



## ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*A joyful, inclusive community*

### **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting St. James Episcopal Church May 21, 2017**

*Vestry Members present:* Tracey Thomas, Sandra Dratler, Colin Cooper, Roger Wickstrom, Ann Rieger-Matthews, Carol Overman, The Rev. John Kirkley. *Also present:* Allen LeBlanc (Treasurer)

#### Opening Reflection/Lunch

Comments and reflections on the life of Marjorie Matthews.

Minutes were approved.

#### **The Vestry approved the Minutes of the April 2017, Vestry Meeting.**

#### Financial Report - Allen LeBlanc

- \* Pledge receivables show \$26k in from previous year. Past due pledges are still a concern, as this affects receivables.
- \* Tried to assemble a Financial Committee meeting, but did not happen.
- \* Endowment is performing well, and tracking the market.
- \* Some reallocation took place in keeping with our investment guidelines, and we realized \$10k in gains, so moving in the right direction.
- \* Should some of the gain be directed towards bathroom renovation? Will consider as plans develop.

#### Budget vs. Actuals

- \* Got \$10k memorial check in April, much higher than usually anticipated.
- \* Grossed \$15k for John's party, and netted about \$12-\$13k.
- \* Now, no fall fund raiser for sure! Should see another \$7k come in during May for special events.
- \* Ann thinks that Erazm will be sending out pledge statements soon, and that will see a bump in pledges coming in.
- \* YTD the cash flow vs P & L shows that the memorial gift put us in the black instead of breaking even.
- \* Regarding the bathroom project (s) - \$6k for a grant in the building fund is designated to bathrooms and there is roughly \$40k in the building fund available for the bathrooms.
- \* Pre School budget and the Parochial Report need to be approved.

#### *Pre School*

- \* Proposing a balanced budget. Is a static budget unless salaries and rents go up.

#### **Pre School Budget was approved.**

#### *Parochial Report*

\* 2016 Parochial Report is basis for 2018 assessment.

### **Parochial Report was approved.**

#### Parish Life - John Kirkley

- \* Camping Trip - Carla is looking for people to 'captain meals.' No one is under pressure to produce 'gourmet meals.' Also, are looking for people with camping equipment, such as communal stoves and other things. John mentioned that there have been no signs ups yet for attendance.
- \* Parish Retreat will be first weekend in November. Rose said she would help out with some logistics.
- \* Forms and pricing for registration is now available for the retreat.
- \* 12 and under will be free.
- \* Scholarship assistance will also be available.
- \* Help is needed for organizing potluck dinner Friday evening.
- \* Elia and Noreen are covering art projects, but need a few other people.
- \* John is proposing a possible book discussion of The Man Who Loved Birds, by Fenton Johnson.
- \* What about a poetry workshop or a centering prayer session?
- \* Mentioned that Scott Golde's yoga class after breakfast on Saturday had been a big success.
- \* Eleanor and John are doing some improv planning for the youth mission trip. Has some religious focus.

#### Spiritual Life - John Kirkley

- \* Had a small group meeting with ideas for adult Christian formation.
- \* Seemed like a lot of energy around end of life planning, and discussed some books that are resources, which provide a critique of the current medical model and palliative care.
- \* Mentioned a current exhibit at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, of Ros Chast's book about her experience with her aging parents.
- \* John said there is a possibility of a 3 session book study in the fall.
- \* John brought up topic of having "hard conversations" such as end of life, (Ros Chast book), books on race, and a book called The Righteous Mind about why people disagree.
- \* Possible field trips in the future.
- \* He would like a trip to Mission San Juan Batista, which presents 2 plays a year in the Mission.
- \* John still interested in a series on St. Theresa of Avila.
- \* John highlighted some changes in the liturgy: going back to Rite II at 8 am, Prayer B, then at 10 am using an experimental Eucharistic prayer from Sarah Miles, which ends with a Sanctus. This will happen in June and July. August and September will be something different.
- \* John still interested in seeing if anyone wants to volunteer something liturgically or instrumentally at either service.

#### Pastoral Care - John Kirkley

- \* Anne Johnson, a geriatric social worker who has numerous resources in the community, attended this meeting.
- \* 3 concrete things that people can do to help: A. Bring meals for a set period of time to the parishioner recovering in their home, B. Act as a friendly visitor, and C. Provide transportation to church and medical appointments.
- \* John foresees these efforts growing as the congregation ages.
- \* Sandra mentioned inputting peoples' overall willingness to help and particular skills they can contribute to pastoral care.

#### Property Committee - Ann Rieger-Matthews

- \* Ann will be getting bids shortly for bathroom renovation project

#### Peace and Justice - John Kirkley

- \* May 30th Town Hall meeting at St. James will focus on the city budget process and potential impacts of federal government policies. There will be small group time during the Forum.
- \* John confirmed that Brian Rallison, the Seminarian, will be coming in the fall. He has much experience in community organizing and marketing, and will be working with the Welcoming/Marketing Committee. Several parishioners will be providing 'field ed' for Brian to bring him up to speed. Brian has a lot of ideas about social media and training on the topic of "inviting people to church." He's currently working with the Night Ministry here in SF while he is at CDSP.

Marketing Committee - Carol Overman

- \* Only one brief meeting has occurred with a small group of members.
- \* Will work to get a June meeting confirmed and start to lay groundwork before Brian arrives.

Next Vestry Meeting is June 11.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Carol Overman, Clerk