

Christ Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting of the Vestry  
Tuesday, August 9, 2016

**Present:** The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis, Rector's Warden Artie Phills, People's Warden Sheila Cooper, Vestry members: John Ager, Beth Binde, Austin Cooper, Carole Forsythe, Mel Garber, Jean Houvener, Mervis Johnson, Penelope Lattimer, Debra Lowe, Andrew Murphy, Beverly Stott, Patricia Warren

**Also Present:** Treasurer Jonathan Gloster (via phone)

Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with opening prayer by Debra Lowe

Dwelling in the Word was [Luke 12:49-56](#)

**Review of Consent Agenda:**

**Stewardship:** Stewardship Committee Chair Andrew Murphy submitted a written Stewardship report. He explained that the way we think about stewardship will change this year. There will still be testimonials, but there will be an outside speaker. The process is prescribed and the method is proven to increase pledge amounts by 15%. Rev'd Hollis, Rector's Warden Artie Phills and Vestry member Andrew Murphy went to a meeting on this process and found it very compelling. It was started at a Methodist Church and, although it will be a cultural shift, we will adopt it. The process encourages parishioners to look at their lives and blessings, and give back to God what has been given to them. Parishioners will be given pledge cards while in church and asked to pledge while in pews. Parishioners will be given advance notice. The Vestry members will have a meal with the guest speaker on October 23; spouses and significant others are invited to attend. Ingathering Sunday, which is now called Consecration Sunday, will be held on October 30.

**Pastoral Care:** Pastoral Care Committee Chair Mervis Johnson submitted a written Pastoral Care report. She explained that the Committee will use photo cards taken by Brian Breen to send to parishioners. Rector's Warden Artie Phills mentioned that it's important to know when people need a card; sometimes Rev'd Hollis doesn't know. If members of the Vestry hear anything, they should let Mervis and/or Rev'd Hollis know. Vestry member Beverly Stott suggested that we place a pastoral care box in the back of the church for people to ask for pastoral care. The process of asking parishioners to notify Mervis or put a note in the box should be included in the weekly bulletin. Vestry member Andrew Murphy asked to clarify what pastoral care is. Rev'd Hollis said it's two things: 1) pastoral counseling when people come to her in crisis and 2) it focuses on care in the broader sense; caring for each other.

**Adult Formation/Children & Youth:** Adult Formation/Children & Youth Committee Chair Penelope Lattimer submitted a written Adult Formation/Children & Youth report. In terms of the youth, she explained that parishioner Margaret Stansbury is in charge of getting teachers; People's Warden Sheila Cooper is stepping down as she's been leading the youth for several years. A team who could step in for

youth in grades 6-8 is being proposed. There is also one teenager who the committee would like to join Men's Ministry and have him be mentored by Peter Cornell.

In terms of Adult Formation, Penelope would like more people to sign up for fellowship experiences. The Committee is looking into a bus trip to Grounds for Sculptures.

**Newcomer:** Newcomer Committee Chair Patricia Warren stated that newcomers and Vestry members are invited to a breakfast on October 2, 2016 (tentative date).

With respects to the Rector's report, Rev'd Hollis stated that there is not a report for this month.

The consent agenda was moved for approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jonathan Gloster highlighted several items. We are down \$8,000 for total income. The plate is down and we are behind in rent payments. Because the church is not air conditioned, groups may not rent consistently during the summer months. Eric Sanders is working to balance ShopScript. He may have Paul Ambos hold off on placing an order late in the year in order to balance the financials.

Rector's Warden Artie Phills moved to receive the report and file for audit. The motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:** [none to report]

### **Old Business**

**Matter of the Estate of Gladys K. Anderson:** Rev'd Hollis stated that the case should be finalized in the fall. The attorney has been very fair with his fees and is trying hard to keep expenses down.

**The Work:** Rev'd Hollis informed members of the Vestry that she has not reached out to Kim Fletcher since she returned from vacation. She asked if there were any questions from the conference call we had with Kim. Vestry member Jean Houvener stated that Kim owes the Vestry information. Rev'd Hollis stated that the Desk Audits were done. Kim was at CCNB for two days to meet with each staff member, Rev'd Hollis and The Way of St. Paul team. Rev'd Hollis said she'd follow up with Kim.

### **New Business**

**Ministry Fair:** People's Warden Sheila Cooper mentioned that a passport format will be used at the Ministry Fair this year. The Ministry Fair is taking place in the Nicholas Room on September 11, 2016, after both services. This format will encourage people to visit each ministry's table. She needs updated contact information by September 1. Vestry member Beverly Stott volunteered to help Sheila set up. Rev'd Hollis stressed that each ministry is responsible for highlighting their ministry at their table. The committee chair or someone on the committee needs to be at the table after each service. It's an opportunity to engage the congregation and call out gifts that you see in others.

***New Jersey Diocese Honoring Older Adults:*** Rev'd Hollis explained that this is an annual award to honor older (over the age of 65) parishioners. She stated that the year before last, we honored two parishioners: Artie Phills and Joan Borden. Last year, we received the information too late and would not have been able to submit timely. There is a service in Trenton in September. We can select up to two people who have dedicated time, energy and love to CCNB in 2016. The Vestry agreed to two people to honor.

***Leadership Day:*** Leadership Day will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Rev'd Hollis asked that Vestry members make it a priority to attend. It's important for everyone to be there. The agenda hasn't been set yet.

***Key Talking Points:*** The three talking points that we want to share with parish are: Changes in the approach to the Stewardship Program; Rally Sunday/Ministry Fair will be held on September 11; Various formation activities are being planned with the first one being a bus trip to Grounds for Sculpture.

Announcements need to be kept brief. If parishioners want to make an announcement, they should run it past Rev'd Hollis first. Rev'd Hollis will no longer highlight the bulletin. She trusts that the members of the Vestry know the one/two key announcements to highlight.

***Topics on the Mind of the Vestry:***

Vestry member Penelope Lattimer announced the fundraiser for Karl Manger. She is leading the effort to raise \$45,000 for a house renovation. The George Street Playhouse is donating the theater for the day. A mailing went to the Vestry members and the choir members. Rev'd Hollis suggested it be put in Parish Notes and Close Call.

Rev'd Hollis mentioned that the deadline for the Close Call is on Monday, August 15. If items need to be published, they should be sent to office administrator Julia Utz and Vestry member Beth Binde.

Vestry member Andrew Murphy mentioned that the message in the bulletin to dress comfortably during the summer months should be revised. People should dress comfortable all year around. Rev'd Hollis agreed and will update it.

Rector's Warden Artie Phills stated that Benny Barksdale approached him and stated that he and his jazz band would like to perform at CCNB.

Vestry member Beth Binde mentioned that she has groups looking for meeting space and asked if we can post what we have available on the website.

Vestry member Austin Cooper stated that there is a Fundraising Committee Meeting on August 13, at 12 noon.

The meeting adjourned on consent with Compline at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra P. Lowe  
Clerk of the Vestry