

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Vestry Minutes  
November 14, 2011**

**Quorum:** The vestry of St. Peter's met on November 14, 2011, with the following members present: John Arrowood, William Bellamy, Steve Bentley, Harris Holt, John Hurst, John Knip, Bill Krewson, Maria Long, Kathleen Mundle; and Interim Rector, Tim Raasch.

Gene Humphreys, Deacon, also attended.

The meeting began with the service of Daily Devotions for Early Evening, led by Steve Bentley.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the October 10, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented.

**Reports of Officers and Interim Rector:**

**Treasurer:** David Lavoie submitted written reports for the months of September and October 2011.

For September, revenues, and expenses continued to be favorable to plan, although pledges for the month were soft and expenses were slightly over-budget. As of October 1, we were \$34,110 favorable to budget.

The Capital Campaign received \$5,730 in pledge payments in September, which was very soft. As of the end of September, we had collected \$3,263,092.01, or 78.4% of the \$4,164,629 in total pledges. The BB&T loan balance was \$464,154.

For October, pledge offerings were much stronger and plate offerings were exactly on budget. They are both tracking higher than 2010 results despite lower pledge promises. Total expenses were over budget for October, but were \$12,934 favorable for the year. Some of the over-budget expenses include Choir Retreat, which should be repaid by choir members by December 2011; and security expenses, which were an unbudgeted expense. However, Parish Maintenance overall is \$14,653 under budget for the year. As of November 1, we were \$24,993 favorable to budget.

The Capital Campaign received \$12,361 in pledge payments in October, and donations over the last five months have been very anemic. The percentage of pledges that have been paid is 78.6%, but \$889,175 remains unpaid. The BB&T

Loan Balance was \$458,392 as of October 31.

The treasurer's reports were accepted and approved.

It was suggested that Kathleen Mundle contact Bill Williamson, chairman of the Capital Campaign, about sending a letter to those who still owe on their Capital Campaign pledges as a reminder that we still need their pledges. The vestry agreed that Kathleen contact Bill about the letter.

**Senior Warden:** Kathleen Mundle reported that the date of the vestry meeting, the second Monday of the month, conflicts significantly with vestry member Cindy White's ability to attend, since City Council meets on that same night and as an Assistant City Attorney, her job usually requires that she attend council meetings. After discussion with vestry members, a motion was made and seconded that vestry meetings will be on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning December 20. This motion passed.

St. Peter's has already received inquiries about renting our meeting space and parish hall during the Democratic National Convention next September. It was agreed that we would check with the Diocese to be sure that this would not violate any Canons, and that the rental would be at our going rate.

Kathleen realized that there is no liaison from the Vestry to the Pastoral Care Commission. Steve Bentley agreed to serve in that role. It was also recommended that Clergy report the number of pastoral visits, including hospital and home visits, for each month.

The Church of the Ascension in Manhattan sent an e-mail to St. Peter's about how useful our weekly e-blast appears, and asking our permission to use this idea. See Attached e-mail.

Rosie Bellamy will be one of the five delegates to Diocesan Convention in Winston-Salem in January. John Arrowood will serve as an alternate delegate, if needed.

David Lavoie has indicated to Kathleen that he will be unable to serve as treasurer for St. Peter's after the close of the 2011 books. He has been working with Brian Simpson to create a new regional bank. That bank has been approved by the federal authorities, and he will no longer have enough time to devote to the role of treasurer. With great appreciation for his service over the past two years, and with sadness, the vestry accepted Dave's resignation. It was also noted that his narratives concerning the monthly and yearly parish finances have been incredibly useful to the members who are not skilled at reading balance sheets, and we thank

him for his service.

**Junior Warden:** Bill Krewson reported that the HVAC system in the parish hall will be installed the weekend of November 18, 2011.

Bill, Mary Ann Danchess, and Kevin Nunnery are getting cost estimates on a number of items, including 1) railings down from the altar, 2) wireless speakers and a sound system, 3) ceiling tiles in the Youth area of the basement. These items and estimates will be presented on the St. Peter's website, to see if anyone would like to donate to support these expenditures.

Bill is also getting an estimate on the cost of renovating the gallery space.

Bill met with Ben Outen, Organist and Choirmaster, about the apparent overages in the Music Department budget. A review of the finances shows that for the last three-to-four months, the regular budget has been positive, and this month is \$550 to the good. By December, the budget should be even. The overage on section leaders was the real issue. St. Peter's committed two years ago, when the Association of Anglican Musicians (a national association of musicians in the Anglican tradition) decided to hold its national convention in the Charlotte, Asheville, and Greenville, South Carolina, area, to hire professional choir members to assist with our helping to host AAM. The cost of these professional musicians was placed in the Section Leader line item.

The Valle Crucis choir retreat will cost about \$2,200, and this will be repaid to the church by the choir members by December.

Bill reported that the Choir School Christmas Concert will be December 9 and 10, and tickets will be \$15 each. One of the Choir School's main fundraisers, the Christmas greenery sale, will be held beginning December 1, and they hope to raise \$20,000.

Rental agreements are being developed for the Diocese and for La-Tea-Da.

**Interim Rector:** Diocesan Convention will be held January 20 and 21 in Winston-Salem N.C. John Hurst attended the Charlotte Convocation at St. John's on behalf of the delegates from St. Peter's on October 20, 2011.

Father Raasch encouraged the Parish produce a written document that would include reports from the Junior and Senior Wardens, Treasurer, chairmen of the commissions, heads of the departments, and chairmen of the Search Committee and Endowment Committee. This document would be presented at the Annual Meeting in March. Upon a motion, the vestry agreed.

Harris and Lyn Holt have volunteered to host a Christmas party for staff, vestry, volunteers and search committee at their home on Friday, December 16, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

**Other Reports:**

Nets For Life, an initiative of the Diocese, will be led through our Youth. They will set up a table in the gallery where a person can give a net for life in honor of someone as a Christmas gift.

**Stewardship:** The goal for the 2011 campaign has been published – our 2008 pledge number (300) and a goal of \$762,000, which will allow us to afford an assistant rector. Of our goal, \$398,261 has been pledged as of November 9, which represents 120 pledges. Last year, 243 people pledged.

Direct contacts to those who have not yet pledged will begin the first Sunday of December.

The **Outreach** Commission reported that it will disburse grants at its November 20, 2011 meeting.

It was suggested that usher training be provided to St. Peter's ushers. This request will be addressed at the next **Worship Commission** meeting scheduled for January 10, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Long, Secretary

## **Attachment A**

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am on the Vestry and also am responsible for producing our weekly parish news at The Church of the Ascension. We are a historic church located at 12 W. 11 Street in NYC. (The church is actually on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 10th Street.) I was looking for examples of outstanding examples of Episcopal parish communications and am most impressed by yours weekly news section and other parish news. I am writing to ask if you would include me in your weekly email message, I would like to learn by your example! Thank you for considering my request. Again, I am on the vestry of [www.ascensionnyc.org](http://www.ascensionnyc.org).

I also invite you or anyone you know to visit our services if you find yourself in our fair city! I would be glad to give you a tour of our 1940 building and tell you about our new organ and music program.

Thanking you with God's peace,  
Lisa Dunn