

ATONEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON TOBACCO ROAD

THE MISSION VESTRY **MINUTES- January 2003**

Father Miller opened with prayer. Minutes of the December meeting were read. Suzanne made a motion to accept the minutes. Kathy seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Report was discussed. John made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Shelley seconded. Motion passed.

Pam discussed the different accounts in the Financial Report. John made a motion to move the Building Fund, and the Parish House Furnishing Fund into the Mission Vestry Fund. Kathy seconded. Motion passed. Pam reported we had 8 pledges underpaid, and 13 pledges were overpaid in 2002. We lost four families due to moving.

Old Business:

Father Miller is still looking into speakers for the church. Sara Burns is still looking into the disability parking area.

Shelley has contacted a company to come and give her an estimate on the ramp.

We discussed refinancing the Parish House Mortgage last month. The rate will be 1.5% less than we have now. John will find out how much the monthly payments will be if we refinance, and keep the 13 year mortgage we have now or if we pay the same amount per month, how many months will be taken off the time it will take us to pay the mortgage.

New Business:

The new Mission/Vestry members will be given keys to the Parish House and Church. There is some confusion about who is answering

our security alarms. Jeremy will contact the company and get that information.

We have a report from James Mechanical Contractors that our Back flow preventer is OK, but the box has sand in it, and will need to be replaced later. Mr. Jackson will be asked to come out and check the electrical breakers. We are still having problems.

It was reported that the driveway is so dark some of the congregation has trouble finding it after dark. Shelley will see about getting reflectors. She will look into getting lights for the signs also. Jeremy asked if the Mission/Vestry would think about getting a van for the church.

Jr. Warden's Report:

Shelley is still looking into the price of a new copy machine.

She asked about having a professional floor company come out and give us an estimate on redoing the floors in the church. This was approved. She is checking on a privacy fence for the back, and on doors for the Church and Parish House. The cross will be oiled.

Sr. Warden Report:

John reported he will be going to Cochran for the conference on Small Churches.

Vicar's Report:

Father Miller passed out copies of the budget, and reported he had sent a copy to the Dioceses.

We have a request to choose a Sunday for collecting for the Episcopal Relief Development Fund. The Mission/Vestry will decide on a Sunday.

He reminded Mission/Vestry of the retreat that is scheduled for February 1st 2003 starting at 9:A.M.

John made a motion to adjourn. Kathy second.

"WE ARE **ONE** IN THE SPIRIT, WE ARE **ONE** IN THE LORD."

Motion passed. Father Miller closed with prayer.

THE VICAR'S COLUMN

We have come to the end of Epiphany season and are about to enter Lent, which will conclude with our Easter celebration. We will also enjoy the visitation of Bishop Louttit on the Wednesday after Easter Day. He will be with us for our 7 PM service. Confirmations will take place at that service on Wednesday evening. The Bishop will have an opportunity to sit down with the Mission Vestry prior to the service. There will be a reception after the service for the Bishop, Mrs. Louttit, the Confirmands and their families. Since it will be an opportunity for Convocation churches to also have people confirmed then we will probably have others participating.

In the mean time we have to journey through Lent. We will have Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7 PM. There will be a Lenten Program on Wednesday evening after the 7 PM service. We will have the light supper [soup and sandwich] after the service and then begin the program. This year's program will focus on the Lord's Prayer. We will look at a section of the prayer after the meal and point out the benefit of small groups as a means of discipleship.

During Lent I will be serving on Kairos Weekend number 32 at Augusta State Medical Prison. Two weeks later I will be on the team that will be doing Epiphany weekend number 7 at the Augusta Y.D.C. Please keep both of those weekends in your prayers.

Please remember in your prayers the following: Lee Patton and her sisters Lillian and Geraldine; Melba Jones; Melinda Etterlee; Farris Etterlee; Bong Hai Kim [Man Sun's niece], Henry Nieves, Rick McKinstry, the Edens family, Leslie Joseph, our military deployed to the Middle East [Santha Cortes, Renita Sharpe, Viola Serrant, and soon Ray Swarmer]. Pray for our fellow Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith. We have a Prayer Team here at Atonement. If you have someone you want the team to pray for please contact either Nadine Grayson or Suzanne Harrow who will notify the Prayer Team. Become a Lighthouse in your

neighborhood and keep any others you may know in your prayers. --KDM+

EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWS

Rowan Williams enthroned as 104th Archbishop of Canterbury

(ACNS) In a ceremony that included everything from robust Welsh hymns to colorful dance, thunderous applause and pageantry, the archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Rowan Douglas Williams, was enthroned February 27 following ancient custom in Canterbury Cathedral, the "mother church" of the Anglican Communion. The dean of Canterbury, the Very Rev. Robert Willis, led the archbishop by the hand to his chair.

Handing the archbishop the pastoral staff, the dean said: "I give you this pastoral staff, a symbol of your investment with the spiritualities of the See of Canterbury." The bishop of Dover then gave this blessing: "May Christ the Good Shepherd so uphold and sustain you that you may lead with courage and guide with love those committed to your charge."

Williams then took his seat as the 104th archbishop in succession to St. Augustine. The ceremony was attended by many representatives of other churches and faiths. The primates of the Anglican Communion were present, along with bishops of the Church of England and the readers and clergy of the Diocese of Canterbury.

Dancing replaces fanfares

In place of the sounding of fanfares, the response to the act of enthronement was the dancing accompanying the singing, "Amen. Siakudumisa." The archbishop took the corporal oath on the Canterbury gospels book.

During the exchange of the peace, Williams was joined by his wife, Jane, in greeting dozens of people seated in the area behind the high altar. Approximately 600 people from the Church in Wales made the journey to Canterbury to see their own archbishop take on a new role for the worldwide church.

From nave and quire

"WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT, WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD."

The design of the cathedral dictates creative liturgical planning. Under the direction of the Rev. Kevin Goss, precentor of Canterbury, the service took place both in the nave and in the quire, with the new archbishop giving a blessing from the St. Augustine's chair as well as the nave altar.

The renowned choir of men and boys of the cathedral sang the church's great hymn of praise, "Te Deum Laudamus," to a setting by Benjamin Britten.

Members of the government were present as was His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. Security was tight and there has been a significant police presence in the precincts of the cathedral in recent weeks.

Williams legally became the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Confirmation of Election ceremony in St Paul's Cathedral on December 2. Today's enthronement service was his formal reception and a celebration of the start of his new ministry.

The sermon is available in full on the Anglican Communion web site.

Episcopal Life's Nan Cobbey was present at the enthronement and her story will appear on Episcopal News Service.

For details about the February 27 broadcast, webcast and video of the enthronement of the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, visit these web sites:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/canterbury/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/>

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

E-Mail Prayer

Creator God, I ask you to bless my friends, relatives and all those reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of your love and power. Holy spirit, I ask you to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through your grace, In Jesus' precious name. Amen."

57 Cents

A sobbing little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it "was too crowded." "I can't go to Sunday School," she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by.

Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday school class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, that she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings and the parents called for the kindhearted pastor, who had befriended their daughter, to handle the final arrangements.

As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57cents and a note scribbled in childish handwriting which read, "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday school. For two years she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

But the story does not end there!

A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered it for 57 cents.

Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00--a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividend.

"WE ARE **ONE** IN THE SPIRIT, WE ARE **ONE** IN THE LORD."

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300 and Temple University, where hundreds of students are trained.

Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of Sunday Schoolers, so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday school time.

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russel H. Conwell, author of the book, "Acres of Diamonds"

What is God doing when He seems to be ignoring our prayers?

By Helen Grace Lescheid

Is God listening?

Does God care?

Am I praying in God's will?

How is timing involved in the answer?

Is God answering this prayer in a different form than I would expect?

What does God want to accomplish in me?

Is there anything hindering this prayer?

How is God working right now?

Is God asking me to do something to answer this prayer?

Can I trust God with the outcome?

On the Horizon

Mar. 2nd: E.C.W. meeting – After Church

Mar. 2nd Youth Confirmation Class- 4:30 PM

Mar. 5th Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 PM

Mar. 8th Workday- 8:00 AM

Mar. 9th: Mission Vestry Meeting-After Church

Mar. 9th: Healing Service – 5 PM

Mar. 9th E.Y.C. Meeting – 6 PM

Mar. 12th- Lenten Service, Supper & Study-7PM

Mar. 13-16 Kairos Weekend #32 – A.S.M.P.

Mar. 16th Youth Confirmation Class- 4:30 PM

Mar. 19th- Lenten Service, Supper & Study-7PM

Mar. 23rd EYC Fundraiser –after church.

Mar. 23rd Youth Confirmation Class- 4:30 PM

Mar. 26th- Lenten Service, Supper & Study-7PM

Mar. 28-30 Epiphany Weekend #7-Augusta YDC

Mar. 30th Youth Sunday

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