

Regular Meeting of the Vestry
THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, ARDMORE, PA
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chris Butto, Joan Cesare, Andrew Coonradt, Paul Joslin, Stephen Krouse, Susan LaBrake, Rob McGarvey, Janet Reddin, Catherine Stuart, The Rev. Barbara Abbott

Absent: none

Supplemental Documents:

a) September 2017 Financial Report

The meeting convened at 7:05 PM in the Choir Room.

OPENING BUSINESS

- Opening Prayer.
- Approval of the October 2017 Minutes
A **MOTION** was made by Paul Joslin to approve the minutes for the October 2017 meeting.
The motion was seconded by Susan LaBrake.
It passed unanimously.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION and WORSHIP

Accounting Warden's Report

- Rob presented the September financial report. The gap between budgeted vs. received pledge income has begun to close. The impact of this gap on the budget has been cushioned by the receipt of several large donations and the \$6,000 received from AT&T for signing the cell antenna agreement. Another letter will be sent to parishioners in November, giving the status of their pledges.
A **MOTION** was made by Steve Krouse to receive the financial report.
The motion was seconded by Catherine Stuart.
It passed unanimously.
- The Konica copier has been working the past month, but we need to pursue getting a replacement before it becomes a crisis. Cutting the bulletins back from 16 to 12 pages has helped to reduce printing costs.
- The parish audit has been completed and sent to the Diocese. The audit team, Julie Ricci and Chris Magnani, recommend returning to the previous model of having the parish administrator be responsible for filling out the Excel spreadsheets detailing the Sunday collection rather than the tellers. Having two sets of eyes review financial information is also an accounting best practice. All agreed to making this change.
- Julie Ricci and Chris Magnani have agreed to serve as at-large members of the Finance Committee.
- Our accounting firm, Brinker Simpson & Company, called Rob to say that they want to start sending an employee out monthly to meet with Kelly and do the payroll. Denise Leo is a replacement for Christine Barikian, who was our dedicated bookkeeper. Denise is reputed to be a QuickBooks "pro" who might be able to solve our check printing issues. Pastor Barbara agreed to be present for at least the first of these meetings.

Rector's Report

- Pastor Barbara reported that this year's Diocesan Convention was amiable. The budget passed easily, and included a one-time \$300,000 allocation for stabilizing fragile, vulnerable parishes. This was The Rev. Deacon Toneh's first convention as a voting member of the clergy. An important change approved this year is that lay delegates now will be able to cast individual votes, where previously all lay delegates from a parish shared one vote. Pastor Barbara mentioned that all new rectors in the Diocese this year are male. Women priests tend to suffer financially compared to men for two main reasons: they frequently serve in smaller (Level 1 or Level 2) parishes, where the pay scale is lower, and they often are ordained later in life. Only non-white priests are worse off financially.
- Pastor Barbara discussed her desire to start incorporating some of the newer Eucharist prayers from *Enriching Our Worship* into services, perhaps trying them out for a month. She said these prayers tend to be more inclusive, more intimate, and use more gender-neutral language. After discussion, it was agreed to postpone this change until Epiphany, allowing more time to ease into the preparation. An additional benefit of making this change is that it will give us another response to a question on the Community Ministry Portfolio form (part of the search process): "How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?". Our 'Adore by the Shore' services are another response to this question.
- The new green altar set and vestments have arrived! Pastor Barbara will invite the donors to attend the November 12 service, when the new set will be blessed (part of them at the 8 AM service, the remainder at 10 AM).
- Pastor Barbara stressed the importance of always keeping Parish Administrator Kelly Gallagher in the communication loop. When in doubt, cc: Kelly on e-mails so that she is always kept informed about what is happening.
- Twenty-nine people attended the All Souls' Day service.
- Pastor Barbara suggested scheduling a Mutual Ministry Review for six months after her arrival (late Feb – early March). The Diocese has a form for performing this task.
- During Pastor Barbara's two week vacation Deacon Toneh will be on call to handle pastoral care concerns.
- The Vestry Christmas party will be held at Doug and Catherine's on Friday, December 15 at 7 PM. Vestry members are invited to bring their spouse or significant other, their favorite adult beverage and an appetizer or dessert.

Rector's Warden's Report

- Candidates for election to the Vestry were discussed.
- Upon consultation, the 'Invite, Welcome and Connect' committee has agreed to the discontinuation of roping off pews in the Lady Chapel.
- Ray Beckey asked whether it would be OK for the Boy Scout troop to use one of the bulletin boards in the Dining Hall. The answer is yes. The troop also asked for some storage space. Steve mentioned that the previous troop had used the caged area in the attic to store their equipment. Catherine reported that she recently met with Laurie Ney and Maureen Krouse to search the attic for items that could be used to decorate for The Gala's theme: Under the Sea. They discovered that the attic space has once again become chock-full and needs to be cleaned out. This activity will be scheduled in the new year.
- Andy gave an update on the Parish Profile Committee, whose members are Mary Hobart (Chair), Heidi Brocklesby, Andy Coonradt, Sally Hale, Chris Luetzen and Pete Ricci. He said:

- The parish survey is 99% written and will be finished Thursday. For the online version they are using Google Forms instead of SurveyMonkey. The survey will be rolled out to the congregation on November 13th then weekly reminders will be put in the E-Tale urging parishioners to participate.
- The plan is to have a draft version of the written profile available for the Vestry to review by the January Vestry meeting, which will be postponed one week to January 9.
- Some parishioners are being specifically targeted to participate in specific focus groups and will be provided transportation, but all parishioners will be welcome.

STEWARDSHIP

- Chris distributed a three-year summary of Stewardship campaigns, showing week by week comparisons of the number of pledges received, total amount pledged, average pledge and number of new pledges. Five new pledges have been received this year, while thirty-four “pledging units” have not renewed their pledges. Phone calls to these parishioners will be postponed until after the debut of the parish survey.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (B&G)

- Paul said that he had received many positive comments about the women’s restroom renovation. Further work on the men’s restroom hasn’t been scheduled yet.
- Paul is assembling a report on which Rectory repairs are necessary before any rental can occur, and will try to meet with Ed Brocklesby to do a walkthrough to generate ideas about how best to address some of them. He advises setting the monthly rent at ~\$3,000 to cover the shared utilities and to ensure that renters take care of the space. However, renters paying that much are likely to demand that the facility be in better condition.
- AMDG should start the parking lot pavement repair soon.
- Paul met with an arborist today, who said the big beech tree is fine. If we clear away the dead wood he thinks the tree should last a “good number” of years. He described the overhanging tree that the Sulgrave neighbor is concerned about as being “really healthy” and thinks the cable probably snapped years ago. However, he did advise us to cut the ivy from around its base. The arborist said that it would be a good idea to remove the weeping cherry tree to the left of the driveway because its center is dead.
- Now that the holly tree has been trimmed and creepers pulled down, two problems with the gutters in the courtyard are visible. Paul will ask AMDG to look into fixing these.

SOCIAL, OUTREACH, CALENDAR AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Upcoming events:
 - Matinee Movie (“Moonrise Kingdom”) – Saturday, November 11 at 2:30 PM in Jerusalem Hall (Organizer: Roland Noreika)
 - 2nd Fall Cleanup Day – Saturday, November 18 from 9 to noon (Organizer: Sarah Farnsworth)
 - The Gala: Under the Sea – Saturday, December 2, 6 PM (Organizers: David and Laurie Ney)
 - Pancake Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 9, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Jointly sponsored by The Children’s Ark and the church (Organizer: Sam Soldan)
 - Annual Vestry Christmas Party – Friday, December 15, 7 PM (Organizer: Catherine Stuart)
 - Cub Pack 332 Overnight Campout in Jerusalem Hall and Dining Hall – Friday, December 15, 5 PM-11 AM

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

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

Class of 2020
Andrew Coonradt
Paul Joslin
Robert McGarvey, *Accounting Warden*

- Christmas Pageant– Sunday, December 17, 10 AM service (Organizer: Vicki Strickland)
 - Decorating the Church for Christmas – Thursday, December 21, 7 PM.
 - Advent 4 Morning Prayer (combined) service – Sunday, December 24, 9 AM [no choir]
 - Family Christmas Eve service – Sunday, December 24, 4:30 PM
 - Late Christmas Eve service – Sunday, December 24, 9 PM
 - Martin Luther King Day service project – Monday, January 15
 - Outreach Committee meeting – Tuesday, January 16, 7 PM (Organizer: Donna DiPaulo)
 - Annual Meeting with Vestry election – Sunday, January 21st after 10 AM service
- Outreach Committee report: A representative from Torrey House spoke at both services last Sunday. On November 19th David Kasievich from the St. James School will visit. The Advent project this year again will be the St. James Giving Tree. Joan added that two people from Torrey House recently attended an 8 o'clock service, and one was wearing a sweater donated by a St. Georgian.

SHEEP CONCERNS

AFFIRMATIONS

To Derron LaBrake and Jeff Stout for replacing the toilets in the women's bathroom, and to Pete Ricci for finding a replacement vanity and then modifying it to fit the new sink and faucet.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Steve Krouse to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Andy Coonradt.

It passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Reddin, Secretary