

St. George Vestry Minutes  
Thursday, December 8, 2011

**In attendance:** Father Hugh Bromiley, Jim Callahan, LaVerne Collins, Dorothy Corbett, Hugh Gibson, Paul Martin, Tom Price, John Ruhsenberger, and Bob Updike. Tom Ryberg was unable to attend. Ruth Wadman was recovering from surgery and also unable to attend.

Father Hugh began the meeting at 9:02 AM with an opening prayer that asked for the quick healing of Ruth Wadman who had recent knee replacement surgery.

**Minutes**

Jim Callahan moved that the minutes from the Vestry Meeting on November 10, 2011 be approved as submitted; Hugh Gibson seconded; approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Tom Price reported that our pledge offerings are slightly lower than they should be at this point in the year and our overall collections are much lower. As a result, some of the bills from November could not be paid and had to be carried over into December. Outstanding pledges for 2011 are coming in slowly; where we are really deficient is in non-pledged collections. Expenses are in line with what was budgeted. However, it is likely that we will end the year with a negative balance especially as Christmas falls on a weekend.

- Tom Price moved that unless specifically designated for another use, monies in the memorial accounts be moved to the Reserve for Building and Equipment Repair (1.840.204) to close out these accounts. Jim Callahan seconded; approved unanimously.

- The frontice piece and walls for the choir riser area are to be installed the morning of December 13. Dorothy Corbett reported that the Women's Guild has agreed to donate the remaining monies needed for the project. Paul Martin moved to extend the Vestry's sincere and great thanks and gratitude to the Women's Guild for its generosity in donating funds to the choir riser project. John Ruhsenberger seconded; approved unanimously.

- Dorothy Corbett moved to accept the Financial Reports for November, 2011, as submitted. Paul Martin seconded; approved unanimously.

**Rector's Remarks**

- Father Hugh reported that Bishop Howe had responded to the letter he had sent about our 2009 pledge delinquency. Bishop Howe indicated that the earlier letter had been generated by the Finance Committee. The bishop thanked us for our commitment to eliminating the debt.

- A review of the November Towne Hall Meeting found the meeting to be a success. However, having a meal changed the nature of the meeting. Everyone agreed that only light refreshments be served at future meetings. Because of the inability to see, it also was agreed that the overhead projector not be used at future meetings.

- Father Hugh indicated that work had begun on the 2012 budget. The formulation includes very small pay raises for staff but little change from this year's budget. It is a bare-bones budget with no room for further cuts. The primary topic at the January Vestry meeting will be the 2012 budget. Parishioners need to do a better job of giving; this may be a focal point at the parish annual meeting. There are several major expenses looming on the horizon: the repaving of the

parking lot and insurance coverage for our Office Manager which kicks in 2013. An "every member canvass" may be needed in 2012 to generate the \$100,000 shortfall. Without substantial increases in giving by members, the long-term life of the church may be affected. The Vestry retreat in March will focus on the long-term financial future of the parish.

- The parish 2012 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29. There will be one service at 9:00 a.m.

- The diocesan convention will be a one-day meeting in Melbourne on January 21, 2012. Our delegates will be Dorothy Corbett, Paul Martin and John Ruhsenberger. Alternates are Walter Martin and Archie Duncan.

- The Vestry retreat will be Monday, March 19, 2012, hopefully at the Methodist Life Enrichment Center as last year's. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and as last year, at no cost to the church. Dorothy Corbett volunteered to help LaVerne Collins and Father Hugh with the retreat.

- For the formulation of the 2012 budget, Tom Price moved that the clergy housing allowance be set at the same rate as in 2011. Dorothy Corbett seconded; approved unanimously.

### **Stewardship Update**

It is time to make phone calls to those who have not submitted pledges for 2012. Calls will be made by members of the Vestry and Finance Committee. Archie Duncan will make assignments to those making calls.

### **Rehabilitating the Storage Room**

Marilyn Hood has completed Phase I of cleaning up the storage room and already there is much improvement. Liaisons are to remind their ministries that unnecessary items need to be removed as soon as possible.

### **Junior Warden**

John Ruhsenberger and Paul Martin reported that all planned repairs have been completed. The sensors have been installed in the rest rooms, however a sign is now needed reminding users to not turn off the switch. There is a problem with the pilot light for the large oven. Repair will cost around \$600.00. This repair has been delayed due to lack of funds. The small oven is working properly. One of the tiles in the memorial garden is cracked and needs repair soon.

### **Vestry/Staff Christmas Party**

Hugh Gibson announced that the Vestry/staff Christmas party on December 20, will need to be pushed back 1-hour as Evelyn has a doctor's appointment that afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM following a closing prayer by Bob Updike.

Respectfully submitted,  
LaVerne Vines Collins, Clerk of the Vestry