

VESTRY MINUTES – OCTOBER 24, 2011
Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, FL

Those in attendance: Becky Robbins-Penniman, Tom Dixon, Betty Fraley, Lela Highsmith, Jane Morris, Brian Sharpe, Judy Warner (via Skype), Andrea Zahn, Dan Smith, and Richard Gehring.

Absent: Jan Cote (Vestry Clerk)

Pastor Becky called the meeting to order at 6:09 P.M. Brian Sharpe opened the meeting with devotions.

Teaching: Pastor Becky reported the topic for the Gathering of Leaders workshop was evangelizing. The Episcopal attitude toward evangelism hasn't changed since 1971. Helping people to tell their story – never dogma, never “believe or else” – won't work anymore. Those people who do not have any kind of faith relationship want to know how you came to have faith, and what difference it makes in your life. The best definition of evangelism she's ever heard: Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where they just found bread. Evangelism is hard for Episcopalians for two reasons: first, most are not able to articulate, or admit, that they need God; second, even if we know that we need God, we don't know how to talk about our faith. For us to go out and tell why God is good news, we first have to be able to tell why God is good news for ourselves personally.

Information:

- **Treasurer's Report.** Judy Warner reviewed the September Financial Statement.
 - When we budget for 2012, we will look at the summer months for giving and budget accordingly.
 - All departments are under budget.
 - Worship has a budget of \$1200 which they are not using, which Pastor Becky has discussed with Tish Salerno.
 - Judy will request that Jan run the last three (3) years of expenditures.
 - Pastor Becky indicated she wants an Outreach budget line item with at least a \$200 budget.
 - She also stated she is going to eliminate the Communications Committee so there won't be a budget submitted for them. Many of that committee's duties are actually done by the office staff, so some of the funding support will be shifted there. She believes that what we really need is a Marketing Committee. She also would like us to explore consolidating budget line items when preparing the 2012 budget, to reduce complexity and permit flexibility.

- **Calendar Events.** Review by Pastor Becky.
 - See 125th Anniversary events listed in the church bulletin.
 - *Last Things First* series will be held during October and November (Sundays after the 11:00 A.M. service and Thursdays at 6:00 P.M.).
 - On November 20th, we will be holding a Celtic Service with Canon Durning (who will be attired in his kilt) and other Celtic Festival events.
 - The Episcopal Church Building Foundation is holding a meeting at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 1st with the clergy and Vestry members of several Clearwater Deanery Congregations (St. John's, Good Shepherd, Good Samaritan, Ascension, and Holy Spirit) and Diocesan personnel, including the CFO of the Diocese, Ann Vickers, and, if possible,

Bishop Smith, as well as representatives of the diocesan Congregational Development Committee. The speaker is Julia Groom-Thompson, of the ECBF, who is coming from Richmond, VA to make this presentation to us.

- On Sunday, November 27th, after the later service, we will be decorating the church for the Dunedin Youth Guild Tour of Homes fund raiser on December 3rd. The tour begins at 9:00 A.M. and Good Shepherd will host a tea at 4:00 P.M.
- **Decision:**
 - Minutes: The minutes from the September 29, 2011 meeting were approved. (Lela Highsmith/Brian Sharpe)
 - Buildings and Grounds – Dan Smith
 - The wheel stops funding hasn't been approved.
 - A request for a power drop has been requested on the Albert Street lot. The committee would like a priority on the power drop if they can only do one project at this time. Dan has a bid for \$900 with a probability of a lower bid (\$200 - \$250). The City of Dunedin and Florida Power have advised they need an address in order to install the pole. As there is no address on the lot, it will cost \$260 for the city to give us an address. Pastor Becky will approach the Endowment Board for funding for \$2,000 for the power drop and \$1,200 for wheel stops.
 - The next Vestry meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 22nd.
- **Discussion:**
 - Pastor Becky proposed a concept of two (2) budget hearings in an effort of transparency and for questions – one Sunday after church and one day during the week. This would include Vestry members and, ideally, Committee Chairs.
 - Need to give reviews for the staff before the budgets are done as well as a mutual ministry review of Becky. Mutual ministry review is an opportunity for the priest and the leadership to clarify the congregation's priorities, hopes, and needed resources so that she works on what is most important to the congregation, its mission, and its vitality.
 - With regard to Joe Nixon's presentation, the consensus is that we should move forward with his ideas. The next step is to see what the Endowment Board thinks, and how to work together on his ideas.
 - Written committee reports were received by: Finance, Building and Grounds, and the Rector.

Strategic Planning/Goal Setting: Richard Gehring distributed drafts from himself and Pastor Becky of *Goals Developed through an Appreciative Inquiry Process* and reviewed them with the Vestry. Summed up, we need to find a need in the community, fill it, and be known for it. The Vestry's homework is to look over the goals and be prepared to give feedback (What's important to me? Discern our calling – need to find our string [like that used in rock candy]).

Richard Gehring closed the meeting with prayer at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lela Highsmith