

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Minutes - March 28, 2017

Present: John Boris, Jenni Faires, Rich Kelly, Chris Kupczyk, Jennifer Long, Fr. Malm, Kirk McPike, Jennifer Pease, Jean Reed, Chris Rugaber, Ashby Rushing, Fred Saalfeld, Mary Stewart, Jan Wolff and Lorna Worley.

Call to Order

Fr. Malm called the vestry meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The February 21, 2017 Minutes were approved as written.

Confirmations

Fred asked if the J2A class have goals for their trip?

Jenni said she has loved working with this group. They have had great discussions as they are thinking about their faith. They wrote a letter to God which they will rewrite after the pilgrimage.

Fr. Malm asked that we keep all those being confirmed in our thoughts and prayers. John Boris and Jennifer Pease are among those being confirmed.

Assistant Rector Search Committee

The Personnel Committee is meeting with one of the two already being considered. The priest they are interviewing is local with a few years of experience and speaks Spanish. There is also a candidate from D.C. The strongest candidate could possibly be called before our next meeting.

Our seminarian Jason Roberson will be ordained on May 6 in South Carolina. He will be finished at Grace on May 14.

William Campbell will be around this Summer assisting and doing some preaching.

New Seminarian

Our first year seminarian will be Ashley Mather. She is from Wichita, Kansas and has done an internship in Jacksonville, FL.

Casa Chirlagua

Jenni announced that for a number of reasons we will not be supporting Casa Chirlagua this year.

Treasurer

We had a low February pledge month. John called attention to the trust update and interest earned. Fred wanted to know the reason for the decline in pledges for 2014 - 2015. John explained that it is extremely problematic to figure it out. Fr. Malm explained that Charlotte did the figures for 2014. In 2015 we had a new hire with little bookkeeping experience. For 2016 we have a very qualified new

staff. Mary requested whether pledging households dropped from 2014 - 2015. Chris R. said they had dropped significantly. There is also a reduction in people attending services.

Fr. Malm mentioned that pledge statements will be coming out the week after Easter. He is working from a list of newcomers who are not pledging and also a list of attendees (including long time parishioners) who do not pledge. Jennifer L. wondered if the change in pledge envelope numbers could contribute to the loss of pledges. Fr. Malm feels it could be a possibility.

Fred wanted to know what is being done to correct errors? John reminded us of Beth's qualifications as a CPA. Rich noted she has reviewed all financials for 2015 and 2016. Fred is interested in how recording of pledges has changed, how pledges are reported and how they will be done in the future. Fr. Malm reminded us that we cannot control how people pay their pledges. Jean feels that there is a significant drop in the number of people attending services. Some older parishioners are not pledging. He feels that the 2015 audit should answer questions to most of these issues. Chris R. mentioned that December 2015 was very high compared to December 2016. A major fluctuation in giving. Fr. Malm says some of those who pledged the beginning of the year do not fulfill their pledge at the end of the year. Rich reported that Beth is using good practices. In 2014 there were 317 units, in 2015 - 272 units and approximately 227 units currently. Fred asked if the statistics for 2014 - 2016 are now correct and was assured by John and Fr. Malm that they are correct.

Chris R. is working on different ways for people to pledge. He will give a report in April. Jenni is becoming familiar with giving patterns and feels the 30 year age group don't pledge, and they don't use checks. Approximately 80% do not really respond to the pledge card. Jean says that stewardship has to address all ways of giving. Maybe we should ask parishioners to give estimates of what they will give. Fred is delighted that we have 30 year old people attending. Mary agreed and said they understand credit cards. Fr. Malm mentioned that the income at Christ Church was cut in half as was the staff. Their new rector has made it possible for parishioners to pay on their phones.

Junior Warden

There have been water challenges. Cost for analysis and site visit is \$4,000. Report should be back soon. Freezer compressor has been replaced. Changing from old to new gas. The sacristy hot water machine had to be replaced. Salts soaked through mortar in the church. Redirecting gutters should solve this problem. The school has replaced three toilets with commercial type. Only one snow removal due to mild winter. HVAC project being headed by Jeff Chiow. Rich has asked, "IF YOU SEE A PROBLEM SAY SOMETHING."

Father Malm

Fr. Malm discussed with the Vestry members a number of subjects covered in the Vestry Resource Guide. Specifically vestry job descriptions, ordination, morning prayer, spiritual life of vestry members, people of prayer and asking for God's direction.

The vestry discussed how vestry members are chosen. Benefits and negatives of having alternates. Chris K. feels there are benefits to winners/losers. Lorna and Fr. Malm discussed the difficulty the senior class nominating committee has in getting members to run. Fred feels we should work on getting the younger 30 group involved. We also discussed accountability to ourselves and the congregation. Setting specific goals and being true to the mission of the church. Jennifer L. mentioned that so very

much time is spent on the budget. In program reports she asked that we use the prescribed format and assess our programs at the end of each year. We will ask the web team to make our mission front and center on our web site. Vestry members will make more of an effort to ask parishioners to be on committees and to remember to thank them.

Roundtable

Lorna. Does the vestry want to do a basket for the J2A auction? Reminded us to attend auction as we all have children going to Italy.

Ashby. Lisa Medley hopes for more targeted items. More info to follow. Appreciates helpers Lucy Lee and Rich. Agape coming up. Amy Barron doing Fellowship purchasing. Asked all to attend J2A auction on April 22nd.

Jean. Gave each vestry member two Grace Church calling cards, hoping they will be passed out to perspective new members and visitors after the Easter services. Pew packets are also being prepared. Hopes to see the St. Andrews Guild being active once again. Evangelism will meet the Saturday morning before Palm Sunday. The vesting rooms along I95 should not be locked.

Chris R. Will send list of new ways of giving which are being considered. The 4th grade class will hold a baked sale on Palm Sunday. Proceeds will be donated to Carpenter's Shelter. Chris made a motion for the vestry to approve the baked sale and Jennifer Long added a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris K. There are three slots left for Good Friday meditations. Lorna took the 8th station. He is happy with the new web page.

Mary. Learning new software to support other groups.

Jennifer P. Outreach is very busy. There is a new youth liaison. They are doing a project with the food bank and will put together a recipe book for the food bags. There is a possibility of a partnership with Christ Church, who is supporting ten refugees.

Jennifer L. thanks for all the J2A support.

Rich. There is a Carpenter's Shelter fundraiser at the Birchmere on April 23rd from 12 - 3. Tickets are \$20.

Jenni. Looking for donations of wrapped candy for the Easter eggs.

John. Please sign Pastoral Care Cards on Palm Sunday.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:20 p.m.

