

Worship and Music Committee Minutes **Wednesday, November 14, 2007**

Participants: David Roden, Anne Pickett, Becky Davies, Paul Van de Water, Sherrie Cathcart, Larry Hayward, Paul Stetsenko, Jan Dickerson, Carolyn Carmack, and Ken Niemann

David Roden opened the meeting with prayer.

Month in Review

The afternoon concert with Agudas Achim on October 21st went very well and was well received. The afternoon concert by the Alexandria Choral Society on November 4th also went well. An email vote by the committee permitted the non-profit group to sell CD's of their program to help cover the costs of musicians.

The Remembrance Sunday service on November 11th was very well received. Larry Hayward greatly appreciated Paul Stetsenko's efforts in designing the liturgy and the collegial participation of the pastoral staff in planning and leading the service.

Month Ahead

November 14th includes an adult baptism at the 8:30 service that needs an Elder participant. For child baptisms, Casey FitzGerald will council the parents, schedule the baptism, and ensure that the baptism is included in the Session consent docket for approval. An Elder will be designated during the Session meeting.

The community Thanksgiving service on November 21st will be at Westminster this year with Jack Moline preaching. David Roden will ask Robin McFarland and Nancy McIver to prepare a cornucopia display for the top of the communion table. Larry Hayward would like a reception after the service in the library. Carolyn Carmack volunteered to investigate kosher options for light refreshments.

Communion will be served at both services on November 25th. Additional servers are needed for communion on December 24th. Only one Elder responded to Anne Pickett's postcard soliciting communion servers..

December 2nd is the first Sunday of Advent. David Roden will coordinate arrangements for the Advent Wreath with Casey FitzGerald. A work day is scheduled for December 1st for the greening of the Sanctuary. David Roden will coordinate with Gale Grindstaff who has agreed to design the decorations.

Lessons and Carols will be offered at the 11:00 service on December 9th. Casey FitzGerald will preach at the 8:30 service. The children's pageant, opera, and dinner will be held that afternoon.

December 16th is Festival Sunday with the Commonwealth Brass at both services. Some concern was expressed about having this service more than a week before Christmas. Greater adherence to the liturgical calendar will be considered in future planning.

An Alexandria Choral Society concert is scheduled for 4:00 PM on December 16th.

Other Business

Two people responded to the announcement in the Chronicle soliciting a flower coordinator. Anne Pickett and David Roden discussed the job with both people. At this point most of the arrangements have been made for this year. David Roden negotiated a price for Sunday flowers for 2008 and reserved Christmas Poinsettias at Behnke's for delivery on December 21st. He also submitted announcements for the Chronicle and the bulletin. Becky Davies ordered a flower chart and will begin accepting reservations on November 25th. Rosa Fullerton and the new flower coordinator will accept reservations on December 2nd and 9th. Christmas Poinsettias memorials and honorariums will be accepted through December 17th.

The 2008 Worship and Music budget was discussed. Since 2007 worship expenses will be significantly higher than the 2007 budget, the committee voted to increase the worship budget request to \$750 for 2008. The 2008 music budget request reinstates the organ tuning and maintenance line item that was removed from the 2007 budget because the organ re-construction was covered by the capital campaign. The proposed music budget for 2008 is \$15,900 plus endowments.

Installation of a camera to record sermons did not happen as originally planned. The committee would like to view the sermon from a Web page download when a recording is available.

The worship and music material currently available on the Westminster Web site is significantly out-of-date. In addition to correcting inaccuracies, the committee recommended upgrading the appearance of the static material with pictures from a worship service and of each choir. A section for upcoming events should also be updated on a weekly basis. This includes a list of upcoming sermon titles and posting a copy of the bulletin prior to the service. Special Christmas services and information articles about special services like Remembrance Sunday would also be desirable.

The positioning of Elder after worship services was discussed. The Elder after the 8:30 service should be positioned at the door between the Chapel and the parlor. After the 11:00 service, one Elder should be positioned at the door to the Library and the back of the sanctuary to assist the pastor at those locations to identify and guide visitors. Assignments will be listed in the bulletin.

Ken Niemann asked for a schedule of communion services and special services for next year to help the Deacons and ushers make assignments. Ken Niemann will also coordinate with Jim Buchanan to get the chimes working for Advent. Larry Hayward proposed a list of communion services for 2008. The committee recommended that the Session approve the list. They include January 6th (Epiphany), February 10th (1st Sunday of Lent), March 9th, March 20th (Maundy Thursday), April 13th, May 11th (Pentecost), June 8th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th,

October 5th (World Communion), November 2nd, November 30th (Advent/Thanksgiving), and December 24th (Christmas Eve).

The committee discussed the proposed purchase of a new piano for the sanctuary. Concerns were raised that the church was spending too much on our selves. One suggestion was to sell the existing piano and donate the proceeds to mission. The current thinking was that the existing pianos would be shifted around to provide a piano for Fellowship Hall which currently does not have a piano. The need for a better piano or organ in the Chapel was also raised. Larry Hayward encouraged the committee to not be apologetic about worshipping beautifully (worship well) and that we should celebrate all new levels of giving. We also discussed the size and color of the proposed piano and agreed that it fits within our renovated space. The committee unanimously approved the motion to recommend that the Session accept of the new piano gift at their November 28th meeting for installation in December. The piano can be dedicated in the spring along with the other sanctuary furnishings.

Carolyn Carmack showed one of the new paraments constructed by Eleanor Geiger. The new paraments will be used in worship starting in Advent, December 2nd.

David Roden will talk to Jim Buchanan about changes in the lighting to address concerns expressed by the choir and focus more light on the organ pipes and the preacher. He will also ask about the status of the custom pulpit furniture purchase.

The Chrismon tree was purchased using Jackie Borthwick's designated gift. It will be set up in the hall by the library and decorated on December 1st. Review and assessment of the Chrismon ornaments and other Christmas decorations is underway. A few of the crèche figures damaged during the renovation were repaired.

Advent booklet options ranging in price from \$5.00 to 49 cents were reviewed. Fortunately, the option the committee liked best was also the cheapest. The booklet provides a daily devotion for adults that complement the advent booklet purchased by Christian Education for families with young children. David Roden will submit an announcement for the bulletin about both booklets. Becky Davies will purchase the booklets for placement in the Narthex and the Christian Education entrance starting November 25th.

Carolyn Carmack contacted Marjorie Phillips who volunteered to help with pew checking. She also reported that Presbyterian guidelines state that the color of the liturgical season should be used for communion paraments. Using white for World Communion Sunday was not appropriate. Carolyn Carmack also brought a proposal to purchase reusable plastic candle holders for the Christmas Eve service at a price of approximately \$300. These should minimize damage to our renovated sanctuary. The committee approved the purchase recognizing that the cost can not be covered by the 2007 worship budget.

Paul Van de Water closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 2007 at 7:30 PM.