

Christ Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Present: The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis; People's Warden Sheila Cooper; Vestry members: John Ager (via telephone), Beth Binde (arrived at 7:21 PM), Austin Cooper, Andrea Cunnell, Carole Forsythe, Mervis Johnson, Debra Lowe, Andy Murphy, Melisande Skillicorn

Also Present: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster (via telephone)

Absent: Rector's Warden Artie Phills; Vestry members: Mel Garber, Effie Lamptey, Cheryl Ann Stofan,

Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with opening prayer by Carole Forsythe.

Dwelling in the Word was Mark 13: 1-8

Approval of Consent Agenda: The consent agenda was moved for approval with two corrections to the Minutes from Regular Vestry Meeting on October 13, 2015. The first correction was to include Vestry member Austin Cooper as being present. The second correction was under the Treasurer's Report: we are paying what we pledged, not what the Diocese asked us for.

Vestry member Andy Murphy gave an update to the amounts for the Stewardship campaign. We have received a total of 69 pledges for a total of \$210,803. He stated that he is creating a list of parishioners who've pledged within the last two years, but have not yet submitted for this year. He will then circulate the list amongst the Vestry members to reach out to those individuals.

Rev'd Hollis mentioned that the minutes from the Northern Convocation meeting are included in the packet.

Rev'd Hollis explained that the *Notes from Parish Gatherings* on October 18, were put into categories to highlight themes. Copies of the notes will be placed in the back of the church, as well as published in Parish Notes on Sunday.

Rev'd Hollis spoke with Margaret Brown-Stansbury regarding children in Liturgy. On a Saturday in February 2016, they will have a two hour Eucharist Retreat for kids. In addition, every third Sunday a note is sent to the parents of young children about coming up to the altar. Rev'd Hollis will include a reminder about what it means.

A Vestry member asked how children learn about the meaning of things such as the chalice, various symbols, etc. Rev'd Hollis stated that the teaching of such things will be done at the retreat; they will be taken into the sacristy.

Vestry member Andrea Cunnell mentioned that a couple of parishioners have offered to help with the bulletins in the past. Rev'd Hollis said that she did not get a commitment from anyone to come in

regularly on a weekly basis to help in the office while Julia Utz worked on the bulletin. She added that the Liturgy committee met and she'll be meeting with John Sheridan regarding service music in the bulletin.

Treasurer Jonathan Gloster mentioned that there may be technology available to help make putting the bulletin together easier and faster for Julia. He will get her the information within the next two weeks.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster highlighted that the pledges and plate offerings are down from this time last year. However, this Sunday, November 8, was the biggest pledge since the summer. He explained that movie night brought in \$1,190. Because it was a church fundraiser, 100% goes to the church.

Vestry member Debra Lowe gave a verbal update to the Insurance Committee Report and mentioned that the 2015-2016 insurance policy for the church has been received.

Rev'd Hollis pointed out that the Newcomer report is missing.

Correspondence: Clerk of the Vestry Debra Lowe reported no correspondence.

Old Business

Annual Meeting Committee: Rev'd Hollis mentioned that Jim Nichols will be the Chair and Paul Ambos will be the Parliamentarian.

Rev'd Hollis mentioned that the Convention is on March 4-5, 2016, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Let her know if you are interested in attending.

New Business

Topics on the Mind of the Vestry:

People's Warden Sheila Cooper asked the Vestry members if they wanted to continue the Executive Meeting from November 1. The meeting could be had with or without Rev'd Hollis present. The members stated that they would like to wait for the outcome of the meeting on December 6, to take place before continuing the conversation. Rev'd Hollis mentioned that she was going to take this time to establish Vestry norms. However, to allow ample time, she decided to wait until the Leadership Retreat in February 2016.

Vestry member Melisande Skillicorn stated that the St. Nick's party will be on December 5, at 5 PM. It will be intergenerational. Tina Hulme is organizing a collection of shoes for needy children. Bob Chant and Steve Caruso will make pizza. She asked that people sign up to bring salads and desserts. They are hoping young families with children attend.

Vestry member Austin Cooper stated that he received a fundraising request from Penelope Lattimer for a Black History Month celebration on February 6. He will send the Vestry members an email with the

date. Rev'd Hollis asked that Austin contact Margaret Brown-Stansbury regarding the annual poinsettia fundraiser.

Vestry member Andrea Cunnell asked if holiday wrapping paper and regular wrapping paper would be something that we could use as a fundraiser. Austin said that he would look into it.

Vestry member Beth Binde mentioned that she was talking to Ginny Keil and she mentioned that she notices a difference in the choir without the chorister leaders. She also spoke with Karl Manger who said that the music program is pivotal and because it's declined, parishioners have left the church. He also said that he appreciates the transparency with the pledge goal and amount pledged. In addition, he suggests that specific recognition be given to people when they complete an event e.g. music committee coordinating the Halloween Spooktacular. Lastly, he suggested that we look into additional fundraising opportunities/professional fundraising. Beth reminded the Vestry members that she is having surgery on December 9.

People's Warden Sheila Cooper gave an update on the activities of the Youth Group. The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is on November 22. She will be taking the Youth Group to Key Foods to purchase non-perishables; they are accepting donations as well. For the Alternative Christmas Market, Sheila will have order forms for people to make donations to a needy family through the Episcopal Relief & Development. The Youth Group will have an overnight at the Cathedral (lock-in). On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18, 2016, there is a Day of Service that is run by the Diocese that the Youth Group may participate in. Lastly, Sheila is connecting with St. John's Youth Group to discuss the group's initiatives and see if they can partner in the future. Rev'd Hollis mentioned that St. Alban's has a Youth Group that they are also trying to connect with.

Vestry member Mervis Johnson shared positive feedback she received from her niece about spending time with Sheila; they went bowling and out for ice cream.

Rev'd Hollis mentioned that names of parishioners who have pledged were published in Sunday's bulletin to acknowledge them and say thank you.

The meeting adjourned on consent with Compline at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra P. Lowe
Clerk of the Vestry