

ATONEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON TOBACCO ROAD

THE MISSION VESTRY MINUTES **October 2005**

The meeting was opened by Father Miller with prayer.

Minutes of the September meeting were read. Connie made a motion to approve the minutes. Nanette seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Frank made a motion to accept the report. Tony seconded. Motion passed.

There was a discussion on the amount of the electric bill. Connie suggested we check Jefferson Electric about being put on the Budget Billing Program. Nanette will call and talk with them.

There was a discussion about the money that was pledged to the mortgage fund. Pam has been paying extra on the mortgage. Father Miller said he will talk with someone in the Convocation that is experienced with financial matters, and see if he can get advice and answer some of Pam's questions about the way our financial report is structured. Nanette suggested the Mission Vestry should be more informed about the financial process so they will better understand the way the report is given. Pam told Mission Vestry the bank is going to charge \$3.00 a month to return our cancelled checks. Pam will check with the Security Company, and find out why the amount has changed. We have a bill for \$195.00 for trash pick-up. Father Miller will find out if we are paying property tax, and if this is included. Pam was given a donation of \$50.00 for the hurricane relief, and the EYC gave a donation of \$100.00 from their Mexican Dinner to be sent to the American Red Cross.

Old Business:

Soozi had a picture Jeremy will use on the T-shirts. He and Father Miller will contact Keith Brown – a member of St. Mary's – about printing the T-shirts. He is in that business, and will give us a price on them.

The committee is still working on the 25th Anniversary. Jeremy has printed invitations that have a picture of the church on them. They are very attractive, and will be mailed out to churches and members that came to Atonement in the past. We will have covered dish dinner, and hope to have a large crowd for our celebration.

New Business:

We had \$229.00 collected for ERD that will be used for hurricane relief. Pam suggested Martha's Willing Workers find out about the people that are sick or in need so we can send cards or help in other ways.

Junior Warden:

Mr. Overstreet will start working on the windows soon. We have \$1150.00 we can use toward getting repaired. The money will be taken out of the Capital Improvement Fund.

Senior Warden:

Nanette is still trying to arrange for us to work at The Master's Table.

Vicar's Report:

Father Miller announced the Workshop at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church for Stephen Ministry. This will be held Saturday October 22nd, and is open to anyone wishing to go. Father Miller said we have three Sunday School classes now, and four teachers so we can rotate the teachers.

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We have a letter from the Diocese and our asking for next year is \$12,738.00.

Father Miller told us there were changes in the Convocational Council Representatives. We will have one clergy and one layperson. The Senior Warden, Nanette Hayes will go with Father Miller. It will be held November 13th at 4 P.M. at Good Shepherd.

Connie made the motion to adjourn. Tony seconded. Motion passed
Father Miller dismissed with a prayer

THE VICAR'S COLUMN

At our Annual Meeting, last week, four people were elected to the Vestry. We welcome Egan Goetz, Ron Edson and Gene Brassell, elected to full three-year terms. Suzanne Harrow was elected to a to an unexpired one-year term. We also elected Cassandra Davis as Senior Warden and Connie Smith as Junior Warden.

The Vestry met last Wednesday evening to hammer out a budget for 2006. We are still trying to achieve a balanced budget. We have a shortfall of \$2967. We are at a bare bones budget without cutting salaries and with no unforeseen expenses. As Vicar, I am prepared to take a cut and also increase my giving in order that the rest of the staff, [music director, secretary and treasurer] continue to receive a small stipend or travel expense. Please consider if you might be able to increase your giving in order to balance our budget. The amount of the Diocesan Asking has been reduced from last year's level of \$12, 738 to \$7500. The Diocesan Council has revised the formula for the Asking and informed the Senior Warden that according to the new formula our Asking for 2006 would be \$7430. They have requested we maintain the same level of giving as last year. We have lost quite a number of people since last year and our income is down from what it was. The Vestry decided to give a little more than the new formula required and we are still at an unbalanced budget.

I look at the coming year as a year of opportunity for Atonement. We need to concentrate on our spirituality and renew a right spirit with in us. I have several ideas about that and will work to

communicate that to you over the next few months as we approach the Bishop's Visitation on March 19, 2006 and Easter.

Please remember in your prayers the following: Man Sun Miller, Mary Fields, Lee Patton and her sister Geraldine; Melba Jones; Melinda Etterlee; Farris Etterlee; Vernell Durrance and all the people affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. 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 the Vicar or Suzanne Harrow who will notify the Prayer Team. --KDM+

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Holy and Reverent
Author, The Rev. Jim Shumard is Rector of St. Francis of the Islands, Savannah.

While at Honey Creek recently, I was looking at the pictures of our past bishops which were hanging on the wall. All of the bishops, except our current bishop, from the 1800's on, had expressions on their faces that ranged from solemn to frown to "something seemed to be painful for them." I believe that was their idea of being reverent and holy. I imagine that depending on how each of us was raised, we all have differing ideas as to what being reverent is all about.

Our time at worship needs to be a holy and reverent time. We have come into the presence of the Lord to worship God with all our minds, bodies and souls. That means that an appropriate response, reverence, might include any of the following: ...smiles, silence, laughter, frowns, joy, sadness, singing, clapping, shock, surprise, kneeling, standing, sitting, exchanging the Peace, tears, coming to the altar rail, taking the Body and Blood of Jesus, bowing, crossing one's self and even placing money in the offering plate? I believe that we bring all that we are to God and to our experience at church and Episcopalians worship with all our senses.

I want to remind all of you to respect one another, recognizing that each of us has a different

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expectation of holiness and reverence. There are some basic standards I would like to review with you.

- **SILENCE:** Some people gather 15 – 30 minutes early to sit in silence in the sanctuary. Please keep a discipline of silence as you enter the sanctuary out of respect for those who are praying, who are preparing themselves for worship. This is a sanctuary, not an auditorium. The Prayer Book directs the times in the service for silence, listening, and responding. Please follow those rubrics. The sounds of children is a good and joyful thing, but if you feel that your child is becoming distracting, you may briefly take them to the narthex until they settle down. You may leave them in the nursery until the Peace, at which time it is appropriate to bring them in for the Great Thanksgiving. The sound of infants and children in Church is a good and joyful thing!
- **JOY:** Most of our opening and closing hymns are songs of joy, to be sung heartily, to be enhanced by more and more music instruments. The priest is called the Celebrant and indeed Paul says the Joy of the Lord is our strength. My prayer is that joy is an ongoing part of your life in the presence of God and especially in this Holy Place! I guarantee you that God feels joy when He is in your presence. I would guess that joyful laughter might be in his heart when in our presence as well!
- **FELLOWSHIP:** The time for fellowship is out on the porch before and after the service, in the parish hall after the service, and briefly during the exchange of the Peace and Announcements.
- **AWE & PRAYER:** It is an awesome thing to pray to our Lord. We are speaking to God. This is a special time to pay close attention to what we are saying and to give 100% of our attention to God. Some complain that our prayer list is too long, yet prayer is the most important thing we do and I highly recommend it to all of us!

Please do not enter or leave the church while the congregation is in corporate prayer. The Ushers will let you know the appropriate times to enter the church if you arrive late. Typical good times to move might be during hymns, during the Peace and announcements, before the Offering, before and after the sermon. The basic custom to keep in mind is do not get up while praying or during the Great Thanksgiving.

- **THE ALTAR:** This is a particularly holy moment and some people come to the altar smiling, some with tears, anger, pain, some holding hands, some saying “Amen” or “Thank you” after receiving the bread or wine. We come together to the rail as a common fellowship, not as individuals, but please be sensitive to those around you. As a practical matter, please do not stand up from the rail until after the person ahead of you has received the wine.
- **CLAPPING:** Clapping is sometimes an appropriate and holy response to either the Spirit of God or a Baptism and only rarely after some especially wonderful event. We are not here for entertainment but for offering ourselves to God and one another. Please remember that for some, clapping breaks the sense of reverence and flow in the service.
- **LAUGHTER AND HUMOR:** Anyone who really listens to some of the stories in scripture, must sometimes laugh out loud. These are stories meant to be shared and responded to corporately. There are appropriate times to shudder at some of the things we hear. Anyone who pays attention to the life of the apostles and indeed the church, had better have a sense of humor. Humor is part of our holiness and reverence and is appropriate at various moments and times in the service. Anyone who listens to my sermons and doesn't laugh...well we won't go there!
- **SOLEMNITY:** We are a liturgical church

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and there are times in the service and indeed during special seasons of the year where solemnity is appropriate. Lent is one of the obvious times, but depending upon the seasons and the times and parts of the service, there are other appropriate times as well.

Let us all remember that each of us expresses our selves in unique ways and each of us has our own sense of being holy before the Lord. Let us, to paraphrase St. Francis, be more concerned to meet the needs of those next to us in the pew, than complaining about what others are doing. Let us help out the visitor by helping them through the Prayer Book. Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

The Peace of the Lord be with you!

On the Horizon

Dec 4th: Annual Meeting of the Mission.

Dec 4th: Angel Food Ministries Order Day

Dec 7th: Vestry Budget Meeting – 5:30 PM

Dec 11th: ECW Meeting – After Church

Dec 11th: Healing Service – 5 PM

Dec 11th: E.Y.C. Meeting – 6 PM

Dec 18th Mission Vestry Meeting – After Church

Dec 24th: Angel Food Ministries Pick up Day

Dec 24th: Christmas Eve Service – 6 PM

Dec 25th Christmas Day Service – 10 AM

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