

Regular Meeting of the Vestry

THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, ARDMORE, PA

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chris Butto, Joan Cesare, Sarah Farnsworth, Paul Joslin, Stephen Krouse, Susan LaBrake, Rob McGarvey, Janet Reddin, Catherine Stuart, The Very Rev. Ryan Whitley

Absent: none

Supplemental Documents:

- a) July 2016 Financial Report
- b) PTE Oil Tank closure report

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING BUSINESS

- Opening Prayer
- Approval of the August 2016 Minutes
 - A **MOTION** was made by Catherine Stuart to approve the minutes for the August 2016 meeting as amended.
 - The motion was seconded by Paul Joslin.
 - It passed unanimously.
- Action Items follow-up
- Spiritual Exercise: Fr. Ryan read a reflection by Gordon Giles from his book *O Clap Your Hands: A Musical Tour of Sacred Choral Works*, then listened to a traditional hymn "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal", arranged by Alice Parker and performed by Gloriæ Dei Cantores.

SOCIAL, OUTREACH, CALENDAR AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Upcoming events:
 - Tastes of the World – Saturday, October 15, 6:30PM
 - Commitment Sunday – Sunday, October 16
 - Merion Deanery Fall Fundraising Fête for St. James School – Friday, October 21, 6:30-9PM at Church of the Good Shepherd
 - Trunk or Treat?
- Outreach Report – Catherine reported that Donna DiPaulo has agreed to serve as chair of the Outreach Committee for the next two years, starting with the next Outreach meeting on Tuesday, September 13.
- The Fall Feast has been canceled for this year because the organizers had scheduling conflicts for two weekends in September and several events already were scheduled in October (Haverford Township Day Parade, Tastes of the World).

STEWARDSHIP

- Chris reported that Doug Stuart agreed to head the Stewardship Campaign this year. Chris will meet soon with Kelly and Fr. Ryan to discuss the logistics. The public part of the campaign will launch on September 18 with an introductory talk by Steve Krouse, and conclude on October 16.

- Looking farther ahead, Mary Hobart has agreed to chair next year's Stewardship Campaign, which also will be the concluding year of the Capital Campaign when it will be important to ask parishioners to consider rolling over their Capital Campaign contributions into the Stewardship Campaign instead.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- Susan reported that PTE (Professional Tank & Environmental) was unable to remove the church's buried oil tank because underground utility lines are only 18" away. Therefore it was closed in place last Thursday and Friday (September 1-2). The tank was found to be 63" wide and coated with PVC ~1/8" thick. The PVC was in excellent condition with no staining indicating a leak, nor were there any indications of stained soil, free product or impacts to the environment. A sample of soil from beneath the tank will be analyzed for the presence of #2 heating oil, as required by the township. The usual turnaround time for receiving the results is two weeks. [Results were received on 9/21 and said there were no "detections", meaning all eight volatiles were below the statewide health standard (see attached).]
- Paul reported that the existing steel supports above the ceiling are offset from center so the ceiling fan installers have had to construct wooden structures to connect the three ceiling fans to them. The workers have been consulting with their engineer in Kentucky.
- Paul has located newer versions of the current Exit lights that use LEDs instead and cost \$55 rather than \$400.
- Sarah reported that problems with the dumpster continue. Ark employees frequently fail to close the flimsy sliding plastic doors securely and currently one door is off entirely. June responded recently that the dumpster folks have agreed to repair or replace the doors.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION and WORSHIP

Accounting Warden's Report

- Rob presented the July 2016 financial report. Finances are looking good.
A **MOTION** was made by Steve Krouse to receive the June 2016 financial report.
The motion was seconded by Chris Butto.
It passed unanimously.
- The Finance Committee will meet in October to begin work on the 2017 budget, then meet again near the end of the year. The Committee needs a new at-large member.
- On August 23rd Fr. Ryan and Kelly met with Linda Scafiro, a partner of Brinker, Simpson and Company, and recommend engaging her as the church's new accountant.
A **MOTION** was made by Catherine Stuart to sever ties with Tim Berman and engage Brinker, Simpson instead.
The motion was seconded by Steve Krouse.
It passed unanimously.

Rector's Report

- Fr. Ryan reminded the Vestry of their previous support of the Church of the Advocate in downtown Philadelphia. Currently the church is trying to raise money to buy new seats for their sanctuary. The [chairs](#) cost \$250 each. Pete Ricci is interested in buying more spare pews so Fr. Ryan suggested that money from that sale be used to sponsor a chair for Church of the Advocate.
- Two of the four nursery workers that Fr. Ryan hired will start work this Sunday. Two are college roommates at Villanova, the others are a freshman at Drexel and a Havertown mother. They will provide care for 0 to 4 year olds on Sundays from 9:30am - 11:30am. All have passed state and federal background

checks and will have completed the church-mandated Safeguarding All God's Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training program.

- Fr. Ryan described a structure for ministry development that he'd heard about at a recent conference, based on a three-year, renewing, themed plan. The watchwords for the 3 years are Explore, Deepen and Grow. He suggests we are already in Year 2 of the topic Racial Reconciliation, where Year 1 included having representatives of the Diocesan AntiRacism Commission conduct the Vestry retreat. He pointed out that we already have discussed plans for inviting the congregation deeper into this ministry, including having guest preachers, visiting as a parish the Antiracism Museum in Philadelphia, perhaps participating in the annual Absalom Jones Day celebration in February. He suggested that in addition we now consider starting Year 1 (Explore) of a second topic: Evangelism. The Presiding Bishop has named a Canon for Evangelism and Reconciliation, Rev. Stephanie Spellers, and our Diocese has followed suit. He discussed several possible topics for evangelism including interacting with students at Haverford College, the Kairos interdenominational prison ministry, and expanding our relationship with St. Mary's ministries. He also mentioned that the author of the "[Invite, Welcome, Connect](#)" newcomer ministry will be speaking at a clergy conference he will be attending in November. He asked the Vestry to think about formally adopting the Explore, Deepen and Grow model.

Rector's Warden's Report

- Capital Campaign Update
 - Ceiling Fans: installation is currently underway.
 - Parking Lot: The paver hasn't repaired the parking lot yet.
 - Kitchen Renovation: The kitchen renovation committee will meet on September 21. Their goal is to have plans in place by February.
- Our Capital Campaign consultants, Kirby Smith, recently sent a message that at this point in a 3-year capital campaign we should expect to have received 40% of the pledged contributions. We have received 60% so our campaign is going very well.

SHEEP CONCERNS

AFFIRMATIONS

To Lorraine Wickersham for laundering the acolyte cassocks and surplices.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Rob McGarvey to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Paul Joslin.

It passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Reddin, Secretary