

Regular Meeting of the Vestry
THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, ARDMORE, PA
Tuesday, December 6, 2016

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Joan Cesare

Supplemental Documents:

a) October 2016 Financial Report

The meeting convened at 7:09 p.m.

OPENING BUSINESS

- Opening Prayer
- Spiritual Exercise: in honor of today's Feast of St. Nicholas, Fr. Ryan read a meditation on St. Nicholas' Day by Beth Bevis from the book *God With Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas*.
- Approval of the November 2016 Minutes
A **MOTION** was made by Steve Krouse to approve the minutes for the November 2016 meeting.
The motion was seconded by Chris Butto.
It passed unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- Sarah reported that George Newnham has applied 250 lbs of sticky cold patch to the worst holes in the parking lot. It is doubtful he'll be able to apply more before winter because it can't be applied unless the outside temperature is above 50° (and Home Depot has run out of patch for the season).
- Paul will try to schedule the repair of the Rectory porch beam with Ed Brocklesby, and suggest doing it after church on a Sunday if he'll need assistance.
- It looks like a patch has fallen out of a horizontal beam in the Tudor façade of the Rectory. Further investigation is needed to determine whether there is a more serious underlying problem, e.g. dry rot.
- The flood light illuminating the bell tower no longer works and the three lights illuminating the triangular St. George sign on the corner are out again. Paul presented proposals from an electrician for replacing all of them with LED fixtures. After discussion:
A **MOTION** was made by Steve Krouse to replace the flood light fixture with an LED, but leave the existing fixtures for the triangular sign, simply replacing the burnt-out bulbs.
The motion was seconded by Catherine Stuart.
It passed unanimously.
- The electrician also suggested that the existing 100A service in the kitchen is sufficient and submitted a proposal for installing GFCI outlets there, which Paul will pass along to the Kitchen Renovation Committee.
- AT&T is again showing interest in installing a cellular antenna in the bell tower, now that they've abandoned their bid to purchase T-Mobile (who already have an antenna there). AT&T would pay \$5,000 up front for the option to install the antenna, then an additional \$1,000 each succeeding year to retain the option. If/when construction on the antenna begins they would begin paying \$2,600 a month. We will ask Doug Stuart to look over their proposal first and then send it to the Vestry for their consideration.

- The draft license agreement with The Children's Ark was discussed. The Vestry's main concerns were that: (1) a 30-day notice period for informing the other party of intent to discontinue the agreement was too short and (2) no penalties were prescribed for early termination of the agreement.
A **MOTION** was made by Steve Krouse to send the draft agreement to Doug Stuart for insertion of penalty language, then the Vestry will vote on the result.
The motion was seconded by Paul Joslin.
It passed unanimously.

[N.B. After revision the Vestry voted unanimously (by e-mail) to approve the license agreement and send it to the Ark Board for consideration at their December 14 meeting.]

STEWARDSHIP

- So far this year's Stewardship Campaign has received 2 new pledges but is 11 pledges behind last year's total. All non-responders have received: (1) an e-mail from Kelly, (2) a phone call from a member of the Stewardship Committee, and (3) an e-mail from the Committee. The next step will be to have face to face conversations with them.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION and WORSHIP

Accounting Warden's Report

- Rob presented the October financial report, with the caveat that he is still working with the accounting firm to clear up some line items in the budget. They also are wrestling with some QuickBooks idiosyncracies such as the appearance of a "Sales" line in reports.
A **MOTION** was made by Catherine Stuart to receive the financial report.
The motion was seconded by Susan LaBrake.
It passed unanimously.
- Rob reported that the Finance Committee will meet again in the next few weeks to continue working on next year's budget.
- The Investment Committee met before Thanksgiving with Charlie Shields, the Church's investment advisor, and decided to make a fund change. They also recommended amending the Church's financial policy. The current policy has a 5% spending rule, although currently we are using only 4%. The Vestry will review the proposed amendment at next month's meeting and decide whether to approve it.

Rector's Report

- Fr. Ryan asked the Vestry to decide on this year's Diocesan pledge. Last year we gave \$1,200. This year the "ask" is \$36,655. After discussion:
A **MOTION** was made by Paul Joslin to make this year's Diocesan pledge be \$1,500.
The motion was seconded by Chris Butto.
It passed unanimously.
- The Episcopal Church Club of Philadelphia has made its annual request for a contribution to their seminarian scholarship grant program.
A **MOTION** was made by Sarah Farnsworth to contribute between \$500 and \$1,000 from the Seymour Fund for this purpose. The exact amount will be determined by Rob and Kelly based on the fund's performance over the past year.
The motion was seconded by Susan LaBrake.
It passed unanimously.

- Fr. Ryan would like to establish a more formalized Newcomers Ministry. He suggested that it be led by a duo of a relative newcomer to St. George plus a longtime parishioner. The work would include perusing websites for ideas and reworking the Ambassadors program, including inviting new participants. He distributed copies of several pages from the [Invite, Welcome, Connect](#) website which has many resources for assessing and improving newcomer ministry. He asked the Vestry to visit the website and report back next month on what material grabbed you and which ideas you think would work at St. George. Another idea can be found at [SharingFaithDinners.com](#) where groups of 8 to 12 people eat together and share stories of faith prompted by a moderator asking questions from cards provided by the website.
- Reminder of upcoming dates: Staff/Vestry Christmas party, Dec. 16 (please bring a beverage to share); Annual Meeting, Jan.22; Bishop's Visit, Jan. 29.

Rector's Warden's Report

- Susan will investigate the cost of replacing the toilets in the restrooms.
- More potential candidates for the Vestry election on Jan. 22 were discussed.
- The Vestry went into executive session to discuss personnel compensation for 2017.

SOCIAL, OUTREACH, CALENDAR AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Upcoming events:
 - Pancake breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 10, 8:30 – 10:30AM. Jointly sponsored by The Children's Ark and the church. Organizers: Sam Soldan and Miranda Freberg.
 - January-June 2017 Calendaring Meeting – Sunday, December 11 at noon.
 - Annual Vestry & Staff Christmas Party – Friday, December 16 at 7PM.
 - Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 18 at the 10AM service.
 - Outreach Meeting – Tuesday, January 10 at 7PM.
 - Martin Luther King Day service project – Monday, January 16, 9:30AM. Making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and assembling bag lunches for the Life Center of Eastern Delaware Co. (homeless shelter).
 - Annual Meeting with Vestry election – Sunday, January 22. Crockpot chili and cornbread lunch (kitchen will be unavailable).
 - Episcopal Visitation – Sunday, January 29, with a potluck brunch following the 10AM service (kitchen will be unavailable). Brunch organizers: Laurie Ney and Julie Ricci.
- Outreach Report – The next Outreach Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 10 at 7PM. The Committee has two Advent projects: cash donations to support the St. James School, and the sale of jewelry and carvings from [African Team Ministries](#) to fund orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa.
- The Gala was a very successful event and netted \$8,400.
- The suggestion was made that at the next Ministry Fair we set out binders of instructions for events, to encourage new people to consider becoming an organizer for one of them.

SHEEP CONCERNS

Class of 2017
Paul Joslin
Robert McGarvey, *Accounting Warden*

Class of 2018
Chris Butto
Susan LaBrake
Catherine Stuart, *Rector's Warden*

Class of 2019
Joan Cesare
Sarah Farnsworth
Stephen Krouse
Janet Reddin, *Secretary*

AFFIRMATIONS

To Heidi Brocklesby for creating new St. George note cards.

To Dave and Laurie Ney for organizing the Gala.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Janet Reddin to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Paul Joslin.

It passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Reddin, Secretary