

6:10 pm: Lectio Divina in church, led by Fr. Cox

Reflection read by Sean Lowey

6:40 pm: Teaching

Part I by Dr. Sylvia Grider, TAMU Folklorist, Historic Preservationist/ Archivist

Centenary celebration planned for St. Andrew's Day (November 30, 2012)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church cornerstone laid in 1912 with assistance of then-Bishop Kinsolving. Date tiles in Narthex floor. Dr. Grider reports that 5-6 years have been spent attempting to locate all documents pertaining to St. Andrews church. She is coordinating the Building Centennial Committee for the 2012 celebration. At this time, there are about 10-12 people interested in assisting with the project. The history of the church has not been well-documented, some document and photos have been lost or damaged. The basement area was mildewed, and much damage was done to papers and other items. There is no precedent for the celebration of a cornerstone's having been laid. It may be feasible to begin celebratory festivities in May (as the actual cornerstone was laid in May 1912), with the culmination to occur on St. Andrews day, November 2012. BBQ?, Fish Fry? For profit?

Ideas include researching those christened / married / confirmed at St. Andrews. Since St. Andrews church was consecrated in 1914, it has been suggested that the celebration continue for two years with meaningful events relating to the history of the church and its congregants, as 2014 will be the 150th anniversary of the church is Millican, home of the original St. Andrews congregation.

A small publication of the church history is planned. Jim Miller raised the suggestion that ceremonies surrounding the celebrations be monetarily profitable. There is a synergy between historical preservation and congregational growth that should be explored. Working with Jim Singleton, Stephanie Sale, Dr. Robert Warden and his architecture students to complete documentation of the buildings, which is to 1/8th scale. Stage II of the documentation process is to have total plans and discoveries formally arranged. The work could be entered into a national competition. Cost is about \$10,000.00 top complete, however. Church buildings could be included in the National Registry of Historic Buildings. The architectural study found the buildings to be the "incredibly sound" in all structural areas; student whose specialty is in structural engineering crawled in, around and under all areas and was impressed with their foundational soundness. Preventative maintenance is needed; Electrical wiring needs upgrade- fire is the most common cause of the loss of historic buildings.

Part II by Steve Bethea, Program Director of Homeless and Housing Services at Twin City Mission, who spoke on the concern for and about homeless persons in the downtown Bryan area.

Mr. Bethea has been with TCM and BVCASA for 7 years. He reported that all homeless wind up in a shelter at least once. The move to a new location in downtown Bryan is scheduled for June. He said it is expected that the number of homeless persons will rise substantially with the national economic problems. TCM is a temporary emergency homeless shelter. Many opportunistic persons arrive at churches for handouts, food, etc., and that a few careful questions might elicit information necessary to determine whether or not that person is actually homeless.

- "Why are you homeless?"
- What is keeping you from health, a job, etc?

Mental Health issues are the #1 problem with the homeless, not substance abuse. The TCM has a zero tolerance policy for both alcohol and drugs at their facility, for the protection of all sheltered there. Residents are offered food and shelter Monday- Friday 5 days per week. The shelter closes at 8:00 am, and opens for lunch at noon and dinner at 5:00 pm. 93,000 meals, including 2800 hot meals, were served in 2008 in Bryan/ College Station area.

Between the mission, church pantries and the food bank, Mr. Bethea said that few people are actually hungry in this area. Until it ended this year, Community Development funds of \$3,000.00 assisted TCM. Local churches donate gift cards for dental, eye and prescription costs. Persons who may report that they were "kicked out" of TCM are usually involved with felony offenses- bringing drugs or illegal substances onto the shelter properties. This working shelter provides basic toiletries, linen, a bed, a case manager and assistance to help residents find work, rentals/ homes, and help them find job training and education as well.

Costs for this aid are great, with about \$70K in utility bills and 63K in food bills per year. School districts must provide transportation to and from schools for students, so that children do not miss school because a family is homeless. On March 5, a book-sale and signing fundraiser will take place with author Bill Birdwell. How to respond as an individual? If a person says they are hungry, get food for them. For transportation, offer them a bus or trolley ticket. Do not give cash.

7:45 pm: Business Meeting called to order by Dr. Lewis Ford, Vestry Senior Warden

Present: Janet Mohundro, Jeannine Netterville, Sean Lowey, Preston DuBose, Zo Granberry, Roland Searcy, Jim Miller, Lewis Ford, Chris Faber, Jason Sawyer

Absent: Karen Royal

Guests: Wayne Etter, Fr. Sean Cox, Dr. Sylvia Grider, Mike Mullen

Minutes were distributed to and read by those present. Motion to approve made by Roland Searcy and seconded by Jason Sawyer. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was distributed to those in attendance and reviewed by Dr. Wayne Etter, Treasurer, showing a 16 K surplus for January 2009. Motion to approve as printed made by Sean Lowey and seconded by Jim Petty. Motion carried.

Senior Warden's Report: A resolution to congratulate St. Francis Church in College Station on their recognition as a parish was read aloud and approved by the vestry.

The next vestry meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 24.

Junior Warden Sean Lowey had no report.

Ministries: Janet Mohundro attended the Parish Staff Meeting, and reported on a few items raised: The Seder Supper is still in need of a coordinator to "make it happen".

Lenten suppers will be held on Wednesday evenings, and hosted by various groups, with entrees, sides and desserts provided by parishioners on a rotating schedule. Vestry provides final Wednesday meal entrée on April 1.

Rector's Report: Fr. Cox spoke about two new small group ministries;

- Jim Miller's Internet-Friendly group- meets on Wednesday evenings
- The "On Target" Group- meets at Gunsmoke range at 4 pm Thursdays

The Worship Committee will meet on Monday, March 2 at 5:30 p

Fr. Cox also reported that he is now a member of the DOT Standing Committee. This group reviews all persons in the ordination process. Bishop Harrison will be in Bryan on Saturday, March 28th for Baptisms and Confirmations on Sunday, March 29th. Janet Mohundro has offered to host a reception at her home on Saturday eve, March 28th.

Old Business: None

New Business: During the Diocesan Council, it was announced that San Mateo had moved from Mission to Parish Church, and now had fully Spanish services. St. Francis in College Station was also recognized as a Parish. Both Bishop Wimberly and Bishop Doyle addressed attendees, and it was announced that Bishop Wimberly's retirement date is 6 June, 2009. Bishop Doyle spoke on the differences in many of the important issues throughout the DOT. He announced that he plans increased use and duties of the suffragan bishops. Leadership and Deacon training were discussed and new (young!) priests introduced. The Camp Allen debt has been retired, and a Capital Campaign will soon begin. The Missionary Asking was for \$5 Million, with \$3 Million pledged. The Central Convocation will meet at St. Andrews Church in Bryan on June 28 from 3-4:40 pm. Mike Mullen remarked that Bishop Doyle encourages response and input.

Space and Building Usage Study: Fr. Cox spoke on the study thus far. 3 D models of the buildings and possible usage ideas are soon forthcoming. He said he feels that he has gone as far as he can and does not feel that he should continue at this helm. Asked for thoughts and suggestions for Head of Committee. Sean Lowey suggested John Vilas, with his vast knowledge of the church's intimate details and structure. The Endowment Committee will also need a new member, as Bill Jeter will be rotating off. The committee is charged with management of the endowment fund, and responds to parish requests for uses of funds. Dr. Etter feels the fund is

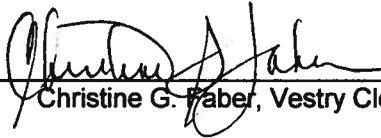
good hands. Lewis Ford feels that any person named must have the respect of parishioners, and that investment knowledge is not a requirement.

Fund-Raising for Missionary Asking: Fr. Cox announced that an anonymous parishioner has offered \$12K toward the \$24K Missionary Asking total with the stipulation that the additional \$12K must be raised by the congregation. He asked if this endeavor might be a "Lenten Challenge" for the church to raise the funds by Easter Sunday. It was discussed and ideas put forth that the Parish needed education to better understand the uses of the Missionary Asking funds by the Diocese. Describe the need, and describe the reason for the need. Mission churches and Campus Ministries are only 2 of the many uses of this funding, as an example. Funds from parishioners should be identified as "Mission Challenge" on checks. Preston Dubose mentioned that he has been testing the 'donation; waters with the goal of an Auto Raffle. At this time, things look bleak. Baskin Robbins will make up flyers for the purchase of Ice Cream with 3% donations of sales.

Shrove Tuesday: a sign-up sheet was passed around for jobs and chores during the Pancake Supper on Tuesday February 24th.

8:50 ended with prayer by Fr. Sean Cox

Minutes respectfully submitted by _____


Christine G. Faber, Vestry Clerk

March 24, 2009
Date