

Regular Meeting of the Vestry
THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, ARDMORE, PA
Tuesday, December 5, 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) October 2017 Financial Report

The meeting convened at 7:06 PM.

OPENING BUSINESS

- Opening Prayer
- Spiritual reflection
- Approval of the November 2017 Minutes
 - A **MOTION** was made by Catherine Stuart to approve the minutes for the November 2017 meeting.
 - The motion was seconded by Andy Coonradt.
 - It passed unanimously.

STEWARDSHIP

- Chris and Steve reported that the Stewardship Campaign numbers still lag far behind last year's campaign, being 10 pledges fewer and \$12,000 less compared to the same point last year. Their current prediction is that the total number of pledges will decrease from 80 to 77, and the overall pledged amount will be \$6,000-8,000 less. Committee members already have been calling and mailing parishioners who haven't pledged. In addition, the plan is to inform the parish of the exact numbers in order to alert them to this problem and try to galvanize non-responders into action.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION and WORSHIP

Accounting Warden's Report

- Rob presented the October financial report. Unfortunately, the gap between budgeted vs. received pledge income has widened again. Rob added that in the future he intends to send out letters updating parishioners on the status of their pledges three times a year, in hopes that people won't fall so far behind.
 - A **MOTION** was made by Paul Joslin to receive the financial report.
 - The motion was seconded by Steve Krouse.
 - It passed unanimously.
- The original list of duties for Kelly Gallagher's position as Parish Administrator are now ~1/3 inaccurate so Kelly and Pastor Barbara have begun work on updating her job description to more accurately reflect the tasks that Kelly currently performs. Steve also suggested that we look at Kelly's position from a market perspective; that is, what do we need this role to do? Equipped with that information we'll be in a better position to evaluate what constitutes a reasonable hourly rate.

- The Finance Committee met on 11/27 and discussed next year's budget. Rob presented a first look at the result. He pointed out that the budget must address a \$19,000 increase in expenses for insurance, benefits, taxes and pension. There also will be expenses associated with the search for a new Rector. The Vestry then went into executive session to discuss staff compensation.

Rector's Report

- Pastor Barbara distributed a list of newcomers: visitors and new members from the past six months.
- Glenn Casebeer, a founding member of St. George's, was buried on December 2. Copies of his obituary are available in Jerusalem Hall. There will be a wedding on December 22 (Nicole Sunderland) and baptisms on January 14.
- Pastor Barbara reported that she has received some pushback about the decision to change the start of the later Christmas Eve service from 10 PM to 9 PM, mostly along the lines that "it messes up my schedule".
- She commented that, based on what she's been hearing in the parish, she believes the congregation may have reached a tipping point in the transition, as initial expressions of anxiety about the prospect of change have transitioned into suggestions of items that should change.

Rector's Warden's Report

- Appointment of Search Committee
A **MOTION** was made by Catherine Stuart to appoint the following 10 parishioners to be the Search Committee that will be responsible for identifying to the Vestry one candidate to become the next Rector of St. George's: Co-chairs Doug Stuart and Stephen Lightcap, plus Ed Brocklesby, Chris Butto, Cathy Hetznecker, Stephanie Krouse, Janet Reddin, Pete Ricci, Bryn Thompson and Nina Wickersham. The motion was seconded by Steve Krouse. It passed unanimously.
- The Search (aka Discernment) Committee will be officially commissioned at a Sunday service in early January.
- It was agreed that for the Annual Meeting on January 21 the 8 and 10 AM services will be combined into a single 9 AM service. Additional candidates for election to the Vestry on that day were discussed.
- Jack Tinkler has suggested looking at a list of the parishioners who have left since the start of the Capital Campaign and evaluating the impact of their absence on the Capital Campaign's goal of \$220,000.
- 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 generated 70 responses, which is greater than 50% participation.
 - Three focus groups will be held this Sunday, December 10: youth, elders, then all comers.
 - Heidi Brocklesby and Mary Hobart have been meeting to go over the layout of the profile.
 - The Committee will meet again this Thursday. The plan still is to provide a draft version of the Profile to the Vestry in time to be reviewed at the January 9 Vestry meeting.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (B&G)

- On Wednesday Paul will meet with a contractor about the needed repairs to the Rectory porch beams.

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*

- On Thursday Paul will do a walk-through of the Rectory with Jack Fleming, to use his expertise as a realtor to generate a list of the repairs that need to be performed before that space can be rented out.
- A company called Black Dot has contacted the office, saying that T-Mobile contracts with them to renegotiate cell tower contracts (presumably downward). In preparation for further communication from them the terms of our current contract with T-Mobile will be reviewed.
- AMDG has completed the parking lot pavement repair.
- The arborist's estimate of the cost to remove dead wood and raise the canopy of the big beech tree is \$1,600. He also offered to install a new cable at no cost on the overhanging tree that the Sulgrave neighbor is concerned about.
- Joan suggested painting the pink panel on the parish altar that now clashes with the new green altar set. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.
- Joan also suggested investigating whether any options are available for making the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary more energy efficient. The general consensus was that it wouldn't hurt to check but that the cost was likely to be prohibitive, based on the experience of the previous renovations to the stained-glass windows (financed by John and Mary Lou Toal).
- Joan asked if there is a plan to address the church sign that's seen as one enters the parking lot from Darby Road, saying that the current sign is dull and needs painting, and that the plantings around it look "iffy". Members of B&G assured her that it is already included in the plans to improve signage.

SOCIAL, OUTREACH, CALENDAR AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Upcoming events:
 - 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
 - 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 at 9:30 AM in Dining Hall. Making 250 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and assembling bag lunches for the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County (Organizer: Catherine Stuart)
 - Outreach Committee meeting – Tuesday, January 16 at 7 PM (Organizer: Donna DiPaulo)
 - Matinee Movie ("All Saints") – Saturday, January 20 at 3:00 PM in Jerusalem Hall (Organizer: Roland Noreika)
 - Annual Meeting with Vestry election – Sunday, January 21st after 9 AM service

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- Super Bowl Party – Sunday, February 4 at 5 PM in Jerusalem Hall (Organizer: Vicki Strickland)
- Good Works Work Day – Saturday, February 10, 7:45AM to 4PM in Phoenixville (Organizer: Eileen Kammerer)
- Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner – Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 to 7 (Organizer: ? Two years ago it was the Neys. The Farnsworths and Newnhams helped too.)
- Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 14
- Lenten Quiet Day?
- Outreach Committee report:
 - The Outreach Advent project is a “giving tree” in the Dining Hall with ornaments that suggest donation amounts for the St. James School, and include examples of what those donations can purchase (everything from choir robes to a tank of gas for their school bus).
 - The next Outreach Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Jan 16 at 7 PM.
 - The next Outreach activity will be a service project on Martin Luther King Day, making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and then assembling 250 bag lunches for the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County (a homeless shelter).
- The Gala, held last Saturday, was a big success. Although attendance was down from previous years, the auction bidding was vigorous and the event raised more than \$8,000. Kudos to the organizers, Dave and Laurie Ney, and to all who helped decorate for its ‘Under The Sea’ theme.

SHEEP CONCERNS

AFFIRMATIONS

To Sarah Farnsworth for organizing and then leading two parish work days to tidy up the grounds, and for all the additional gardening work that she performs on her own.

To Julie Ricci and Chris Magnani for performing this year’s parish audit.

To Laurie and David Ney for organizing The Gala.

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 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Reddin, Secretary