are anticipating another \$25,830 from folks who pledged last year. The pledged amount increased by 9.4% over last year. Charlotte announced that Tim Wolf is rotating off of the stewardship committee. Charlotte also announced that there was a good turnout for Ingathering Sunday and that guest preachers Ray Smith and Cathy Hudson were a great contribution to the stewardship message.
7. Allocation Appeal Application- Taylor announced that Madeline Beard was between assignments and would be serving as our deacon for several months. The draft application was distributed and reviewed question by question. **Action Item- Taylor will e-mail the final draft to the vestry for review.**
8. Cell phone program- Rita is doing a trial run of collecting cell phones and renewed her request for used cell phones.
9. Nominees- The list of vestry nominees given to Rita was discussed. **Action Item- Rita will send email update of candidates who have accepted nomination before the next vestry meeting.**

10. The date for the annual parish meeting was set for 1/22/11 following a joint 9 am service at the Parish Hall.

11. Calendar- December 13 Tuesday Night Dinner and Gift Exchange

December 18: 3pm Christmas Drop-in and Cookie Swap at the Smith Home.

5pm. Youth Christmas Gift Exchange and Party.

December 23: 6pm Greening of the Church

December 24: Christmas Eve Services at 4 pm and 9 pm

December 25: Christmas Morning Service at 11 am

December 27: Elkridge Heritage Society tour of the church

January 1: Feast of Lessons and Carols

January 8: Resume normal worship schedule

January 10 & 31: Vestry meetings

January 22: Annual Meeting

12. Review of new action items (as above).

13. Adjourned at 9:10 pm with the Grace