

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Minutes - April 18, 2017

Present: John Boris, Jenni Faires, Cindy Diehl, Kelly Gable, Rich Kelly, Jennifer Long, Fr. Malm, Jennifer Pease, Jean Reed, Chris Rugaber, Fred Saalfeld, Mary Stewart, Jan Wolff and Lorna Worley.

Call To Order

Father Malm called the vestry meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. The March 28, 2017 minutes were approved as amended.

Diocesan Representatives

A vote passed unanimously to name Jean Reed and Mike Jones as diocesan representatives. They will attend the convention in November in Richmond.

Evangelism

Jean Reed provided a written report explaining the locations for greeters before and after services. It also mentioned usher duties. He has printed small cards using the beautiful symbol which provides service times and explains our mission. These are to be given to newcomers and visitors. Fred wanted to know how people will know the meaning of the symbol? In addition to the mission explanation on the card, Fr. Malm mentioned an explanation is also provided on the church website.

Jean also mentioned that Mai-Lan Smith will be in charge of reactivating the St. Andrew's Guild.

Fr. Malm announced that TNT would be starting their meetings at VTS at the end of the month.

Stewardship

Chris Rugaber explained some facts found during his research on new ways of giving. Currently he likes two options -- Tithe-ly and Give Plus, which is part of Vanco. The Vanco app will be used at the J2A auction. He hopes to discuss new giving options at a forum in the Fall. The goal is getting more people to pledge.

Additionally, he provided a pledging history report. Many questions remain. How can we track those who put checks in the offering and convert them to pledging? Mary asked if fewer people are attending services. Jennifer Pease wonders if there are those who give over what they pledge. Jean feels there is a risk with on line giving apps when you donate to anything other than the general fund. Fr. Malm will review lists from 2014 - 2016. Chris hopes to start a Legacy Society to encourage people to put Grace in their wills.

Rich Kelly feels the Vanco app works well. Boxes are checked just like the memo line on checks. He feels it will provide an easy way to pay pledges. There would be no need for quarterly statements. We may provide a kiosk or ATM. Fred wonders how we would keep the meaning in giving? Fr. Malm says education has to be a big part of a new way of giving and he appreciates all the hard work being done.

J2A Auction

Catalogues were available on Friday. Lots of great items. Plan to attend.

Treasurer

John reported that our pledging is about what we expect at this time of the year. The Summer months are usually our lean months.

A vote to more Stephen Minister funds to Pastoral Care passed unanimously.

The 2015 audit is completed with no recommendations for change. Beth and the auditor are now working on 2016.

Jr. Warden

Rich announced that it has been a quiet month so far.

Waiting for the a/c report to come back.

The boilers are off.

Replaced a unit down I95.

Sacristy door needs repair.

Cleaned azaleas along wall and fertilized the grass.

Jennifer L. asked if we would have the HVAC report before the next meeting?

Sr. Warden

Lorna thought it was an amazing Holy Week.

The choir director did an amazing job. He stayed upbeat and worked very hard.

Bible study group will be meeting soon.

Columbarium wall was not sealed after Bob Steele's funeral.

Plaques for Bob Steele and Sarah Gabbert are on order.

Shannon Kelly did a wonderful job with the thurible.

Fr. Malm

Amen and amen to the wonderful Easter services. He heard of no issues.

Pentecost is June 4th.

The Summer 10 A.M. schedule will begin on June 11th, followed by the parish picnic.

New Assistant to the Rector will be Mother Fanny Belanger. She will begin on July 16th. She is from France and a former Roman Catholic. She graduated from VTS in 2013 with honors. Ordained a priest in 2014. She currently serves as Assistant to the Rector at St. Dunstan's in McLean. Jean Reed made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Selection Committee. It was second by Lorna. The motion passed unanimously.

Happy with the new COHI program. Keep our elderly parishioners in your prayers. Pray that they will age with grace, peace and not be confused.

Roundtable

John very much appreciates the good work of the Selection Committee. He will be away in early May and the office may need to have checks signed by members of the Executive Committee.

Jenni enjoyed her first Easter at Grace. Some committees are in need of volunteers. Sunday, June 4th, will be signup Sunday.

Jennifer P. Met with Beverly Hills Church about ways we could be partners. They offer Mental Health Outreach. She sent them our food pantry information. They will get involved with VOICE. There were nine volunteers for the ALIVE furniture distribution. Will occur again in August. There will be a presentation on Tuesday on the refugee program.

Cindy appreciates the work Anne and Jan have done with the COHI program. Also all the work Nancy Robinson did on the Easter cards.

Kelly was in awe of Easter week. Spent the Thursday Vigil night with the children. Needs a vestry volunteer for Youth Night

Fred thinks the outreach programs are wonderful.

Jean. Heather's musical entries on face book are terrific.

Chris R. At the baked sale the 4th and 5th graders raised \$136.00 for Carpenter's Shelter. They also contributed blankets and pillows.

Mary The communications group for Grace Notes do so much work. Possibly take a survey on how people use it. Results would be good for the calendar and articles.

Jennifer L. Easter was wonderful. Sasha was confirmed and Nikolai read. The J2A group made lots of personal donations.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 9:15 P.M.