

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

November 17, 2020

Vestry Members Present – Madison Bailey, Faith Cirre, Phil Eschels, Gaylee Gillim, David Holzkneckt, Teri McDonald, David Niehaus, Troy Petrie, Gibbs Reese, John Shelby, Kevin Wardell and George Wheeler.

Others Present – Sara Bailey and Edie Nixon, Treasurer.

Absent - Susanne Cramer, Amanda Harrity, and Matrid Ndife.

Clergy & Staff – The Rev. Kelly Kirby, Rector and the Rev. Benjamin Hart, Director of Congregational Life.

Opening Prayer – Rev. Kirby opened the meeting at 6:15 with the traditional prayer and noted that a quorum was in attendance.

Reading/Reflection – Kevin Wardell spoke about the difficult times we have been going through the last 8 months and the varying impacts on each of us. It's nice to have both clergy back in our presence. Benjamin was complemented for the fine work he did leading the parish while Kelly was on her sabbatical.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting were accepted as written.

Financial Report – Edie Nixon provided highlights for each of the following October 31st reports:

Balance Sheet:

- a. Things are especially tight for this time of year for expenses versus income.
- b. Yet to receive PPP waiver of repayment or interest from the government.
- c. Stock Yards Bank loan continues to decrease.

General Fund Statement:

- a. The year to date total income is \$57,413 below what was budgeted.
- b. Loose offerings remain very positive with \$16,000 over budget.
- c. Noted building maintenance under budget for month.

A motion was made by Gaylee with a second by Phil, this report was approved as presented, subject to audit.

2021 Proposed Budget Income

- a. Building Fund – Sufficient to get thru June.
- b. Anticipated balance of \$19,500 at end of the 1st quarter available in the endowment.

What will be available in the Endowment subfunds:

- a. Assets, Memorials & Aesthetics expects to have \$4,500 to spend.
- b. Dimensions of Faith will receive \$10,250 from restricted funds.

- c. Outreach will have available a slightly reduced fund of \$10,200.
- d. Rental income is decreased because of the pandemic.

2021 Proposed Budget Expenses

- a. Diocesan pledge of \$96,601 approved.
- b. The outreach budget is \$34,220 or \$64 less than in 2020.
- c. Salaries slightly smaller due to reconfiguration of staff positions.
- d. Health insurance remains almost unchanged.
- e. Total estimated to be \$811,000.

Edie reminded all in attendance that the income projections are a “snapshot” projection based on existing conditions versus anticipated increases of funding from parishioners and other sources. On a motion made by David Neihaus and second by Phil Eschels, the 2021 budget was approved as presented.

SMEC Vision Summit Session #4

Through a ZOOM format, Sara Bailey led the group through another exercise to further the development of new goals for both vestry and congregation moving forward during the next five (5) years.

She reviewed our previous 5-year goals and discussed some of the benchmarks that we set and how we progressed toward each goal.

1. Increase congregational commitment.
 - a. Abbi Long helped us focus on helping church members participate in three areas of church life: worship, education/formation, service.
 - b. We have focused on year-round stewardship and did a lot of work on planned giving.
 - c. We have created a process for incorporating newcomers/visitors
 - d. Children and youth ministry:
 - i. Toy library was established
 - ii. New volunteer roles established
 - iii. Added a second Godly Play room
 - iv. The Bridge was adapted and is now Walking in the Word
 - v. Strong confirmation program
 - Vi. Sent the youth on a mission trip
2. Focus and strengthen our outreach ministry
 - a. The work of creating a process for our outreach ministries was completed by 2016.
3. Increase membership by 15% by 2020
 - a. We did not quite hit this mark.
 - b. We did grow, but not this much. Our growth has been passive, not active.

Vestry members were divided into two groups with Benjamin’s group focused on Values and Sara’s group focused on Goals. Following a review by each group to the other, we mutually discussed ideas for a new recognizable “tag line” for the community of St. Matthew’s. While there were some very interesting suggestions put forth, no selection or recommendation was made. Next steps should be:

- a. finalize the goals and wording for each of the two groups
- b. create a one year benchmark
- c. create a Vision Implementation Team
- d. share this work during the Annual Meeting in January

Nominating Committee

Kevin Wardell presented the slate of nominees for the 2021 vestry, generated by the Nominating Committee. The slate is Sara Ceresa, Bill Shory, Rhody Streeter, Speed Stodghill and Peggy Woolley. A youth representative is yet to be nominated. A motion was made by Kevin Wardell on behalf of the Nominating Committee and was seconded by Gaylee Gillim. The slate was approved. The slate will go before the Annual Meeting in January.

Vestry Stewardship Calls

Letters will be sent not later than the end of this week to all current pledging units with requests for the 2021 calendar year. For pledge commitment responses not received by December 7th, a team led by David Niehaus will lead a group of volunteers to make follow-up telephone calls. The vestry was asked to indicate who they would willing to call on a document that Kelly shared. A list will be prepared with who will call whom. Additionally several scripts will be developed to further support this effort.

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports

- Building and Grounds – Competitive prices were solicited for routine maintenance service of our heating and cooling systems resulting in a new contractor being selected with a savings of approximately \$1,000. The entrance railing at the Saints Hall entrance has been repaired and a fresh coat of paint applied. In the same area, a hole beneath the concrete sidewalk has been filled with additional new concrete.
- Dimensions of Faith – To meet this Sunday.
- Finance – Presented herein.
- Nominating Committee – See earlier comments.
- Outreach – A very busy month with several carloads a week delivering food contributions to our churches in the west end and received 75+/- adult winter coats and 25 +/- children's coats for distribution to the disadvantaged. The Advent Tree will be arriving shortly so take an item and fill a request, or two. Continue evaluating ways to offer "gifts" to other organizations within the community.
- Planned Giving – Meeting in early February.
- Social Justice – Meeting this evening.
- Stewardship – See earlier comments.
- Bylaws – See earlier comments.

Wardens' Report –

- Phil Eschels Senior Warden - Another friendly reminder to continue reaching out to fellow parishioners, offering concern and prayers as appropriate.
- Teri McDonald Junior Warden – Refer to the Building and Grounds report above.

Rector's Report –

Rev. Kirby spoke about to the three items below:

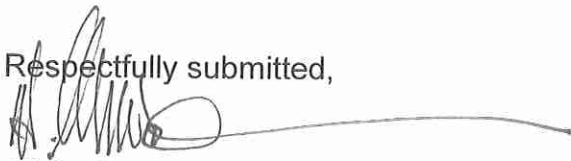
1. The Diocesan Convention was held via a ZOOM format this past weekend and our St. Matthew's played a significant role as Saints Hall was transformed into the technology center for all communications during the meeting. She noted that the music was missed, the classroom presentations were helpful, unfortunately there were some voting difficulties within the electronic process but generally all went well, she presented six (6) resolutions related to social justice and all passed.
2. The Saint John's Bible will be at the church for viewing and reflection between December 6th and 31st. Due to COVID-19 regulations there will be capacity regulations for viewing. The sanctuary will also be available for meditations and reflections.
3. Benjamin was complimented for the great work he did during Kelly's absence.

Theological Reflection – Rev. Hart noted the incredible outreach and giving to others by parishioners and staff during these very trying times. We concurrently acknowledged the same for our clergy too. So many step forward in a multitude of ways to help and support others.

Compline Kevin Wardell led us electronically followed by Kelly concluding the meeting at 7:40 PM.

NOTE: For record purposes, this meeting was held in a voice video-conferencing format (Zoom) in compliance with national regulations established by our federal government during the nationwide COVID-19 epidemic.

Respectfully submitted,



Gibbs Reese, Secretary