

ATONEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON TOBACCO ROAD

THE MISSION VESTRY MINUTES
April 2005

The meeting was opened with prayer. The minutes of the March meeting were read.

Connie made a motion to accept the minutes. Kathy seconded. Motion approved

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Tony made a motion to accept the report with some minor changes that Pam will make. Frank seconded. Motion approved. Pam reported we collected \$25.00 for the Good Friday Offering, and \$20.00 for the Lenten Offering. We spent \$173.74 for Easter Lilies, and collected \$87.50.

Connie made a motion to add to the Lenten Offering from the sale of the Lambs. The cost of the lambs was \$129.00. We made \$135.00 and we still have 4 lambs to sell. Connie amended her motion to table this until next month. Jeremy seconded. Motion passed.

Pam asked that all receipts be turned in before a check is written. Also it would make it easier if the person in charge of an activity is the only one to turn in a receipt. She also asked that all invoices and bills be given to her as soon as they are received to be sure that the bills are paid on time.

It was decided that Mission/Vestry should approve all spending that is not budgeted, and Father Miller will meet with the Mission/Vestry to draw up guidelines for this. Connie made a motion to take \$1000.00 from the General Fund, and put it in the Mission/Vestry account, and to

pay \$1000.00 on the Parish House Mortgage.

Tony seconded. Motion passed.
 Pam needs to get a Financial Report from the ECW for next year’s Parochial Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Jeremy is working on the T-shirt project. Soozi is working on pamphlets about the different Ministries we have at Atonement. We have not had a respond for the Youth Choir Director. Connie made a motion to give Cassandra up to \$500.00 for the Children’s Festival expenses. Soozi seconded. Motion passed. Connie made a motion to take the money from the General Fund. Kathy seconded. Motion passed. Kathy is taking care of the VBS. The Heating, and Air Conditioning Unit has been repaired. The Work Schedule Sign-up sheet still needs to be filled out.

The Audit Committee met, and completed their report.

NEW BUSINESS:

A refuse container for yard waste has been put in the yard, and a workday has been scheduled for next Saturday
 A donation of \$130.00 to the Episcopal Youth Program was made to cover a NSF check from a church member.

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT;

Tony and Frank will work on repairing the doors to the church. The Narthex has been painted.

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT:

The senior warden thanked everyone for the help with cleaning, and reminded us that we still have a lot to do to make the church look good for our 25th Anniversary Celebration.

“WE ARE **ONE** IN THE SPIRIT, WE ARE **ONE** IN THE LORD.”

There was no report on the Vestry Workshop for Small Congregations.

VICARS REPORT:

Father Miller has sent our Parochial Report to the Dioceses. He said we have 84 members on the rolls. We averaged 54.4 communicants in 2004. We have two baptisms coming up, and we will have a confirmation later in the year.

Connie made a motion to approve the Parochial Report. Jeremy seconded. Motion passed.

Father Miller had the three Mission/Vestry members that still needed to sign the Atonement Covenant do so. Tony made a motion to adjourn. Jeremy seconded. Motion passed.

Father Miller dismissed with a prayer.

THE VICAR'S COLUMN

School is out! The summer is here and as usual we can expect all the hot weather is ahead of us. The Summer Camp season will begin as our High Schoolers are off to Camp on June 5th. We only have four people attending camp this year. We have applied to the E.Y.C.S. for scholarships to cover the cost of camp in excess of the deposit. This summer campers from our church will enjoy their time at Honey Creek.

This month we will have a Celebration of Ministry take place on June 26th. I hope many will turn out as we rejoice in the many ministries at Atonement.

Several events have been scheduled for the future. We will hold Vacation Bible School here at Atonement from July 25th to July 29th.

The Bishop will visit us on Sunday March 26th in 2006. That means Inquirer's and Confirmation classes will start in September, this year. We will also be planning for our Community Festival to coincide with our 25th anniversary and All Saint's celebration, on November 5th and 6th.

Please remember in your prayers the following: Man Sun Miller, Lee Patton and her sister Geraldine; Melba Jones; Melinda Etterlee; Farris Etterlee; and Pam Brinson. 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 NEWS SERVICE

Pentecost message from the Presiding Bishop

[Growing in Truth](#)

Though we may hear much these days about division in the life of the church I am struck by the many instances in which the presence of forces that seek to divide have in fact moved us in the opposite direction and have obliged us to seek a deeper place of mutual encounter where together we can experience our being broken open in new ways by the power of the Spirit and the ever active reconciling love of Christ.

Our Spring meeting of the House of Bishops which produced a remarkable convergence summed up in a Covenant Statement has been seen by many as the fruit of the Spirit's activity among us. The desire to meet at the level of the heart was strongly felt on all sides and what emerged is far more than a series of words on a page but a fundamental disposition rooted and grounded in a force that transcended us all and brought us together in ways that few could have imagined at the beginning of our meeting.

I have just returned from a meeting of the Executive Council during which we sought to discern how best to respond to the primates' request regarding our participation in the life of the Anglican Consultative Council. As I left the conference center where the meeting had been held one of their staff told me she had felt the presence of the Spirit as Council worked and prayed together. I said that I most certainly agreed.

It is through the agency of the Holy Spirit that God's creative activity continues in the world and Christ continues to unfold his truth. Christ's truth is not simply about religious truth but all truth

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

however mediated and in whatever way it is encountered. Wherever there is a taste for truth there is God, says St. Augustine of Hippo. And again "every truth by whomever uttered is by the Holy Spirit," observes St. Thomas Aquinas. The Holy Spirit whom Jesus in the Gospel of John calls the Spirit of Truth is always at work enlarging and deepening our vision and widening our embrace to encompass the many ways in which truth continues to unfold and at the same time challenge us. Each one of us structures our lives around what we perceive to be true for us. Such truth is severely limited by the various forces that have shaped us and the context in which we have found ourselves. One of the greatest gifts of being baptized into the risen body of Christ is that our several truths are brought together and reordered and refashioned under the aegis of the Holy Spirit who works within us over time the deep truth of Christ. That deep truth is entered into largely as my perceptions of truth are challenged and stretched by the truth embodied in the other limbs and members of Christ's body. Because the Holy Spirit is sovereign and free it transcends all the limitations and can work in different ways within different cultures and different expressions of religion. Here I find it instructive that in the story of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles the Spirit enables those present to hear the good news each in their own language, each within the givenness of their own context and cultural reality. This ability of the Spirit to speak in different languages is a sign that difference and otherness are to be valued and affirmed. Such is God's sensitivity to different ways of perceiving and making meaning, all of which are caught up in the mystery of God's own life.

It is the function and ministry of the Holy Spirit to reconcile difference not primarily on the level of opinion but on the level of what scripture calls "the heart," namely the deep core and center of the human person which is the secret place where the love of God "poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" most profoundly resides. Here I am struck by how much of the church's life is played out at a level of argumentation rather than seeking to discern the presence of the Spirit in one another at the level of the heart. There are those within the body of Christ with whom I may profoundly disagree, yet at the same time embrace them as brother or sister because we are able to meet the

level of the heart. If this seems far-fetched, I think we can easily look at a number of families in which mutual affection overrides widely differing points of view.

The fact that truth is continuously unfolding is borne witness to by our increasing knowledge of the universe in which we live, and the mysteries of the human mind and body. Each year we learn new things, and unlearn some things that were once undisputed. Cigarette advertisements come to mind, and I vividly remember the image of the physician in the white coat extolling the benefits for our throats of cigarettes. Centuries pass and we learn that the earth is not flat, that our planet is not the center of the solar system and that matter can be converted into energy. And wouldn't the alchemists be amazed at our ability to do what they always wanted to do, namely turn one element into another. Those ancients didn't have the cyclotron. This learning, and unlearning I believe is all part of what Jesus meant when he said "I have many more things to say to you but you cannot bear them now. However, when the Spirit of truth comes he will guide you into all truth." Is it not possible that some of the disagreements within the life of the church are part of the Spirit's unrelenting activity in leading us to new and deeper understandings of things we have previously regarded as fully known.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

[For those uninitiated in computer jargon I believe you will still get the point.]

Tech Support for Program Install

Dear Tech Support:

Last year I upgraded from Girlfriend 7.0 to Wife 1.0. I soon noticed that the new program began unexpected child processing that took up a lot of space and valuable resources. In addition, Wife 1.0 installed itself into all other programs and now monitors all other system activity. Applications such as Poker Night 10.3, Football 5.0, Hunting and Fishing 7.5, and Racing 3.6 I can't seem to keep Wife 1.0 in the background while attempting to run my favorite applications. I'm thinking about going back to Girlfriend 7.0, but the uninstall doesn't work on Wife 1.0.

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

Please help!

Thanks, Troubled User. (KEEP READING)

REPLY:

Dear Troubled User:

This is a very common problem that men complain about.

Many people upgrade from Girlfriend 7.0 to Wife 1.0, thinking that it is just a Utilities and Entertainment program. Wife 1.0 is an OPERATING SYSTEM and is designed by its Creator to run EVERYTHING!!! It is also impossible to delete Wife 1.0 and to return to Girlfriend 7.0. It is impossible to uninstall, or purge the program files from the system once installed.

You cannot go back to Girlfriend 7.0 because Wife 1.0 is designed to not allow this. Look in your Wife 1.0 manual under Warnings-Alimony-Child Support. I recommend that you keep Wife 1.0 and work on improving the situation. I suggest installing the background application "Yes Dear" to alleviate software augmentation.

The best course of action is to enter the command C:\APOLOGIZE because ultimately you will have to give the APOLOGIZE command before the system will return to normal anyway.

Wife 1.0 is a great program, but it tends to be very high maintenance. Wife 1.0 comes with several support programs, such as Clean and Sweep 3.0, Cook It 1.5 and Do Bills 4.2.

However, be very careful how you use these programs. Improper use will cause the system to launch the program Nag Nag 9.5. Once this happens, the only way to improve the performance of Wife 1.0 is to purchase additional software. I recommend Flowers 2.1 and Diamonds 5.0!

WARNING!!! DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Secretary With Short Skirt 3.3. This application is not supported by Wife 1.0 and will cause irreversible damage to the operating system.

Best of luck,
Tech Support

On the Horizon

Jun 5th: ECW Meeting – After Church

Jun 11th: Workday-8:00 AM

Jun 12th: Angel Food Ministries Order Day

Jun 12th Mission Vestry Meeting – After Church

Jun 12th: Healing Service – 5 PM

Jun 12th E.Y.C. Meeting – 6 PM

Jun 11th: Workday-8:00 AM

Jun 21st: Angel Food Ministries Pick up Day

Jun 26th Celebration

Atonement Newsletter published by The Rev. Dr. Kurt D. Miller; Church of the Atonement, 2616 Tobacco Road, Hephzibah, GA. (706) 796-3545, FAX (706) 796-3597 E-mail: lambogod@atonementepiscopal.org