

ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
FALMOUTH, MA  
Approved Minutes from June 9, 2008 Vestry Meeting

Meeting began at 7:03 PM with a quorum

Vestry and Staff Present: Ginny Barnes, Sue Davis, Dick Emerson, Rev. Pat Eustis, Larry Ferreira, Joyce Harrington, Don Johnson, Faith Kolodziejki, Sue O'Brien, Tim Reichel, Jane Scalli, Bob Sherwood, Kate Stebinger, Kim Strohm and Doris Weeks

Absent: Dicky Allison and John Schmidt

Rev. Pat opened the meeting with an evening prayer – An Order of Worship for the Evening followed by the Vestry Transition Prayer:

*Almighty God, creator and source of wisdom, teach us to be a vestry of love faith and hope, trusting in one another to discern your will for St. Barnabas in this time of transition. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Interim Rector's Report –**

Presented by Rev. Pat

Rev. Pat asked the vestry to review the Vestry Responsibilities as listed in the May/June Vestry Papers to renew our connection with our responsibilities as a member of the Vestry at St. Barnabas. We would be talking more about this later in the meeting.

In her written report, Rev. Pat mentioned that she had been busy over the past month working on the Stewardship Program, meeting with Vestry members who are working in shepherding areas of the congregation, preparing for confirmation among many other activities.

Rev. Pat asked if the Vestry would be interested in having a pot luck dinner before the July meeting. Although this suggestion was met with enthusiasm some Vestry members are busy volunteering for Lobster on the Lawn and do not finish up until just before the meeting. It was then decided that any member who was able to join in the festivities could come early and partake in Lobster on the Lawn with all other fellow Vestry members who could attend. Anyone interested in bringing their family members or friends for the dinner were encouraged to do so.

**Assistant Rector's Report-**

Presented by Kate

Kate submitted a written report and encouraged the vestry to read it when they had time. Among the items included Kate highlighted the upcoming Education Hour plan for the fall, which will be based on a more collaborative teaching and helping model. Each classroom, instead of having a team of two teachers and perhaps a helper, will have a team of eight teachers and helpers. People will only teach and help in the classrooms once a month. This will be accomplished with more parent and parish involvement and volunteering.

The curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*, will once again be used this coming year. It combines scripture, daily life, worship, art and outreach in creative ways and is extremely user-friendly. Training for teachers and helpers will be available several times throughout August.

Kate also presented a Youth Group Plan and Calendar for 2008-2009 with a full docket of events from September 6, 2008 through June 7, 2009. Many of these events include a concert by Seven Glory at St. Christopher's in Chatham, in September, a visit to the Heifer farm in Rutland, MA, an Advent Retreat, a Lenten Retreat and a Seven Glory concert at St. Barnabas in May among other activities.

## **Senior Warden's Report-**

Presented by Joyce Harrington

Joyce mentioned that Sue Davis and members of the sub-committee researching the Alcohol Policy requested that discussion of the proposed policy be presented to the Vestry in June as the committee needs to consider the parameters of different groups using the facilities while serving/selling alcohol. The committee will come back with a draft policy for Vestry approval.

In her written report Joyce states what she has learned in recent weeks with regard to communication, miscommunication and misinterpretation and how these can breed triangulation and lead to a cultural strangulation. She added that she did not anticipate the reaction of some parishioners, throughout our time of transition, to what they are calling "changes" as she views these things to be simply "different." Therefore, she is working on acknowledging that "each of us have our own personal definitions of each of these terms. And therein lays the challenge – to identify and implement an encompassing vision of our work together as a vestry and as a parish – at all times, but especially during the Transition Journey." Joyce reminded the Vestry of a prior discussion on our role as vestry members in transition

Approval of minutes from May 12, 2008 – passed

## **Junior Warden's Report-**

Presented by Doris

In a written report Doris touched on her activities as an observer of the many ministries within the parish. She observed "people who are doers and full of ambition, ideas and commitment, who embrace the Church for what it offers to them and they in turn what to contribute what they can-from working on ministries to stewardship and a lot in between."

She also mentioned observing the "great followers" who help things get completed and without whom much would not get done.

Doris also reminded us that although there are many times when we put our best efforts forward with these ministries we may not always be satisfied with how things work out. She added that much change occurs during a time of transition, such as the one we are currently in, and that we must always remember that we are encouraged to experience change and although we may make change it does not mean it will be cast in stone. Some of the changes we will make may not prove to be for the better and we will live by that experience and return from whence we came... She added that when some are not happy with changes or transition and we feel "dissatisfied with the direction in which the church is going...we must identify exactly what is causing our struggle and discern the person who is most able to help us come to an understanding of the larger vision.

## **Treasurer's Report –**

Presented by Don Johnson

Don stated that the financial situation is not good. We are currently borrowing against various other accounts within the budget to pay monthly bills, due to the deficit in the General Fund. It is his hope that the Strawberry Festival will be successful so that we can gain back some of the money borrowed from those other accounts. It is Don's hope that in sharing such information with the parishioners they will understand the situation we are in and the shortfall we face.

In addition to the current situation he reminded the vestry that there are also some upcoming unusual expenses that may increase our deficit, such as the expenses of the Search committee visiting the parishes of applicants. The cost of such trips depends on how many trips are needed and the distance traveled, he added.

With regard to Stewardship Don stated that as of 6/3/08 we have 236 pledging units committed to \$248,466, which is 28 pledging units less than last year at this time.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

### **The Behrens Fund Committee –**

Don presented a request from the committee to approve the distribution of \$5,000.00 to the Wings of Falmouth Families Foundation. The committee is scheduling another meeting to further consider some of the other requests submitted. After the distribution of the recommended grant the committee still has approximately \$16,000.00 to distribute for 2008. The vestry approved the \$5,000.00 distribution.

### **Property Committee –**

Don submitted a Summary of Current Property Concerns on behalf of the Property Committee. The list included 7 “Items to be Thankful for,” which included the ability to fund all of the Lower Parish Hall renovations last year, the purchasing of several major pieces of office furniture and equipment, exterior improvements to the north side of the Hall and the upper level entry way and new library area being painted by a parishioner.

Among the list of Items considered by the Property Committee include an exterior lighting project, finishing the data and telephone cable, painting the trim on the hall and replacing gable clapboards, repairing the church sanctuary water leak, paving the parking lot and replacing the north lower entrance door to the Hall.

### **St. Barnabas Alive report –**

Presented by Faith

Faith gave a long exciting list of activities planned for the next several months, which included a karaoke and spaghetti supper, a Blessing of the Animals Sunday, Ingathering luncheon, Prayer Shawl gathering, ice cream social, ladies’ Valentine Tea and a Shrove Tuesday Pot Luck Dinner.

The vestry voted unanimously to officially thank Faith, Dicky and Ginny for all of their hard work on this ministry.

### **Search Committee Report –**

Presented by Sue Davis

Sue said the visit by Bishop Bud on May 22 was a huge success. The committee talked about their responsibility to their mission and Bud asked each member what on the committee gave them the most joy. The most common answer was the laughter they shared. When he asked them what was their greatest concern, they answered the awesome responsibility they have as a member of the committee.

Sue said that Bud and their advisor both agree that the committee is currently right on target with the search process.

In conjunction with the search committee discussion Joyce mentioned the importance of putting together an events notebook for the incoming Rector. This notebook would be helpful and should be stored in a central location.

Joyce began the discussion on the Role of the Vestry and said it was good to have a mid quarter check-in on where we are, where we should be and what could we be doing differently as members. Members mentioned how they viewed their role and where they would like to see further discussion on exact role rules. The discussion was carried over to the July meeting so more time could be dedicated to the discussion.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Strohm, Clerk