

5/4/09 Vestry Meeting Minutes

All in attendance except Milt and Beth

Bible Study

Youth Report by Erin Gerrity. Yesterday was Youth Sunday. The Youth took in \$610 in Love Offerings from the Celtic Group. Also made \$1800 last week on the Pasta for Causa Dinner. Now they're about \$2000 short for the mission trip. Car Wash coming up on May 30. Senior Banquet coming up. Erin's group pointed out that our 3 Episcopal church blue and white signs along Knollwood Street are looking dingy and could stand replacement. The youth want to clean the street signs. We'll see how much they can be cleaned up and then decide if we need to replace them.

Organ Oversight Committee - Hook and Hastings discussion. Topics for the committee discussion:

1. The stained glass window. It cannot be covered up by the new organ
2. Can the existing organ be enhanced?? What do we do with it if not??

Presentation by the Organ Oversight Committee...Brad Zabel, John Farmer, Charlie Lovett.

The committee has raised \$215,000 to date. Nearly all of this \$125,000 is in hand. The dollar number needed for phase one is \$254,000.

We need \$24,000 more to get to phase two. \$340,000 is the total cost of the organ with installation. 100% of the existing Farmer organ sale will go to phase two. \$75,000 seems to be an average selling price. There will be opportunities for parish members to help with the cleaning, etc. - - to engage the congregation with the actual work. Of the monies pledged, there is about 25% from outside sources.

The committee members agree that the organ could be used for outreach opportunities. Any strings attached to the outside pledges? No.

To protect the organ, does the nave need to be humidified? Yes. It is needed not just to protect the organ but also all wooden furniture in the room, some of which currently shows the ill effects of a too-dry environment.

Any additional support needed to the choir loft? No, not a problem.

Is the 3rd manual necessary? 3 manual organs have been standard fare for 200 years now. We can start with the 2 manual and later go to the 3 manual. H&H Organ is 10 feet deep, one foot larger than the existing organ.

The window will not totally be covered up by the pipes. It will be obscured, to an extent, which will depend primarily on the observer's vantage point.

We would be without the Farmer organ 4 months before the Hook and Hastings will be installed. There will be an electronic substitute for the gap.

What's the worst case scenario as far as problems during installation? Time delay would be the only problem.

Estimated replacement cost on H&H is close to \$1,000,000. How will this effect our insurance rates? And what about maintenance. Approximately \$500 per year to maintain.

Would this be the largest job you've done? John has done a similar but smaller job in Myrtle Beach. 6 to 8 years is a typical time line for organ projects.

Pros and cons of waiting? Inflation. Missing the advantage of the ENERGY within the congregation. Putting it off would deflate this energy.

It's harder to play the existing one-manual organ than it would be a 2-manual organ.

This H&H organ has historical importance. And we are getting us something that takes us beyond the bounds of North Carolina. The organ came from Taunton, Mass. Installed in 1898. We are lucky to have the installer living in Winston-Salem – saving us more money

Brad: since we are only \$14,000 away are we ready to ask the congregation for their support?

Vestry Discussion after the presentation– will the new organ be taller than the old one? We will get a physical construct model. Due diligence is needed. What's next? What direction are we headed?

Tom would like to see a mockup first, in actual size (like John Farmer put in the chapel when he was proposing our current organ). The mockup would occupy the specific area the H&H would occupy in the loft and clearly define its full width, depth, and height. It would probably employ small pieces of wood or metal to indicate the outline of the organ. His particular concern is that the top three to five feet of the mockup be covered (with paper?) in such a way that we can adequately gauge the impact the organ would have on the visibility of the circular window behind it from various places inside the church. If we get this resolved, we need to be sure all the other details are in place. We will see the mockup and then discuss.

Also Tom suspects that it will be more difficult to determine the weight of the restored H&H organ than it will be to find out how much the choir loft can support. If he has the time and is willing to do so, he suggests we ask Bob Piper, a retired consulting engineer, to research the load-bearing capacity of the loft area where the weight would be concentrated. The architect or the contractor may have that information, but I am sure Bob would know how to access it and interpret it for us. John Farmer's task is more complicated, since he doubts that he was able to obtain detailed drawings/specifications for the H&H. It would be useful to have Bob and John work independently and report their results separately to the vestry.

Financial Update: Are we getting 12,500 per week? – yes, and if so, we'll be fine. We have 111 pledges in so far for a total of \$328,189; average of \$2956 per pledge, which is up from last year.

Welcome Center – The fire alarm will be moved on the 18th. The cabinets and countertop

are on order. We hope the welcome center will be constructed the latter half of this month. Be thinking about what your ministries want in the center.

The “ugly hall” – Gini would like to use one of the tables for the children's ministry.

Commissions and Committees: Before June, write down names to fill in your charts and submit them.

Seminarian Support \$2000 line item – to be sent to Virginia Theological Seminary on behalf of David Rose. Steve will sign the paperwork and mail the approval.

New director of Music Ministry – we're still negotiating her start date which should be sometime this summer.

We have a Wake Forest intern starting this fall. He has pastoral experience. Steve says it's almost like having an assistant.

Closing Prayer.