

Grace Church Vestry Meeting

November 21 2013 5:50 p.m., 153 North Plain Road, Gt. Barrington

Present: Rev. Francie Hills, Kathy Clausen, Geoff Perkins, John Cheek, Susan Gray, Ian Booton, Sally Brooke, Sue Gore, Rick Gore, Dindy Anderson, Louise Robitaille.

The potluck supper meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. Sally Brooke led us in Dwelling in the Word. The minutes of the October 24 Vestry meeting were approved as read. Sally read letters of thanks from the secretary of the Safi School Project for the gift to Neema Ndooki's church; from Kyle Gangell for donations to Gideon's Garden and himself; and from the secretary of the Anglican Diocese of Kumasi for the donation of \$1,145.00 for the Mampong Babies Home and Orphanage, representing the loose-plate collection at the December 2012 celebration of the 250th anniversary of St. James Episcopal Church.

Treasurer's Report: Geoff Perkins presented the Assessment for Common Ministry of \$22,381. It was unanimously agreed to accept that amount. Geoff announced that so far there was good news on the budget for 2012: there is a surplus of \$12,000. The 2013 budget will be based in part on hiring a full-time priest-in-charge in March.

It was unanimously agreed to give Parish Secretary Bonnie Weiland a raise as of January 2013.

Committee/Other Reports:

Property/Building Committee: Rick Gore announced that the new carpeting had been installed in the new office at 67 State Road. He also mentioned that there would be telephone service on the following Monday, and that a desk and other items will be set up in the week after Thanksgiving. Louise Robitaille has talked to Verizon about telephone, internet and fax services. The possibility of holding an open house for the new neighbors of Grace Church was discussed.

Rector's Report: Francie thanked the vestry for its faithfulness and dedication to all of the "holy business" during its term. She reminisced about coming to Great Barrington and the early days of formation of Grace Church. Given how unusual it has been for the retiring rector to stay on during the beginning of the search for a replacement, she said "we've done a great job of keeping boundaries" during it all. She said it was certainly challenging but "over-arched with grace and spirit".

Sue Gray gave the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:00.