

**ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
608 JEFFERSON STREET  
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI 38804**

**MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2008 VESTRY MEETING**

**PRESENT:**

The Rev. LaRae Rutenbar, Interim Rector  
Les Alvis, Sr. Warden

Nathan Duncan  
Mary Lou Parks, Ass't. Treasurer  
Smokey Livingston

Peg Oakes  
Rhonda Saunders  
Sally Gray  
Vicky Vance

Tommie Moore, Clerk

**ABSENT:**

Corky Springfield, Mike Fitzpatrick, Deanna Alford, Frank Anger, Wayne Averett, Jill Hart, Betty Lee Marshall, Bud Nelson, Cathy Sparks

The Vestry meeting opened with a prayer by The Rev. LaRae Rutenbar at 7:05 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

The April 14, 2008 Vestry minutes were reviewed.

**MOTION:** (Gray/Vance)

Approve the April 14, 2008 Vestry minutes as submitted.

**APPROVED.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer, Corky Springfield, submitted a written report giving an overview of our financial status for the month ending April 30, 2008.

1. The balance sheet is basically unchanged except for the fact that we ended the month with over \$12,000 in the operating account.
2. The income statement was a pleasant surprise in that our pledge offerings collected were \$6,000 over budget (sending statements probably helped). This number was achieved WITHOUT having to take any money out of prepaid pledges. YTD we have collected 98% of what was budgeted (this is a new high).
3. On the expense side, we continue to benefit financially by not having an assistant priest or a permanent Rector (not a long term solution to balancing the budget). We spent \$1366 for electricity and \$951 for gas on the new building. The rest was for church and chapel. Worship and programs were \$1,800 under budget for the month. For the month our income exceeded our expenses \$12,000. This gave us a YTD profit of \$7,000.

**MOTION:** (Vance/Saunders)

Approve the Treasurer's report as submitted.

**APPROVED.**

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT:** No report

**CHRISTIAN GROWTH COMMISSION:** No report

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION:** No report

**CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION:** No report

**JR. WARDEN REPORT:** No report

**SR. WARDEN REPORT:**

Les Alvis reported that the Chapel Renovation Committee has met and considered several options for making the Chapel handicap accessible. Les stated that Lynn Bryan is getting estimates on the options and will report back to the committee. In turn, the committee will make a recommendation to the Vestry for the type and cost of the work to be done.

Les noted that the organ consultant in Memphis, Tennessee has advised that the temperature in the church need not be kept at a constant "occupied" setting of 70 degrees, as has been our longtime practice, as cold air tends to dry out the inner workings of the organ and pipes, and instead can be allowed to vary as much as 10 degrees either side of the occupied temperature. Les advised that a programmable thermostat has been ordered which will be set to have the church at the proper temperature on Sundays and Wednesdays and otherwise allow it to rise to around 78 (or to fall to around 62 in winter) when unoccupied. It is anticipated that this will result in a very substantial savings on utility costs. Les suggested that the cost of the new thermostat (approximately \$300) be funded from the utility line in the operating budget.

Les thanked Mary Lou Parks for all of her efforts in the ECW Rummage Sale, noting that in addition to the money made during the sale, it was a great community building time for All Saints'.

**INTERIM RECTOR REPORT:**

**Audit Committee:**

LaRae advised the Vestry that she is working on forming an audit committee. She stated that to stay in compliance with Diocesan guidelines, we are not supposed to have someone connected with the parish perform the financial audit each year. She is considering a plan that would have All Saints' trading services with churches either in West Point, Columbus or Oxford.

**Attendance chart:**

LaRae distributed an attendance chart that marked Sunday attendance during our transition and during the years 2004-2005 and 2007-2008. She noted that she did not think attendance was out of line with past patterns.

**Survey:**

LaRae advised the Vestry that the results from the survey she distributed Sunday, May 11 indicated that most people preferred one service at 9:30 a.m. with brunch following for the summer.

She also stated that All Saints' has a heavy pastoral care need and parishioners need to feel connected to their priest. She asked the Vestry to be thinking about what the model would look like that would accomplish growth for All Saints' while maintaining parishioners' connectedness to the

clergy. She stated it would be important for the Search Committee to think about this as well, as they search for a new rector.

**BUSINESS:**

**Discussion of advertising on cable television**

Program Administrator, Tommie Moore, opened the discussion by advising the Vestry that she and Mother LaRae had been researching options for advertising All Saints' to the community. She stated that they met with Tom Robinson who offered excellent advice on different advertising options. Tom advised that Comcast cable television advertising was relatively inexpensive, yet very effective. Tommie reported that she and LaRae met with Chris Beachum of Comcast Spotlight to discuss our advertising needs. Chris proposed two options. Proposal A: 520 commercials for 13 weeks broadcast over 5 different channels for \$3,686. Proposal B: 234 commercials for 13 weeks broadcast over 3 different channels for \$2,412. Tommie stated that she is looking for funding options and would report back to the Vestry at a later date.

**Chapel renovation update:**

See Les Alvis' Sr. Warden report

**Bell Plaques:**

Les Alvis advised the Vestry that the quotes for the bell plaques had not been completed and the matter was tabled.

**CHECK-OUT**

With no further business the meeting adjourned and The Rev. LaRae Rutenbar closed the Vestry meeting with a prayer at 8:09 p.m.

Submitted by Tommie Moore, Clerk of the Vestry

**ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING:**

Financial Report 04/30/08

Written Treasurer's report

Comcast Spotlight proposals

Attendance charts