

Together

Sharing Christ

Vol. 28, No. 6

Parish Council Minutes Catch-Up

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Together Sharing Christ, (USPS #009-819), December, 2008

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Anne Maura English, Editor (eam_english@earthlink.net)

Check out St. Vincent's Website at www.stvchurch.org

Watch for Parish Directory Corrections and Updates
in this space, beginning next issue.

Editor's Note: Parish Council Minutes are posted on the St. V website and are sent out on the parish e-mail tree shortly after each meeting—which is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. They are reprinted here for those who do not have access to innernet or prefer a hard copy. Formatting has been added for reading ease and is not part of the original minutes.

Parish Council Minutes

October 14, 2008. *Colleen McCabill, Audrey Rogers, Dennis Moore, Joan Campbell, Lorna Patterson, Anne Marie Freeberger, Nancy O'Neill, Pat Ball, Jim Casey, Kevin O'Reilly, Brian Loughlin, Maureen Fitzsimmons, and Graham Yearley. The meeting was brought to order at 7:38pm. Our president, Colleen McCabill, read from II Corinthians 9 and then offered a prayer. As our pastor is on retreat, there was no Pastor's Report at this meeting.*

Financial Report

Maureen Fitzsimmons offered the monthly financial report. The offertory is down, as is the revenue for the renting of parking spaces. We discussed whether we should be more aggressive about making sure parkers are paying. We realize there are limits to what we can do as a non-profit. There is an increase in Tuition Assistance as our portion of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal has come in. Maureen was asked to bring a report of attendance statistics for the November meeting.

Liturgy Committee Survey

Brian Loughlin gave an introduction to the survey compiled last spring which produced a good deal of information. Overall, there is satisfaction with the liturgy. The highest level of dissatisfaction was expressed by the members of the 9:30 mass. Principal complaint was the length of the mass. Some changes have already been put into place: better preparation for the lectors, shortening the Call to Worship and greater effort to begin the mass at 9:30.

Four points of the Mass were brought by the Liturgy Committee for consideration by the Parish Council.

1) Start Time of Mass: There was general agreement that this was the most realizable

was not only the sharing of God's love, but also the sharing of love between members of the community. She agreed that everyone was responsible for not just greeting people they know, but also greeting those they don't know. Audrey added that some have said the passing of the Peace has been an isolating experience for newcomers and not-so-newcomers. The Liturgy Committee will offer continuing education on the meaning and practice of the Passing of the Peace.

3. Petitions from Congregation: Complaints include political petitions, overlapping petitions and repeated petitions for the same person or situation. Anne Marie expressed doubt that much could be done. The suggestion that there be a minute of silence for all to make their petitions or that all petitions be offered at one moment (all at once) did not receive much support.

4. Announcements: Everyone agreed that one person's least liked announcement could be another's godsend. Audrey mentioned that, if one sits further back than the first three rows the announcements are, for the most part, inaudible. It was also noted that when announcements were suspended for Lent, no one really objected to their absence.

goal.

2. Sign of Peace: There were complaints that the passing of the Peace took too long with people crossing the church to greet their friends and socializing. Lorna Patterson argued that the Sign of Peace was a vital part of St. Vincent's worship, that sharing the peace further catechesis on these various points of the mass, that the entire twenty page survey be published on our website and that we continue to enforce a 9:30 start time rigorously.

Proposal of the Social Action Committee

Colleen began the discussion by reminding us of questions we should have been considering since last month when this proposal was first made: Does the proposal support the Gospel? Our Mission Statement? Is it in the best interest of our parishioners (including everyone within the area of the parish)? Can I as an individual live with it?

Everyone at the table in turn, with the exception of Brian Loughlin, gave their assessment of the proposal.

Brian suggested that the proposed changes be returned to the Liturgy Committee for revision in a series of emails. Audrey felt that, as the survey had been ready for almost six months, that going back to Liturgy Committee did not make much sense. It was agreed

that a one page insert be made to offer At the end of the discussion, this proposal was made: to ask Joe Cronyn to proceed with asking the initial questions of the Maryland Historical Trust. Once this information was obtained, we would proceed to have a Town Meeting open to all the parish with a panel of knowledgeable people and, perhaps two Parish Council members, one favorable to the project and one not favorable to it. The meeting should be led by someone impartial to the outcome.

As the meeting time had overrun by twenty minutes already, no committee reports were given. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 with the saying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Graham G. Yearley, Secretary of the Parish Council

Parish Council Minutes

November 11, 2008. *The meeting was brought to order at 7:35 pm by our President, Colleen McCabill, who offered a prayer and a reading. Present were: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen McCabill, Maureen Fitzsimmons, Dennis Moore, J. Edmond Guy, Mary Kate Fries, Kevin O'Reilly, Joan Campbell, Pat Ball, Raymond Heil, Audrey Rogers, Brian Loughlin, and Graham G. Yearley.*

Pastor's Report

- 1) There have been four recent deaths in the parish, creating both sorrow and a heavy work load.
- 2) Barbara Hodnett is on vacation in Italy; she will return Saturday evening, November, 15th and will be back in the

expected drop in numbers during the summer. Maureen Fitzsimmons presented charts relating attendance and contributions. The average gift has risen over the past three years; the average weekly gift per person is \$13.70, but, as attendance is down, the total does not meet

office next week.

3) St. Katharine's School, a school with a long standing relationship with St. Vincent's, has a new principal. However, enrollment and income are down, resulting in the cutting of two teachers (one was 83 and happy to retire). The Day Care Center is also facing reduced enrollment and may have to close before the school year's end.

Financial Report

1. Neither the attendance nor the offertories have risen since the beginning of fall after the

2) Maureen Fitzsimmons also presented an Accounting Procedures Proposal designed to bring the church's accounting practices in line with standard accounting procedures. It was agreed that ushers or volunteers count the cash received at that mass and place the figure on the card already provided. Fr. Lawrence felt that the other suggested procedures would not be helpful. Audrey Rogers suggested that we ought to differentiate between what practices we are doing and which are seen as what we plan to do. Maureen said she would contact the ushers to start the cash counting after each mass.

Visits to Other Parishes Project

Parish Council members had been urged to visit other parishes to see what was working well at those churches. At the meeting parish council members gave their reports; the churches visited were: Nativity (in Timonium), Sacred Heart (in Glyndon), Corpus Christi, St. Joseph Monastery, Pius X, St. Bernadine's, Epic Church, and St. Athanasius (Curtis Bay). Some of the parishes were small and urban like our own, but with special ministries of their own. Others were very large, suburban

the projected budget numbers for this fiscal year. The council discussed how to increase attendance. Fr. Lawrence urged person to person contact to find out why members of the parish are not attending and to encourage them to return. Colleen suggested that we check our parish's directories to see who has not been attending and get in contact with them. Audrey Rogers urged us to "re-invigorate" the Outreach Committee which has not functioned since last spring and to seek a dynamic person to head it.

our proposed project has been prepared and Fr. Lawrence, Colleen and Audrey have read it. Joe Cronyn has talked informally with the Director of the Maryland Historical Trust and others there. The letter will be sent and we will see what the response will be. Fr. Lawrence found the original deed of easement and is not convinced the Historical Trust will even considerate our letter or may want a more formal proposal. Ray Heil, while agreeing that a Town Meeting is the next step, is not sure the response will come soon enough for a town meeting even in January or February.

Committee Reports

Liturgy Committee revised, based on feedback from the Parish Council, the letter thanking those who participated in the liturgy survey. Their next meeting is November 27 where the plans for Advent will be finalized.

Education Committee met two weeks ago. There will be a lecture this week on Hinduism. In February, the first five weeks of discussions on Quest for the Living God

churches with coffee bars, an emphasis on families and children, and tracks of small groups of parishioners within the parish community to foster support.

Social Action Committee Proposal

A letter stating our proposed project has been prepared and Fr. Lawrence, Colleen and Audrey have read it. Joe Cronyn has talked informally with the Director of the Maryland Historical Trust and others there. The letter will be sent and we will see what the response will be. Fr. Lawrence found the original deed of easement and is not convinced the Historical Trust will even consider our letter or may want a more formal proposal. Ray Heil, while agreeing that a Town Meeting is the next step, is not sure the response will come soon enough for a town meeting A letter stating

The Park Working Group is seeking more parishioners to be involved with the group. They have established rules for keeping the park clean and a three-strike-you're out rule for infractions. They have also have completed a census of 73 people who have lived off and on in the park since May, and re-

will begin; the other five weeks of discussion will be held in fall 2009. The parish will sell copies of this book for \$10 (trade value:\$24.95).

Social Action Committee registered 180 people to vote in the general election. Bridge gave the committee an award for its outstanding efforts. There will be a forum entitled "Community, Faith and Democracy" on December 4 from 3 to 5pm at the Washington Hilton where politicians and nationally known social activists will be present. The committee would like participation from St. Vincent's and will provide transport on that day at 1 p.m. from the church.

Pastoral Care Committee would like to provide information to the parish on what needs can be met by the committee. They are also seeking further training for the members of the committee. defined Steve Bossey's job (he will be in charge of cleaning the park three times a week).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. with a closing prayer offered by Graham Yearley and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. Minutes respectfully submitted by the secretary.

Parish Council Minutes

December 14, 2008. *The meeting was brought to order by our President, Colleen McCabill, at 7:35pm and prayer was offered by Jim Casey. Present were: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Graham G. Yearley, Brian Loughlin, Audrey Rogers, Barbara H. Hodnett, James Casey, Patt Ball, Joan Campbell, Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill, J. Edmond Guy, Maureen Fitzsimmons, Dennis B. Moore, Colleen McCabill and Kevin O'Reilly.*

Pastor's Report

Due to the importance of the issue, Fr. Lawrence's report was solely about his proposal on behalf of the Queen of Peace Cluster Schools: SS. James and John and St. Katharine's. St. Vincent's has had a long

Other parishes will also raise money (although they may not mount a general campaign as St. Vincent's is doing). Our appeal is not intended to replace the Archbishop's Appeal and Fr. Lawrence

history of supporting through tuition assistance the life of these two inner city Catholic schools; that contribution represents some 6% of our offertory. The Cluster's budget is approximately 2 million a year; half of which is provided through parents' tuition payments and the other half through interest from a small endowment, support from five parishes, and private funds. Some of the major donors include: Cardinal Sheehan Fund, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, and Partners in Excellence.

Tuition is down due to the drop in enrollment, the development of charter schools and the state of the economy. The Archbishop's Annual Appeal which gave \$20,000 last year will give only \$4,000 in the coming year. Partners in Excellence is reducing its donation from \$425,000 to \$225,000. The situation financially has become dire for the schools and what cuts to their budget that could be made have been made.

Therefore, Fr. Lawrence proposed an immediate campaign to raise money for the schools to commence immediately and run into January with the stated goal of raising \$50,000.

Financial Report

Colleen reported that she had found twenty people in her directory who were no longer attending St. Vincent's. Some have been ill, others are not attending as often, and, as Barbara commented, several in our parish have moved out of state. Colleen promised to give the names of the sick to the Pastoral Care Committee for follow-up by them. Colleen said she intended to gather the listeners from the Listening Project in February to see if that

hopes our contribution to that will be as large as last year.

Brian Loughlin proposed seeking matching funds from institutions since the money is being raised for schools, not for the parish. Joan Campbell suggested the St. Thomas More Fund might be another source.

Graham Yearley commented that a letter asking for contributions might not have that dramatic an effect and he hoped that Fr. Lawrence might speak to the four masses of St. Vincent's on this issue.

Audrey Rogers suggested that, if an issue of *Together Sharing Christ* could go to print before February, it could become another fund raising tool. The Parish Council unanimously supported the Pastor's proposal.

Financial Report

The offertory is under budget by \$18,000. Although the amount in our bank account looks healthy, a good proportion of that money is already allocated and is not available for general parish expenses. No payment on the Archdiocese Tax has been made since July 1st. and none will be made until certain expected contributions have been received, probably in the spring.

Education Committee: No one representing the committee was present, but it was suggested that, since we are paying honoraria and travel expenses to our speakers for the lecture series, we "pass the hat" to help defray the expenses.

Social Action Committee: St. Vincent sent nine representatives to Washington to Bridge's convocation on December 4 where Congressman John Sarbanes and other politicians were present. The Social Action Committee will not meet in

will generate some interest in this important question affecting our future as a parish.

Committee Reports

Peace and Justice Committee: Dennis Moore reported that the committee met on December 5th. One topic of conversation was Sylvia Eastman's request for an additional \$500 for the South African Higher Education project she has developed and that is already sending three students to university. She hopes additional funds will aid 1 to 3 more students. Peace Building seminars will be offered on March 7th at Seton-Keogh and on March 23rd; another, entitled "Overcoming Fear: Building International Solidarity," will be presented at St. Matthew's.

December.

Liturgy Committee met on November 22nd to finalize plans for Advent. Some preliminary planning for Lent was discussed.

Park Working Group: The first meeting of the reconstituted PWG will meet next Tuesday with twelve new members. As Loyola Unive student are out of town, St. Vincent's will take over the Monday meal provision in December and January. There will be two teams for the 1st Saturday Park Cleaning.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

Minutes submitted by Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council

Parish Council Minutes

January 13, 2009. *The meeting was brought to order at 7:40pm. Prayer was offered by Audrey Rogers. Present: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen McCabill, Audrey Rogers, Brian Loughlin, J. Edmond Guy, Joan Campbell, Dennis Moore, Pat Ball, Nancy O'Neill and Graham Yearley.*

Pastor's Report

1. Christmas services and season went well; attendance was good.
2. **Queen of Peace Schools Project:** Fundraising has exceeded expectations. At this point, there have been 152 contributors and over \$70,000 raised; the total may reach \$100,000. A story about our campaign appeared in the Catholic Review. The pastor

Financial Report

1. The offertory is currently exceeding the budgeted amount. However, we are below the budgeted amount for the Holy Days

is proud of our response and thanks the St. Vincent community.

3. The Archdiocese is holding a meeting of the pastors on February 10th to discuss the **future of the Catholic schools**. No press will be permitted into the meeting.

4. Fr Lawrence spoke about the powerful **examples of faith** he witnessed at the Henderson's funeral for their son.

due to President-Elect Obama's visit to Baltimore. The meeting will discuss plans for Lent and Easter. Lectionary B is now

collections. Revenue from parking is still down as we have never recovered the number of parkers we lost during the rectory renovation. Maintenance costs are down. As St. Vincent's was double billed by the utility company, we are not paying that bill until the matter is resolved.

2. Speaker Series on *Quest for the Living God*: we are paying (along with our partner parishes) major stipends to our speakers, who are well known in the field of theology. All sessions will be held at St. Vincent's, but the series is being sponsored by St. Ignatius and Corpus Christi as well St. Vincent's. The parish has sold 60 or 70 copies of the text. Audrey Rogers raised the question whether the \$10 price we are charging for the books is unnecessarily low as the church is paying \$15 for each copy. Graham Yearley added that the \$5 savings was not meaningful to the people purchasing the book and that taking a loss on each copy seemed inappropriately generous.

Committee Reports

Peace and Justice Committee: No meeting in December; a meeting is planned on January 30th.

Education Committee met last Friday. The Retreat is planned for the weekend of May 14 and 15th. The committee is planning the promotion and publicity for the Speakers' Series.

Liturgy Committee is scheduled to meet January 17, but may have to move the date

available in electronic form

Social Action Committee: Meeting is scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month. Joe Cronyn has had no response yet on the proposed homeless shelter.

Park Working Group has pulled together two cleaning crews for the park which will alternate. A dump truck has been arranged for the next cleaning. The PWG has identified most of the donors to the park. The holiday season brought a tidal wave of donations which re-emphasized the need to gain control over the donations that are given. One hundred five (105) individuals are on the census list; most are people who have moved in and out of the park over the last few months. Ten or twelve individuals have been housed; the same number are on the way to housing and have their vouchers. A letter was sent to Mayor Dixon expressing the PWG's concern that, after urging our park residents to go to the new shelter on cold nights, they were turned away as the shelter had no more beds. Additional beds have been added.

Art and Architecture Committee gave no report, but the question was raised on when could the parish proceed on the replacement of the South Windows. Fr. Lawrence said he believed the spring of 2010 was the earliest possible date.

The meeting was closed with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer at 9:03pm

*Minutes respectfully submitted,
Graham G. Yearley, secretary*

Parish Council Minutes

February 10, 2009. *The meeting was brought to order by our president, Colleen MacCabill, at 7:37pm. Prayer was offered by Barbara Murphy. Present were: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen MacCabill, Brian Loughlin, Joan Campbell, Pat Ball, Joe Cronyn, J. Edmond Guy, Dennis Moore, Anne Marie Freeberger, Barbara Murphy, Steve Bosse, Audrey Rogers, Kevin O'Reilly, Mary Kate Fries Hersfeld, Nancy O'Neill, James P. Casey, Raymond L. Heil, and Graham G. Yearley*

Pastor's Report

1. **Queen of Peace Schools Fundraising Campaign** is complete. Our parish has raised in excess of \$100,000, enough to save the schools for the time being. As of yet, we do not know what the other parishes are contributing. St. Ignatius may have to delay their contribution as the parish has been flooded in a water main break in the last few days.

2. Today Fr. Lawrence attended an Archdiocese wide meeting to discuss the **future of the Catholic schools**. He felt reassured by the attention paid to looking after the poorer schools in the east and west intercity districts. A blue ribbon commission was formed to study and make proposals next year on the future of the Catholic school system.

Financial Report

1. Offertory is below budget this month, about twenty thousand below budget for the year so far. On the whole, however, our situation is not dire. There is only \$8,000 left to pay on the tower project.

2. **Historical Trust Fund:** While interest and dividends continue to come in, the fund has an accumulated deficit of \$65,000 in the endowment proper due to unrealized losses in the market. When (who knows?) the market turns up again, this should right itself.

Discussion of On Consensus

Colleen led the council through a review of

necessary component of consensus making. Ray Heil (and others) felt certain issues demand a wider exposure to the parish community before the council can make a final decision. At community wide meetings, the facilitator must be completely non-partisan. When consensus-seeking breaks down, there are professional facilitators that could be brought in to help. Jim Casey reminded the council that consensus-making does not require complete unanimity; Fr. Lawrence added, indeed, complete agreement on a parish-wide basis is probably impossible.

There was discussion on when a vote (in place of consensus-making) might be used; Fr. Lawrence said the intention of the Parish Constitution was to hold votes only when there is a severe time pressure and, then, a two-thirds majority would suffice to pass a proposal. The so-called "Doomsday Clause" is not really a part of consensus-making; in fact, it is to be used only if there is an unalterable failure to reach consensus. As forbidding as the clause may be, it also shows the respect that is held for the laity and the authority granted to it by this parish. Colleen urged that members either submit their suggestions or changes by email or regular mail.

Committee Reports

Peace & Justice. The P&J Committee granted \$1,500 for the African Scholarship fund. The committee decided to reduce their financial commitment to Habitat for

the document, *On Consensus*. Some ideas for changes were brought up in the discussion. Audrey Rogers suggested a rewording of the “Primary Understandings” section. Graham Yearley argued that having all options in a given issue open to discussion and action is a

the end, the Council did give its approval. The Council asked that Peggy Meyers, the chairwoman of the committee, come to the next meeting. The committee would also like to give \$2,400 to the pastor of our sister parish in Limay as they have in the past.

John Connors, the founder of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, asked to hold a meeting to attract membership for that group at St. Vincent’s. That meeting has been scheduled for March 21st.

Liturgy Committee met in January to discuss and formulate plans for Lent.

Education Committee will meet in two weeks. The major project currently is the discussion series on *Quest for the Living God* which will begin next week on February 18 at 7 p.m. with a lecture by Fr. Lawrence.

Park Working Group: Baltimore Homeless Services has terminated their “Street to Home” program in our park. Twenty people from our park have received vouchers and have been moved into housing in the last year. The PWG will ask the St. Vincent de Paul Society to remove the clothing bin as it has

Humanity from \$5,000 to \$3,500. Barbara Murphy asked the Parish Council to approve this change. The council discussed whether this allotment could be changed mid-year or, even, if this is a matter for the Council to decide. In

overflowed with excessive donations. Regular cleanings of the park by church volunteers continue. The PWG will meet Tuesday, February 24; all are welcome.

Social Action Committee: On January 30 the Maryland Historical Trust wrote that they would allow construction in the park within certain parameters. Now the next step of giving out information on the project and holding a town meeting will commence. Fr. Lawrence felt the process was moving too fast and should not be scheduled in March; Brian Loughlin added that this issue would divert attention from the more important celebrations of Lent and Holy Week. The schedule was pushed back to April. The first insert will go into the bulletin April 19th. The next week a second insert will go in and informational meetings will be held between the Sunday morning masses. Joan Campbell asked that something be planned to bring this information beyond the inserts to the other two masses. A Town Meeting was scheduled for May 3rd. This schedule will allow for two council meetings to go over the inserts and to plan for the town meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm with the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes submitted by, Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council

Parish Council Minutes

March 9, 2009. *The meeting was brought to order at 7:35 by the Council President, Colleen McCabill, who also offered a*

prayer. Attendants: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen McCabill, Dennis Moore, Kevin O'Reilly, Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill, J. Edmond Guy, Joe Cronyn, Pat Ball, Joan Campbell, Audrey Rogers, Dennis Flynn, and Graham G. Yearley

Pastor's Report

1. **Lenten Education Series:** both sessions have had the same number of attendees, 78, although, of course, some of the faces changed between the two sessions.

Approximately 160 to 170 copies of *Quest for the Living God* have been sold by the parish.

2. The **Historical Trust Fund** of St. Vincent's had a meeting today. There is a 16% decline in the account which is not too bad in the Archbishop had frowned on the hiring of lay people for that position when he first came to the Archdiocese. But Fr. Lawrence added the Archbishop had said little on the subject on the last eighteen months and may be changing his opinion.

Financial Report

Dennis Flynn presented the Finance Report and said there was nothing alarming to report this month. The offertory is again below the budgeted amount. \$3,500 was paid by St. Vincent's to Habitat for Humanity. We also paid a portion of our utilities bill, although the matter of the doubled billed charge for the church's utilities is still not resolved and we have not paid on the disputed amount. A total of \$14,481 was taken in by St. Vincent's in the month of February (there was a typo in the finance report). In discussing the Peace and Justice Committee's donation to Habitat, Fr. Lawrence made clear that a projected budget amount is not an appropriation, gifts like this need to be run by the Pastor and, at times, the Parish Council before being disbursed.

this troubled economy. The board will conference call in ninety days to discuss the results of their decisions today. Right now, there are no funds to pay for the South Wall Window renovations. The loan for the Tower restoration will be repaid in full to the trust in the next month.

3. In response to a question from Colleen about the opinion of Archbishop O'Brien on Parish Life Directors, Fr. Lawrence said that

On Consensus Document

Colleen presented her revised, but not final, draft on consensus in our parish council history and practice. She asked the Council to approve it as part the packet for new members. She also hoped that an explanation of the corporators' role and purpose would be written for inclusion in the packet, which will also contain the church's constitution, job descriptions of the church's employees, and descriptions of each ministry and committee in the parish. Colleen also proposed that putting together the packet would become part of the vice-president's duties; the Council agreed with her proposal.

Committee Reports

Peace & Justice. The committee met on March 6, 2009. The committee would like to send \$2,400 to the priest of our sister parish in Limay as we did last year. The committee also participated in a drive to send eyeglasses to Limay; the drive was a success and 150 more eyeglasses are sought. The Tent of Abraham interfaith worship will be held at St. Vincent's on March 27. Pax Christi will have a membership

Social Action Committee Proposal

The Parish Town Meeting on the proposed homeless shelter to be held on May 3rd is to be run by the Parish Council, not by the Social Action Committee. Jim Casey has agreed to chair the Town Meeting. Ray Heil presented a draft of the proposal that will go into the bulletin. Suggestions were made to clarify the letter and Ray promised to consider them. Members of the Social Action Committee will sign the letter.

It was suggested by Joan Campbell that the Jonestown Planning Council be included in our discussions. Fr. Lawrence said the Archdiocese has still not handed over the civil title to the property. St. Vincent's has held the canonical title since the 1880s.

Pastoral Committee: A meeting is planned for Sunday, March 15.

Park Working Group: There have been three cleanings of the park since December and another is planned for the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Five new benches have

drive at the Newman Center at T.S.U. March 28 and will hold their annual Stations of the Cross at the War Memorial Plaza on Good Friday, April 10. The P&J Committee would like a bulletin board to post notices of interest to the parish. Next meeting will be April 17, at 7:30 at St. Vincent's.

Liturgy Committee: Plans for Lent are in place and all Holy Week services have planners. The committee will meet on March 21 to firm up all Holy Week plans and begin planning for May and the summer series. A joint Reconciliation service will be held at Corpus Christi tomorrow night, Stations of the Cross will be held on Wednesday two weeks later and, two weeks after that, Tenebrae will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 8.

been installed. The PWG will meet soon with Baltimore Homeless Services. The PWG Newsletter is ready and will be posted on the St. Vincent's website

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer
Minutes submitted,
Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council*

Parish Council Minutes

April 14, 2009. *The meeting was brought to order by the President, Colleen MacCahill, at 7:35. Prayer was offered by Ray Heil. In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen MacCahill, Ray Heil, Audrey Rogers, Jim Casey, Joan Campbell, Joe Cronyn, Pat Ball, Dennis Flynn, J. Edmond Guy, Nancy O'Neill, Kevin O'Reilly, Dennis B. Moore, and Graham G. Yearley*

Pastor's Report

1. Fr. Lawrence thought **Holy Week** went well and thanked the large number of lay members of the church who made the liturgies, two major meals, the decoration of the church and technical support possible. While the staff worked long hours

Madden and his staff who promised to support our efforts to keep the schools open. Neither one of the two schools can accommodate all of the students of both schools, so to consolidate the schools would mean build-ing additional buildings at one school or the other. Since our parish has given

for which we are grateful, the complexity of Holy Week depends on large commitments of time by lay people.

2. Fr. Lawrence will be in **San Francisco** next week from Sunday afternoon to Thursday afternoon. He plans to return in time to attend the Speakers' Series on Thursday night.

3. Update on the Queen of Peace

Schools: Through our fundraising of our parish and the other participating parishes, the two schools will remain open through this academic year. However, the Archdiocese is threatening to close the schools; Fr. Lawrence was told by the superintendent of Catholic Schools that the Queen of Peace Schools were "spinning out of control" and was asked to present a budget for this year and next. Using the sole criteria of conversions by non-Catholic students to Catholicism, he claims the schools are failing and the superintendent does not feel supporting the education of poor, non-Catholic students is in the best interest of the Archdiocese. Fr. Lawrence met with Bishop

it will also be posted to the website. In answer to Ed Guy's question from an earlier meeting: What will be the fate of the current residents of the park? Ray Heil replied that there are models of shelters that can take in "drop-in", one night guests. How the shelter will develop is entirely dependant on which participating service provider eventually takes on the job. Questions from parishioners should be directed to their parish council representatives or to Social Action Committee members or to Colleen McCahill.

200% of the parish donation to the Archbishop's Fund (one of the highest levels of participation in the Archdiocese), we think the Archdiocese ought to give better financial support to the ministries to which we give priority—especially the education of poor children.

Financial Report

1. The parish is currently running at a deficit, but that should be corrected by a large, single donation we are awaiting. We did pay the undisputed part of our utilities bill. Collections in mass should be good in April; average donations by individuals have steadily risen in the first quarter of 2009.

2. We will donate money from the poorbox to aid victims of the Italian earthquake, instead of making a special collection for that cause.

Letter to the St. Vincent's Community from the Social Action Committee

It was decided by the council to insert the letter into the next two weeks of bulletins; Sunday 9:30 has three positions open, and Sunday 11:45 has one position open.

Committee Reports

Peace & Justice will be participating in the Bridge-sponsored Martin Luther King memorial event at Wayland Baptist Church. A film is to be shown at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 7 p.m. The Peace and Justice Committee will next meet on April 24.

Education: The series on the *The Quest for the Living God* is going well with attendance holding at sixty to seventy

Agenda for the May 3rd Parish Town Hall Meeting

Jim Casey and Colleen McCahill presented an agenda for the May 3rd town meeting which includes periods of prayer and reflection, small group sharing and open forum speaking to the entire assembly. Audrey Rogers thought we should take time from other parts of the agenda to give more time to committees giving reports as not enough time is provided as of now. Parish Council members are expected to lead the small group sessions. Colleen pointed out that the final Opinion Poll parishioners will fill out is not to be considered a vote for or against the proposal as it is the Parish Council's decision. Joan Campbell suggested we stop the meeting after the small group reports and avoid an open mike session. Fr. Lawrence felt there should be an opportunity for individuals to speak before the whole assembly as long as strict time guidelines are enforced.

Parish Council Elections

Nominations for the Parish Council elections will be held on May 10 and 24 with elections on June 7. Outgoing members of the council as well as returning and newly elected members will meet at the Parish Council Meeting on the second Tuesday of June. Saturday 7:15 has one position open, Saturday Midnight (12:15am) has one position open,

2. The volunteers who distribute men's clothing feel the doors that were broken into have not been made secure.
3. In preparation for the Seder Dinner, cl

people each time.

Liturgy: The committee's next meeting will be on May 9, between 2 and 4 p.m. in the parish building. The summer series will be on the books of Songs of Songs, Esther, and Ruth. The "Missing Man" ceremony will be celebrated again this year on Memorial Day weekend.

The Pastoral Care Committee is planning to take advantage of the number of people willing to donate used medical equipment. They are seeking space to store it.

The Park Working Group has had their final meeting with Baltimore Homeless Services. Cleanings of the park are proceeding with twelve to fourteen volunteers on the first Saturday of the month. Another attempt is being made to deal with the donors by redirecting their gifts to other organizations. The next meeting is on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

New Business

Ray Heil brought up some issues having to do with church maintenance:

1. There is water seeping into the north side of the church and there is a build-up of mold. Fr. Lawrence said a team was working on the problem this very day.

the floor in the rush to get tables for the meal.

The clothes need to be moved neatly, so they are not ruined.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer
Minutes submitted,
Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council*

Parish Council Minutes

May 19, 2009. *The meeting was brought to order by our President. Colleen McCabill, at 7:35 and a peace prayer was offered by Dennis Moore. Attending: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen McCabill, Audrey Rogers, Ray Heil, Joan Campbell, J. Edmond Guy, Anne Marie Freeberger, Maureen Fitzsimmons, Pat Ball, Peggy Meyer, Kevin O'Reilly, Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill, James P. Casey, and Graham Yearley*

Pastor's Report

1. Fr. Lawrence returned to St. Vincent's yesterday after two weeks at Mercy Hospital for knee surgery and physical therapy. He expects to have the brace on another four to six weeks. The congregation welcomes him back.
2. Fr. Lawrence received a note from the Archdiocese informing him that the school at St. Mary's, Govans was being shut down at the end of this academic year. So far, the Queen of Peace Schools seem to be safe to re-open next September.

Financial Report

1. Maureen Fitzsimmons gave the report. Income has increased slightly, so we are less over budget than in previous months. Parking and rental revenues are within reason. We are still trying to get the electrical supplier to look at some double billing in the past. Until it is dealt with, we will not pay the bill.
2. Mass Attendance and Collections Chart: we have an average of 283 attending mass per weekend. The mass collection counting by ushers has almost been perfectly matched by Barbara's count before depositing. As some people give on a monthly basis, the relationship between dates and monies taken in is not always reliable.
3. Fr. Lawrence gave a brief description of each category of Accounts Receivable and Accounts Expenses.

Responses to Town Meeting and SAC Proposal

This conversation lasted over an hour; here are some of the principal points.

1. Colleen reported on the written responses given before, during and after the Town Meeting. The responses were almost evenly split between those for the proposal and for the proposal with reservations and those against. There were seven (7) "Other" responses. Most importantly there was no consensus on the proposal.
2. Audrey Rogers submitted a fact sheet with some details of the work of the Park Working Group not known to all Council members. Perhaps most importantly, the fact sheet showed that efforts had been made to form partnerships with other agencies and had failed. With the withdrawal of the City agency (Street to Home) from our park, what progress had been made housing individuals came to a stop. It has proved impossible to stem the flow of donations to the park, despite our efforts to do so.
3. Ray Heil reported that he and Joe Cronyn, in the light of this lack of consensus, have decided to withdraw and table the proposal at this time.
4. Deacon Bill Pearson argued that the parish can work towards finding shelter for park residents, especially in inclement weather, and still not build a shelter. week's parish retreat and the topic was "Simple Ways to Save the World."

5. It is apparent that the City has been making blitzes on homeless encampments across the city, and our Park may be one of the targets as well. An increasing number of car break-ins in the Mount Vernon area have been linked to our park residents and stolen materials have been found in the park, giving the City even more reason to shut down the park.

6. Colleen promised to prepare feedback material for the entire parish and to run it by the council before publishing it. It was urged we include solicitations for continued funds and for new leadership as Audrey Rogers is stepping down in a few months from the PWG.

7. Jim Casey suggested that the Parish Council make its next task to decide where we want to go with the park. Do we want to remain with the status quo? What would we like to see?

Committee Reports

Peace & Justice spent the bulk of the last meeting discussing their projects of recent months. On June 26, there will be a convention on preventing torture. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12 at St. Vincent's.

Education: No report. Colleen McCahill recounted that there were forty or so at last

Liturgy: The summer series on Esther and Ruth and Song of Songs is planned. A sub-committee of the Liturgy Committee has been formed to explore ways to attract and keep young people in our parish life. A healing service is planned in conjunction with the Pastoral Care Committee. The goals for 2009/2010 have been set.

Social Action Committee: There is still concern in the Men's Clothing Program about the security of the doors and window that were broken into last year. Only temporary repairs have been done and program members seek better security.

The Park Working Group met on April 28; their next meeting is May 26. There was discussion of enforcing non-hoarding by park residents. Funds are needed for a second Port-a-Potty for the summer months and other needs. A budget for FY 2010 was submitted.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

In the peace of Christ, Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council

Parish Council Minutes

June 9, 2009. *The meeting was brought to order by our President, Colleen McCahill at 7:40 and a prayer was offered by Jim Casey. Attending: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen McCahill, Joan Campbell, J. Edmond Guy, Maureen Fitzsimmons, Pat Ball, Peggy Meyer, Kevin O'Reilly, Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill, Dennis Moore, Jack Bonner, James P. Casey, Audrey Rogers, and Graham Yearley*

Colleen McCahill recognized newly elected and returned members: Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill (second term 7:15 P.M.), Jim Casey, Jack Bonner, Audrey Rogers (first

Pastor's Report

1. Fr. Lawrence reported that he has begun rehabilitation for the injury to his leg His

terms 9:30 A.M.), and Pete McDowell (first term 11:45 A.M. who could not attend the meeting owing to a conflict). She distributed and reviewed the briefing packet for Council representatives. She thanked the retiring Council members. diocese is planning a viability study that has started in the inner city and low-income county schools and later will move Archdiocesan-wide. The study will have two foci: academics and finances. The QOP academic evaluation has been completed with the evaluation team reporting they were “very impressed” with the QOP leadership and faculty. The financial evaluation may prove more troublesome. The Archdiocese has withdrawn the offer to restore \$50K of the severe cuts made earlier. Fr. Lawrence is trying to assist in making the next payroll by transfer-ring the St Vincent obligated money now, providing a personal loan, and requesting help from St. Ignatius. The Board was forced to defer insurance reimbursement to the Archdiocese. Under these circumstances, the Board will evaluate enrollment in the Fall and consider consolidation. The viability study is separate from the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee whose evaluation of Archdiocesan Catholic school system is in its early stages.

Financial Report

1. Maureen Fitzsimmons gave the current report. Offertory income is unlikely to meet budget projections in the final month of this fiscal year, being \$20K under. Most revenues are also under estimates. The billing problem with the electrical supplier remains unresolved although the gas supplier has now been paid. The Archdiocesan Cathedralium has been

current range of motion is 65°; his goal is 135°.

2. Fr. Lawrence reported on the Board Meeting for the Queen of Peace Interparochial School. Fr. Lawrence, Ray Bahr, and Ray Heil serve as St. Vincent’s members. The

Board has been informed that the Arch-Council “. . . the power to . . . consider, amend, approve, and administer an annual Parish budget.”

Review of the PWG Proposal

Colleen asked Audrey to review the status of the current situation. Audrey reported

- The city solicitor has prepared a legal briefing memo outlining the ways in which St. Vincent’s has violated provisions of the Land Disposition Agreement (LDA), the Jonestown Urban Renewal Plan, and state and local code regulations. (This memo had been distributed to Council members electronically two weeks ago.)
- The memo was shared with the Arch-diocese at a meeting in mid-May. Subsequent to that meeting on May 22, Bishop Madden met with Fr. Lawrence and Colleen to learn more about the matter. Fr. Lawrence offered a proposal which he wanted to submit to the Park Working Group at their upcoming May 26 meeting.
- The proposal to eliminate encampments but permit overnight sleeping with daily morning wakeups, two hour park closure and cleaning was discussed at the PWG meeting and recommended to go forward although serious reservations about its feasibility and cost were voiced. Fr. Lawrence told

paid. Expenses for church maintenance were \$8.89K under budget. Tuition assistance to QOP needs to increase.

2. Mass Attendance and Collections Chart: in May we had an average of 286 attending Mass per weekend; this was under the April average of 325 (included Easter) and March with 290. Per capita Mass collection decreased 20 percent between April and May.

3. Fr. Lawrence clarified for the new members the role of the Council in the budget process The Parish Council Constitution gives the

fencing, no sleeping on the ground). It appeared that they could accept the proposed plan and tolerate overnight sleeping if daytime appearances were improved and maintained. Ms. Sangree offered to draft a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for discussion between Diane Glauber and Fr. Lawrence and have it back to them by June 3 in preparation for the next scheduled meeting of June 5.

- Bishop Madden's office needed to reschedule from June 5 to June 12. The draft MOU has not been received as of June 9. It is unclear what the city's expectations will be, what direct or "in-kind" help we may receive from them or from the Archdiocese in implementing the plan.

Fr. Lawrence asked the Council for the authority to negotiate the final resolution with the city and sign the MOU, given that the Council is not scheduled to meet over the summer. Audrey Rogers stated she had re-viewed the budgets for the last few years and determined that after fixed costs were subtracted (and not factoring in any

Bishop Madden of its approval on May 27.

- On May 29, Bishop Madden convened a meeting among himself, Sean Caine (Archdiocese communications/public relations), Suzanne Sangree (Baltimore chief solicitor), Diane Glauber (Baltimore Homeless Services), Fr. Lawrence, Colleen McCahill, Audrey Rogers, and Graham Yearley. A wide-ranging discussion occurred during which the city insisted that St Vincent's restore the park to the condition in which it was received under the LDA, voicing many expectations (sodding,

Education: No report.

Liturgy: Peggy Meyer presented the Committee's objectives for 2009/2010: spiritually develop the entire community and empower their priesthood; develop ways to entice and involve young adults; determine if the Team Model improves liturgies for seasonal times; continue to educate and enrich the Liturgy Committee; continue the Easter theme throughout the Easter season

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to collect medical equipment. Items are not centralized as the church does not have the space to accommodate all the large items. Fr. Lawrence mentioned that a wheelchair is in the rectory hallway awaiting pick up.

Social Action Committee: Last Month

Business: There is still concern in the Men's Clothing Program about the security of the doors and window that were broken into last year. Only temporary repairs have been done and they still seek better security. This matter has

depreciation), there was about \$15-18K of discretionary money, currently dedicated to charity, communication, education, etc. She proposed that the negotiation/resolution authority should have a maximum cost tied to it. Considerable discussion followed. The Council decided to reconvene to review the negotiated MOU and wants to see an estimated budget.

Committee Reports

Peace & Justice: The next meeting is scheduled for June 12 at St. Vincent's.

been brought up repeatedly and there has been no action. **This month:** The Social Action has decided to look into other properties to renovate for housing the homeless.

The Park Working Group: See proposal above.

Election of Council Officers. Jim Casey was elected President of the Parish Council. Audrey Rogers was elected Vice President and Graham Yearley as Secretary. All three were elected by acclamation.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

In the Peace of Christ, Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council