

ATONEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON TOBACCO ROAD

THE MISSION VESTRY MINUTES **August 2004**

Father Miller opened the meeting with prayer. Tony Kennelly made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction that John and Connie Smith were absent from the meeting in July. Kathy Mullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Pam Brinson reported that we were over on pledges with the extra Sunday last month. We were also over in spending. There was a discussion on the electric bill. Pam reported on the VBS spending. Pam also received a reimbursement from the insurance company in the amount of \$10. Items to be discussed at the vestry retreat include guidelines on the youth scholarship fund and to also look at the other special funds.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Kathy Mullins and seconded by John Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Jeremy Wall will make up a checklist of things to be done when closing up the parish hall.

Pam Brinson gave a comparison of the electric bills. A discussion followed.

The audit committee is still working on a date.

Dorothy Van Wright reported that the marker place she was trying to work with was closed on Saturdays. Pam Brinson said she would look into the marker for Gloria Blackwell.

The estimates for the sound system are still being looked into. This needs to be completed by August 15th.

Kathy Mullins reported on the purpose and status of the St. Barnabas Ministry. The group meets the 4th Friday of each month and 7PM. The

meetings have been at Kathy's home and could rotate to other homes. You have to be an adult.

The ministry is a support group for those seeking support in difficult situations.

Kathy reported on the VBS experience, which included a lot of positive feedback. The total cost was \$650. There were approximately 50 people in attendance per night.

Dorothy Van Wright asked about the status of sharing the St. Martha's ministry outreach with the youth. Tony Kennelly reported that there should be a representative selected this evening at the youth meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

John Smith reported that someone had borrowed the weed eater and returned it broken. It was not cost effective to have it repaired. The riding lawn mower cost \$144 to have it repaired. A discussion on the lawn mower also needs to be added to the agenda for the retreat.

There was a discussion on the need for the nursery at this time. Kathy Mullins stated that she was the backup for the nursery and that she was one of three people who are CPR certified. The other people are Connie Smith and Suzanne Harrow.

Robert Cortes reported on what work had been done yesterday. Next Saturday is the regular workday. Robert stated that the soap dispenser on the wall was down in the men's restroom in the church. He stated that we needed to look at using a bottle soap dispenser instead of trying to remount the one that had come down.

Dorothy Van Wright reported that there were too many conflicts for the youth choir to meet on the first Sunday. They have decided to have that rehearsal on the second Saturday at 11AM. The third Sunday rehearsal will remain the same.

JUNIOR WARDEN

The deck will be done when it is cooler. The door repairs will be done on Saturday.

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SENIOR WARDEN

Tony Kennelly reported that they had letters for the sign and now needed to work on getting the Episcopal Church Symbol. A discussion followed.

VICAR'S REPORT

Father Miller stated that he had received an invitation from Bill Weston to a session on gift planning for churches. The session will be held on August 25, 2004 at 6PM at the Episcopal Day School. Jeremy Wall and John Smith will attend.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeremy Wall and seconded by Dorothy Van Wright.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

THE VICAR'S COLUMN

On the last Saturday in September we held our third Vestry Retreat of the year. Here are some excerpts from the minutes:

Stewardship Dinner will be on the 1st Sunday of November (All Saints Sunday). Discussed and decided on the following 2004 calendar of events:

<i>International Dinner</i>	<i>23 October</i>
<i>All Saints Dinner</i>	<i>31 October</i>
<i>Stewardship Dinner</i>	<i>07 November</i>
<i>Bishop Keyser Visit</i>	<i>09 November</i>

Father Miller presented the group with historical attendance data in slide format and in graph form from the past 10 years for information and comparison.

Father Miller next presented the group with a Personality Profile exam for distribution to the church members to examine and possibly assist in identifying the team and community growth potential for the church. This exam addresses the short-term goal of determining the problems associated with growing the membership of the church.

Church Issues: Topics discussed in addition to the lack of church member growth gravitated toward the reduction of youth attendance and involvement. The group outlined possible reasons for lack of participation and disinterest, as the youth play a major role in the growth, and

ultimately the future of the church.

Activities: Activities involving and pertaining to youth seem to be diminishing.

Robert Cortes submitted the idea that a suggestion box be placed in the church to serve as an opportunity for suggestions, problems and complaints to be anonymously submitted for consideration by the Mission Vestry Council.

Of particular interest to your Vicar is the state of Atonement as we approach the end of the year and the beginning of a new one. The situation with our youth, Sunday school and Nursery is of concern to me. It is indicative of a failure of leadership on my part in the seventh year of my ministry to this church. What can and should be done? Several people have tried to address this with me and we have concluded a need to have a consultant or a team to come help us bring about some change. I have contacted Father Phelps at the Diocesan Office who suggested Father Lou Scales at Our Savior. I then contacted him and he said he would be glad to help us. The vestry is now preparing to put together some ideas that can be looked at to make us more effective. The other day, I was reading an article by Gil Rendle of the Alban Institute titled "Leading a Congregation Through Change." In it he quotes John Scherer who writes: "In order for change to be birthed, there have to be two parents present." The first parent is pain. Pain must be present in order for a system to change, because otherwise the system is comfortable. You don't want to inflict pain on people, but you do want to help them become aware of the need for change: something is not right or an opportunity has been missed." Rendle writes "If, as Scherer asserts, there have to be two parents for change to be birthed, and the first parent is pain, the second parent is possibility. There has to be a sense of possibility of what could be in order for people to want to move ahead. Too much pain and anxiety in the system can cripple it. Possibility balances out the pain, keeping the system open to response. So after they become aware of the need for change, they need to begin to get glimpses of "what could be." The third way to help people change (according to Scherer) is by broadening their horizons, helping them move beyond their assumptions. You do that

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by giving them articles, showing videos, sending them to conferences, etc. You move them into learning about something else, something not already a part of their world, so they can then think differently about the situation needing change. Industry calls this "benchmarking"—sending a team to observe another company's process, not so they can come back and try to plug that foreign process into your system, but so they can apply their learning's to your situation, having had the benefit of having thought about things in new ways.

Your Vicar and the Vestry are seeking to bring about change that focuses on the growth of this church and makes it more effective for the Kingdom of God.

Please remember in your prayers the following: Man Sun Miller, Lee Patton and her sister Geraldine; Melba Jones; Melinda Etterlee; Farris Etterlee; Ron Edson, Rick McKinstry, Erica Belangia, the Edens family, Robert Turns and Leslie Joseph. 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

A word to the Episcopal Church from the House of Bishops

Episcopal News Service

We the bishops of the Episcopal Church, gathered in Spokane for our regular fall meeting, greet you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our time together has reminded us of the words spoken at our ordination that our "heritage is the faith of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and those of every generation who have looked to God in hope," and our "joy is to follow him who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

We are deeply grieved by the on-going violence and division in the Middle East, continuing war in Iraq, the Sudan and other troubled places, and we are mindful of the devastating effects of hurricanes and other natural disasters. As well, we are sharply aware of tensions and pain in our church and in the Anglican Communion. During these days we have explored more fully our continuing call as your chief pastors to be ministers of reconciliation, even as we seek and discover reconciliation within ourselves, within our church and across the Communion.

We rejoice in the depth of our conversations and, in spite of the differences among us, we discovered that although we are not of one mind in all things we are profoundly of one heart in our commitment to proclaim Christ's reconciling love to this broken world. We are confident that our household of faith is large enough to embrace us all.

We have been encouraged by stories of health, vitality and strength within the Episcopal Church. We have also heard stories of anger, anguish and division within this church. All are responses of faithful people.

Our perspectives have been enlarged by the presence and witness of bishops from other provinces of the Anglican Communion. These bishops have described some difficult consequences felt in their provinces as a result of our decisions. We are deeply saddened by the pain we have heard so movingly described.

The report of the Lambeth Commission will be released in mid-October. We are committed to a gracious reception of the report in a spirit of humility and to a willingness to learn how we might best be faithful and responsible partners in the Anglican Communion. It is our intention to gather as provincial Houses of Bishops during the autumn and then to meet as a House of Bishops early in the New Year to study and appropriate the work of the Commission.

We believe our relationships with others make real and apparent God's reconciling love for all of creation. Our mutual responsibility, interdependence and communion are gifts from God. Therefore, we deeply value and are much enriched by our membership in the Anglican

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Communion. We also value Anglican comprehensiveness and its capacity to make room for difference.

As the future unfolds differences will continue to challenge us. We believe that the gift of difference is the gift of Christ among us. In wrestling with difference we discover a blessing as Jacob discovered a blessing when he wrestled with God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Heaven's Grocery Store

As I was walking down life's highway many years ago I came upon a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store."

When I got a little closer the doors swung open wide. And when I came to myself I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels. They were standing everywhere One handed me a basket and said "My child shop with care."

Everything a human needed was in that grocery store. And what you could not carry you could come back for more

First I got some Patience. Love was in that same row. Further down was Understanding, you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of Wisdom and Faith a bag or two. And Charity of course I would need some of that too.

I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost. It was all over the place. And then some Strength and Courage to help me run this race.

My basket was getting full but I remembered I needed Grace, And then I chose Salvation for Salvation was for free. I tried to get enough of that to do for you and me.

Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill, For I thought I had everything to do the Masters will.

As I went up the aisle I saw Prayer and put that in, For I knew when I stepped outside I would run into sin.

Peace and Joy were plentiful, the last things on the shelf. Song and Praise were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel "Now how much do I owe?" He smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go"

Again I asked "Really now, How much do I owe?" "My child" he said, "Jesus paid your bill a long long time ago."

On the Horizon

Oct 2nd: ECW Fall Festival 8 AM-2 PM

Oct 9th: ECW Meeting at Boll Weevil –11 AM

Oct 9th: Workday-8:00 AM

Oct 10th: Church Periodical Club Sunday

Oct 10th: Mission Vestry Meeting-After Church

Oct 10th: Healing Service – 5 PM

Oct 10th: E.Y.C. Meeting – 6 PM

Oct 17th: Angel Food Ministries- Orders Placed.

Oct 23rd International Dinner

Oct 30th: Pick Up Angel Food Orders

Oct 31^s; Youth Sunday

Oct 31st All Saints Party

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