

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
St. James Episcopal Church
March 12, 2017

Vestry Members present: Tracey Thomas, Colin Cooper, Ed Wilcox, Sandra Dratler, Roger Wickstrom, Brad Drda, Carol Overman, Meg Bloomfield, Rev. John Kirkley

Reflection:

"Community is not enough." The idea of community needs to be more clarified... this is based on the article John had sent from a Lutheran minister. Various comments and discussion ensued...

The Vestry talked about the notion that claiming one's identity is somehow perceived as disparaging someone else's identify. John noted that he was scheduled that same afternoon to speak to a social justice group in Noe Valley about 'self-care and activism.'

St. James uses the Christian tradition and the Biblical narrative as our basis for worship, but how do we take the lens and apply it to our own lives, and connect to the divine? As an example, part of the work of FIA is to challenge the dominant narrative, about who comes to church and who doesn't.

- * Ed Wilcox did a brief report on the activities of Faith in Action (FIA)
- * There is a FIA forum on the 19th, after church and a meeting on March 15th at St. John the Evangelist, 7 p.m.

Financial Report - John Kirkley presented.

- * Too early to do a month end financial report
- * Pie Sunday report is on the table in the narthex
- * We will see about \$1,000 in savings in office costs due to a new copier contract -- good news
- * Currently funds are steady at about \$50k in the bank, with payables <\$10k
- * John did speak with Allan about scheduling a Financial Committee meeting, which would consist of Hap Rhodehamel, Bill Newmeyer, Ebe Metcalf, and Eddie LeBreton. Likely in between the 2 services on a Sunday. 8:50am-9:50 am. John mentioned they may need to take another look at re-allocating the portfolio.
- * Pledge reminder is going out in April
- * Also had a discussion about Vestry meeting format and a format for reporting on committee work. Do we want to see minutes of each committee? How much level of detail? Maybe action items and calendar items, so that we are not double booking.

Spiritual Life Committee - John Kirkley

- * March 26 will be next Spiritual Life committee meeting, with an open invitation for others to attend
- * Discussion about how Ed might bring in his violin students to do either an Offertory piece or a Communion Anthem. John commented on the adult resources that do exist in the wider community. Our new membership database allows us to capture skills of our parishioners.
- * We talked a bit about the attention span of the congregation (!)...example: John's sermons run 12 minutes max, and he considers 10 ideal.
- * Discussed Life Changes and Announcements and their length
- * Verses of hymns have been cut somewhat
- * John wants people to walk away feeling 'fed and challenged'
- * Again, LEMs need additional training, and it was noted that if acolytes occasionally do things differently it can confuse people
- * Also, we really need to tackle the Sunday School program at the month end meeting

Pastoral Care - John Kirkley

- * John is still looking for a couple of people to assist with this
- * It was noted that Debbie Sham is recovering well from her heart surgery

Property Committee - Meg Bloomfield and Roger Wickstrom

- * Painting being done in the 4614 CA therapists' flat. Some work is done and a follow up is scheduled for 3/25.
- * Parish work day has been calendared, and is 4/8.

Welcome Committee - Carol Overman

- * Initial meeting took place 3/12
- * Carla Borsoi has agreed to be the Project Manager
- * John suggested folding the next Welcome Committee meeting into the next scheduled Vestry meeting.

Stewardship Committee - Sandra Dratler

- * Said the Legacy dinner was a great success, pretty good attendance
- * Spring fundraising event (John's birthday celebration) will require a lot of help from volunteers to get this planned and executed...
- * Live auction
- * Probably the only fundraiser for the year, given the scope and logistics

Calendaring:

- * Chili Cook Off is scheduled for March 19, 5:30 to 7 p.m. ish
- * FIA is 3/19, after the 10 a.m. service
- * Spiritual Life is scheduled for 3/26

- * Meditation is 3/26
- * Newcomer Dinner at Tracey's on 3/26
- * Palm Sunday is 4/9, with a spoken Eucharist at 7 p.m. on Monday, Tues, and Wed of that week
- * Maundy Thursday is 4/13, and starts at 7 p.m., with dinner and ritual foot washing.
- * Lenten book study is The Great Work
- * Good Friday services are at Noon and 7 p.m.
- * Easter Vigil is Saturday at 7 p.m.
- * Easter Sunday will be Rite 1 at 8 a.m.
- * John reminded us that he will be out of town 5/23-6/3 for his trip to Milan
- * There was some discussion about hosting an 'in between' breakfast, for members of the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services, similar to what happens after the 8 a.m. service, but with more substantial food.
- * June 19-23 is the Youth Group Mission trip to the Bishop's Ranch.
 - o John Kirkley is chaperoning, but he needs a female chaperone, as well
- * Still need a chair person for the camping trip on Father's Day weekend.

Next Vestry meeting is April 2, followed by May 22.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Carol Overman, Clerk