



**In Attendance:** Tom Donahue, Eileen Gallagher, Rick Bonen-Clark, Scott Campbell, Dennis Coleman, Mark Conter, Lizzie Espendez, Arthur Packard, Tom Rider, Theresa Rouse, Ralph Wearsch, Msgr. Richard Bellow, Father Pat Hoare, Deacon Robert Murphy

**Excused:** Kim Antolini, Lisa Strickland

**Guest:** Ron Charbonneau, Mike Carlet

Tom Donahue welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Finance Council:** Mike Carlet presented the parish's mid-year financial position as of and for the period ended December 31, 2008. Generally, the financial results are in line with expectations. The offertory is slightly behind prior year, with the December 2008 offertory trend being very poor. Expenses have been in line with expectation and cash flow is positive. As previously discussed, the Finance Committee is starting to save 1% of offertory for long term maintenance and capital improvement projects.

**Construction Update:** The construction team is approximately \$250k favorable to budget but slightly behind schedule. The schedule slippage is partly due to weather and is being made up with longer and additional work shifts. They expect to make up the schedule slippage in the coming weeks. With the favorable budget variance, the team is considering pulling certain Phase 2 building options into phase 1, such as audio visual and irrigation plans. With the exception of the baptismal font, all FF&E is expected to arrive in time for the dedication. The organ renovation, which is expected to cost approximately \$150k is currently on hold. The construction team expects the building to be weather tight in about one month, at which time progress will not nearly as weather dependent.

**Minutes:** The January 6, 2009 meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.

**Commissions:** The commission update was presented by David Hains. Commission heads continue to feel more comfortable with the Go To Meeting approach, in which meetings are held via telephone conference and with MS Live Meeting, where materials are viewed by all in a web access format. Commission heads want to organize a Stewardship/Ministry Fair after the new church is dedicated. Living Your Strengths will continue to be presented through individual groups so that it can work its way through the parish.

The Church Bulletin is under format revision and the communications commission is still working out the details on how best to handle implementations of any design changes.

Ann is no longer interested in being the Education Commission Head. Members of the Education Commission will take turns leading the monthly meeting until a new Education Commission Head is found. Msgr. suggested that Donna Smith may be able to help with coordination in some way.

**Goals and Objectives Review:**

Discernment - The new discernment process for identifying members of the Pastoral Council will begin in March and will include pulpit announcements. A timeline was presented for discussion. The dates will be refined and brought back to the next meeting. The process will be complete May.

**Prayerful Reflection:** The prayerful reflection was led by Tom Donahue.

**Old Business/Updates:** Dedication date is not yet set, but we expect it to be in August or September 2009.

**New Business/Updates:** H.E.L.P (Helping Empower Local People) brings together groups across the Charlotte Mecklenburg area and across various religions to support local people and help them to address the cause of social issues, such as poverty. This group will attempt to fight the cause of certain social issues, as opposed to treating the visible symptoms of those social issues. Approximately 20 people from St. Mark attended the first assembly of the organization. In its current phase, HELP seeks to educate people in the area on its purpose and approach. Their goal is to identify 2 to 3 causes to address in the near term. Example issues are: 1) there is no Magistrate in the Lake Norman area, meaning that someone seeking court order protection from an abusive spouse would have to travel into Charlotte; 2) clean-up in local areas used by children (asbestos in play area); 3) affordable housing for someone with a recent life change. Homework for council members is to come up with ideas of issues that could be addressed.

**Thank You Notes:** Beth Packard and Shannon Holleran will be recognized for their organization of Why Catholic's current session.

**Closing Comments:** Msgr. Bellow informed the council that Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) is interested in purchasing land near our property.

After we move into the new church, the reconciliation and Mass schedule will be revised as follows:

- Saturday: Reconciliation from 3.30-4.30PM; Mass at 5PM
- Sunday: 7.30AM; 9AM (family Mass); 11AM (choir Mass); 12.30PM (bi-lingual); 5PM (life teen)
- Weekday masses - 7AM and 9AM

Msgr. spoke of a longer term objective of establishing perpetual adoration in our chapel, in collaboration with other parishes. Another option, if we can't obtain sufficient support internally and from other parishes is to find an alternate use for the space, such as converting it into a library.

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools have approached St. Mark parish regarding potential facilities charges that the school system would like to pass through to St. Mark parish. The discussion is ongoing.

**Closing Prayer:** Father Pat Hoare led the closing prayer.