

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

July 20, 2021

Vestry Members Present – Sara Ceresa, Faith Cirre, Phil Eschels, Gaylee Gillim, David Holz knecht, David Niehaus, Troy Petrie, Gibbs Reese, Hannah Savells – (Youth), Bill Shory, Rhody Streeter and Peggy Woolley.

Others Present – Edie Nixon, Treasurer

Absent – John Shelby, Speed Stodghill and Teri McDonald who Kelly announced, has resigned from the Vestry.

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

Opening Prayer – Rev. Kirby opened the meeting at 6:20 with the traditional prayer and noted that a quorum was in attendance.

Reading/Reflection – Rhody Streeter reached back into his archives and reviewed a writing he presented to the vestry during 2008. In particular, he spoke to the phrase "reaching out as Christ's hands in the world". We, as individuals, have the opportunity to choose Christ or someone/something else. We need to see Christ in every person. We need to be Christ's stewards. If we cannot do this now, when will it happen? Reflecting from 2008, as a church and individually, we can see a multitude of actions completed to fulfill this responsibility. Yet there remain so many challenges ahead.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Gillim's keen eyes noted a spelling correction within the Building and Grounds report. With said correction noted and corrected, the minutes of the May 15, 2021, meeting were accepted as amended.

Financial Report – Edie Nixon provided highlights for the June 30th second quarter reports as follows:

Balance Sheet:

Edie was pleased to announce that the Stock Yards Bank loan for the most recent building construction and renovations has been paid in full and subsequently no longer appears on the statement. CELEBRATION is in order and gratitude to the anonymous donor. Further, our cash balance, including the \$94,600 PPP loan, hopefully forgivable, currently stands at \$275,341.

Income Statement:

Pledge and plate offerings are slightly ahead of anticipated schedule at 50.68% of the projected first six months of revenue at +\$7,643. In summary 1) rental income is starting

to improve, 2) grounds continues above budget mostly still from the winter snow and 3) building maintenance is below budget by \$16,289 for year to date.

Rev. Kirby announced that she is in discussions regarding a Nicholas Eastman Memorial Grant to the church in the amount of \$10,000.

Endowment

Edie cheerfully noted to all that during the 2nd quarter of the year, this fund increased in value by more than \$71,500.

Rev. Kirby then presented two requests for financial support from entities within the diocese, one being an ask from West Louisville Now for \$5,000 as continuing the programs initiated over the last two years and a second from Daughters of the King for \$500 to support the construction of a new labyrinth at All Saints Camp & Conference Center. Following discussion, on a motion made by Peggy Woolley and second by Phil Eschels to fund both requests, the motion passed.

Justice Audit

On behalf of the Vision Implementation Team, Peggy Woolley provided a detailed report of the social justice and outreach activities St. Matthew's has announced in the eSpirit in the last five years. From 2015 thru May 2021, 332 items were identified and subdivided into various types of activities and/or actions. The process was quite consuming both in the research and "identifying" like categories to assemble the wealth of material. Generally, items were determined to be either transformational or transactional. The conversation by all was heartfelt, sincere and "what's next"? What do we do with this information? The VIT will reach out to Sarah Bailey for recommendations and then the Vestry will give direction to the VIT as to how they would like to proceed.

Br. David Vryhof Visitation

Br. Vryhof - SSJE is a monk and friend of parishioner Penny Shaw. The Communities of Calling Grant is bringing him to St. Matthews October 15th for a weekend of teaching and preaching both with small groups and perhaps a few larger groups. He will also present a two-hour session on "How To Listen In Community. The vestry discussed when they would be able to meet with Br. Vryhof during his visit.

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports

- **Building and Grounds** – Another very busy month including but not limited to 1) following some building permit matters, the new garage for the Rectory is under construction, 2) after needing to change contractors, the cable raceways and desk should be completed and installed in September, 3) six new metal benches have been received and are in the process of being installed in proximity to the Memorial Garden sculpture for future prayer services and 4) work on lighting and dimmer boards in the Nave and Saints Hall continues.
- **Dimensions of Faith** – No report. Will be meeting soon.
- **Finance** – Presented herein.
- **Nominating Committee** – Work will begin in September.

- Outreach – No Report.
- Planned Giving – Stewards of St. Matthews recognition will occur during the service on September 13th.
- Stewardship – Meeting this Sunday.
- Vision Implementation Team - Next meeting scheduled for August 10th.

Wardens' Reports

- Senior Warden Phil Eschels – Nothing to report. All going smoothly.

Rector's Report

Rev. Kirby was very pleased to verbally present two new staff members and their associated responsibilities.

- Julie Mushkin will serve as Ministry Coordinator, assisting Kelly as needed, work approximately 30 hours a week and began her duties July 1st.
- Lindsay Serrano will serve as the new Youth Minister, work 6-8 hours weekly and begins later this week. She will also assist in the library as she has extensive experience in this area.

Both ladies previously worked together at Saint Francis School in Goshen.


Theological Reflection – Many of the items that Rhody spoke to in 2008 have been responded to within a very positive vein and for that we should be proud as a church community. The “audit” process of discovery and subsequent plan for action and completion has proven to be successful. We have truly “reached out as Christ’s hands to the World”.

2023 Goals

- Vision Implementation Team – Will report next month.

Compline – Rhody Streeter led us in the Chapel followed by adjournment of the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Gibbs Reese, Secretary

