

Vestry Minutes Summary

The vestry met on September 8, 2014. After a brief discussion of reports from the wardens, rector and treasurer, the main agenda item was a discussion of concerns about the facility. Members expressed concern about our aging building (particularly the parish hall) and how to proceed with decisions as a parish about rebuilding or renovating. Some noted that there are churches that operate without a building at all. Mark read from an article *What if the Church IS the Building?* Decisions made now will form a legacy for future members of the church that could be a gift or a burden or both. Some felt that our building is underutilized, based on a recent study with usage data, and that decisions about the facility ought to follow a clear vision for how it would be used in such a way that would justify the expenditures involved. Historically, decisions about design and usage of church facilities have tended to be less flexible in terms of different use requirements. If we do renovate or rebuild, we would want to be more flexible and open to a variety of future uses.

In the short-term, we have pressing concerns that will need to be addressed. The vestry felt that, short of a major decision of renovating or rebuilding, we would need to be careful only to invest funds in maintenance that would represent progress on both of these potential paths forward. Specifically, this included asbestos abatement measures, which will be necessary for demolition or renovation. Members felt that it will be important to communicate the building issues and options clearly to the parish fairly soon, and plans commenced for some sort of presentation to the parish at the annual meeting.