

## March 20, 2018 - Christ Church Vestry Meeting

Earle Conference Room, Christ Church Parish House

### Vestry Meeting

**Attending:** Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bern Mebane (Senior Warden), Dena Benedict (Junior Warden), Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Dan Seaman (Assistant Treasurer), Bill Kehl (Chancellor), Anne Arrington, Jim Baumgardner, Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Mac Gentile, George E. McCall, Kevin Mertens, Louise Oxner, Chuck Reichert, Betty Teague, Brent Williams, Helen Wynkoop.

**Absent:** None.

Harrison opened the meeting with prayer at 5:00 PM.

### Rector's Report

January 25 Evensong & Vestry Retreat: Harrison said that Stephen Cleobury, the recently retired Director of Music for the Choir at King's College, Cambridge University, will be at Furman University conducting a workshop the last week of January, 2019. We have the opportunity for an Evensong at Christ Church with Cleobury, the Furman University Choir and the Christ Church Choir, Friday, January 25, which is the original date scheduled for the Vestry Retreat at Kanuga. A reception will follow the Evensong. This is the type of event that Harrison and the Vestry would be expected to attend, so other dates and venues for the Vestry Retreat are being investigated.

Harrison said that the Vestry has typically gone to Kanuga and he sees the value in getting off campus. However, the Cleobury event helped him think about possibly staying in town this year. He suggested Coldwell Banker Caine building's board room, which is available to non-profits free of charge. Kevin suggested that the Vestry could stay in town and go to the Evensong as a group. Harrison said he considered this, but it would not allow the Vestry the opportunity to get to know each other the way that dinner and a social allows the group to do. Dena said we would need 100% commitment to the retreat during the time set aside in the same way as if we were out of town. We would still have a social time together and begin the next morning with the same bracket of time on Saturday that we would use at Kanuga. Harrison said that Brad Halter is eager for non-profits to use their meeting room space and offers it at no charge. Harrison said he was impressed with the meeting space there and that it will give you an idea what the Parish House could look like in 2023! The Vestry expressed approval and, hearing no opposition, Harrison said that we will pursue the in-town option with the CBC building.

Restructuring: Harrison reported on the Third Century Commission (3CC) and how the definition of our mission will help us consider ways to organize the staff and ministry structure to better facilitate ministry. The Church does not need to wait for the conclusion of the 3CC's work to conclude to consider optimizing our resources. This was discussed at today's staff meeting and the staff is on board. The Vestry representatives for each ministry area will be key voices in advocating how we may restructure.

Staffing: Harrison said that some staff positions are still open. Interviews continue for Parish Administrator and Faith in Action Priest. At the request of the Altar Guild, Audrey Jordan's position as laundress has been eliminated. Audrey's salary was 70% of the Altar Guild budget. The clergy are now laundering their own vestments. Audrey served for 27 years and was the most senior member of the

staff. She also works for parishioners and it is never easy to cut someone's position. Altar Guild does the linens and Donald's music budget covers the choir robe cleaning. We will need to recruit volunteers to care for the acolytes' robes.

Palm Sunday, March 15-Easter Sunday, April 1: Harrison said that we have 21 services scheduled March 25-April 1. Please plan to attend at least seven! Palm Sunday is also Outreach Sunday – so please come for the 9:30 AM food packing event.

Celebration Sunday and JGT: April 29 is Celebration Sunday and the Joyful Garden Tour is the weekend before. All but the two new stained glass windows will be in the Church.

Questions and Comments for Harrison: Chuck Reichert asked about the status of the 101 Broadus Property, which was the subject of the March 9 Called Vestry Meeting. The building owner signed the contract, so this transaction is in process. Jim Baumgardner asked about how quickly this transaction came about. He was not opposed to the purchase, but asked about the lack of time available (24 hours) to review the information before the meeting. Brent Williams said that there was healthy and lengthy conversation at the meeting and the opportunity to ask tough, legitimate questions about the transaction. Bern Mebane said he pushed the accelerator on the deal due to favorable terms accepted by the seller. Some Vestry members said that the property, connected to the Canterbury Counseling Building, had been under discussion for years, so there was awareness that this contiguous property had been identified as desirable by the Church. Harrison said in response that we should make explicit some of the implicit and historical understandings as a written document or defined goals to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding in the future. George McCall asked about the church's relationship with the seller. Harrison said that cultivating a relationship with the seller would be positive.

### **Senior Warden**

Bern Mebane followed up on the above discussion and said that, looking at the assets we have, we want to have a determined, focused and disciplined way of determining what is critical to our mission as we move forward. He thanked Dena for how hard she is working on the Third Century Commission.

### **Junior Warden**

Dena Benedict said that the 3CC of 12 is made up of both parishioners and staff. Consultant Dawn Huntley has been hired, via approval by the Vestry at last month's meeting. She said the purpose of the 3CC is to discern and articulate the church's mission statement, the church's values and to determine a framework by which to measure this work. She described *what* she values and described the difference with the *values* she identifies with Christ Church. She thanked the Vestry for their input. Through their input, along with the staff, commission and others, we've identified close to 500 words, which are being clustered by meaning.

A subcommittee of the commission is working on a parish-wide survey, going out in April, which will include around 15 value words and ask for parishioners' input as well. It will be a concise survey that helps us identify the most commonly held values by the parish and will be available to take by email, link on the website, mobile phones, and paper copies. She exhorted the Vestry to get out and talk about the 3CC process and encourage others at your classes and groups, with your church cohorts, etc. The survey will be available for a two-week period. Afterward, a subcommittee will review the parish input to identify perhaps between five to seven values that rise to the top. Last Sunday's sermon and worship

article focus was on values for a reason! A planned communications blitz helped get the message out. The 3CC also has an extension on the church telephone system for questions and comments by the parish for the 3CC. Dena thanked the commission for their hard work. Anne Arrington asked about the Vestry's role. Dena said that the Vestry would be asked to adopt and endorse the mission statement. Jim asked about the purpose of the makeup of the commission. Dena said that previous commissions had been parishioner-heavy and the 3CC makeup was a conscious effort to include staff, who are responsible for administering policies and procedures. Most of the staff are parishioners but a couple are not, so their viewpoints from other churches are brought to the table, too. Chuck asked about how the values will be included in the mission statement. Dena said that each value would have an explanation as well as be included in the statement. An example she provided is the word *community*, which could mean many different things.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Chris Klasing called the group's attention to the monthly report sent earlier by email to the Vestry. He said that so far in 2018, the Church is pretty much on budget. We have moved \$500,000 of surplus cash into a money market account, which will bear interest rather than none in a checking account. Chris and Dan spent time with Bill Johnson and Monica Eslick yesterday regarding all the special projects the Business Office is supporting, including the 101 Broadus property deal, renegotiating the Reliance bank lease, selecting a new auditor, etc. They worked on prioritizing these projects and looked for volunteer opportunities. One is having volunteer counters on Monday mornings; another is finding a person with expertise to help re-negotiate the copier and telephone contracts. Mac Gentile asked about the Reliance Bank's repayment of property taxes. In the past, the church was liable for property taxes. McNeill Epps found that this was changed in the first renegotiation with the bank four or five years ago, near the same time that the county began requesting the property taxes be paid, and the bank has now agreed to reimburse the church for the property taxes owed over this period of time. Chris said that the exact terms on the latest bank lease renegotiation were due to be completed next week. Cotton asked about the HIStory Lives accounts and what appears to be about \$99,000 in discrepancy. Is this interest that we haven't expensed correctly? Chris and Dan have wrestled with this – that there is likely a timing issue that hasn't quite caught up yet. There is a conflict between the pledges and contributions entered in – they should match but don't always. They will review this issue and report on it. (Chris, after the February Vestry meeting, also sent a revised HIStory Lives report, which is attached, along with the Treasurer's reports, to these minutes.)

### **February and March Vestry Meeting Minutes**

The February 20, 2018, Vestry Meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email. A motion to accept the February 20 minutes was made by George McCall and seconded by Betty Teague. All Vestry members voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

The March 9, 2018, Called Vestry Meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email. A motion to accept the March 9 minutes with the inclusion of the full updated motion wording was made by Cotton Clarke and seconded by Mac Gentile. All Vestry members voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried. The updated minutes will be distributed to the Vestry.

## **New Business**

New Member Dinner Date Change: May 15, 6:00 PM in McCall & McKissick, right after the Vestry meeting. Please plan to attend.

## **Committee/Team Reports**

CCES: Kevin commented that eight CCES exchange students from Japan arrived tonight and will be with host families. You may see some of these students around the church, so please be sure to welcome them warmly. Betty noted the CCES observation of the nationwide one-month memorial of the Parkland High School mass shooting. About 100 Upper School students gathered, rang a bell and read one name a minute for each of the 17 victims. They then joined 300 other students inside for Chapel, where Harrison delivered a comforting and encouraging sermon.

Joyful Garden Tour: Betty said that it would be wonderful if 100% of the Vestry would volunteer if in town the week of the garden tour. She mentioned the types and number of volunteer positions still open, including kitchen prep for the sponsor party dinner. To get involved, call Betty or sign up online.

Demographics: Jim commented on the parishioner demographics in the service that he and his wife attend. Are we getting older? Will we be in good financial shape ten years in the future? With the change in service schedule, fewer children are in the main service, but more are probably in the family-friendly Markley Chapel service. Harrison said that we have demographic data in our database, so we can pull that, but it's difficult to compare attendance data during the transition from and back to the church along with the change in the service schedule. He said the current service schedule is designed to have a balance, but it will take a while to see if it is the right one for our parish. He called to mind a detailed demographic study that Chris Klasing did a few years ago. Jim asked if the next Annual Giving campaign, almost a year after the move back to the Church and service schedule change, would be a good time to learn more from the congregation. Chris recalled the last time the church asked for a congregational survey was about five years ago.

Harrison closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Rose Cuddy