



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*A joyful, inclusive community*

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**St. James Episcopal Church**  
**June 11, 2017**

*Vestry Members present:* Tracey Thomas, Roger Wickstrom, Meg Bloomfield, Ed Wilcox, Sandra Dratler, Carol Overman, and the Rev. John Kirkley. *Also present:* Allen LeBlanc

Opening Reflection/Lunch

1.) What did we like best about the sermon? 2.) What was the most important thing about the sermon? 3.) Where were we in the sermon? 4.) Could we have left out any part of the sermon that would still have gotten us there?

Minutes and Agenda were approved.

**The Vestry approved the Minutes of the May 2017 Vestry Meeting.**

**The Vestry approved the Agenda for the June 2017 Vestry Meeting.**

Financial Report - Allen LeBlanc

- \* Budget vs Actuals (short form) - \$10k overage in Actuals continues to be the most notable.
- \* John's party pulled in \$12.5k. There are no other planned fundraisers for this year.
- \* Rents are in line.
- \* \$82k cash received to date via pledges.
- \* Compared to last year we are a bit behind on pledges.
- \* On the expense side all is in line, except Outreach.
- \* We are over for Buildings and Grounds.
- \* We are awaiting payment from tenants for utilities. Solar electric generation still needs to true up.
- \* Cash flow is good - way ahead of last year.

Spiritual Life - John Kirkley

- \* Talked about Children's Ministry and Sunday morning programs. John met with several parishioners to debrief.
- \* When everyone is at Sunday School (Pre K-5th grade) there are about 12 kids.
- \* Have used Godly Play the last few years, which is great for the younger children, but by 3rd grade is not enough. Tends to be individually focused and not best for groups.
- \* Decided to move to a new curriculum, "Episcopal Children's Curriculum." There are 3 levels, and within each level 3 years of curriculum. Godly Play would still fit in - and for Wednesday morning preschool as well.
- \* John wants to enhance the 'art response' component. He has the name of someone that may be interested in running a children's choir for 2 Sundays/month (for practice and singing of the Offertory). John to follow up. Elia will coordinate the 2 other Sundays with art activities.
- \* Also, we are reverting to the sequence of children starting downstairs at 10 a.m., then coming up for Communion every Sunday.
- \* Doreen will teach 1/month, Ryan 1/month, and Elia twice monthly. We still need 2 other adults and subs. Carolanne Ayers will commit to once/month, and James Goff has expressed some interest.

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
4620 California St. San Francisco, CA 94118  
(415) 751-1198 [stjames@stjamesf.org](mailto:stjames@stjamesf.org)  
[www.stjamesf.org](http://www.stjamesf.org)

- \* Really need to hire nursery care workers. John feels we are losing parents without the nursery care. This is needed by the last Sunday of August. Thinking of USF students.
- \* The kick-off is the last Sunday of August, with a blessing of students and teachers, as well as preschool teachers. This is also the day to register for Sunday School. Class will start the weekend after Labor Day.
- \* Pastoral care will be the focus of the next newsletter. Anne Johnson is taking charge of this and Sandra will get people's names and skills in the database.

#### Property Committee - Roger Wickstrom

- \* Ann, Tracey, and Roger met with a contractor to do a walkthrough of our bathrooms and a bid is coming.
- \* Current plan is to have a family bathroom where the present women's bathroom is located and the current Men's bathroom will be converted to multiple individual, fully walled-off, unisex bathrooms. Full upgrades to the two bathrooms in the office building are also planned.
- \* Security issues - Erazm is planning to update the courtyard camera system and install new network hardware around the property. A couple of months ago there was some vandalism in the sanctuary and the courtyard. John reminded the Vestry of the need for a complete lock down after events and to be sure to check that the doors to the alley are locked. Tracey is going to create a checklist and Roger will remind people who rent space about security.

#### Peace and Justice - Ed Wilcox

- \* Town Hall debrief - FIA - broke into groups to talk about how the \$ should be spent.
- \* Attendance was about 30, and most were FIA people. A few non profits were there, including a tenants rights group and a senior disabilities group.
- \* June 19 is an open meeting for the city budget.

#### Stewardship Committee - Sandra Dratler

- \* This is the time of year when planning starts for stewardship.
- \* John interjected that he would like us to be more proactive about securing gifts in advance of the campaign. Wants to see Vestry pledging and asks from the regular pledgers and asking for a bump. Would like to see half the amount upfront from a verbal ask, and then follow up with a letter, not being afraid to ask for more.

#### Worship Attendance - open discussion

- \* 4-5 max for Adult Eastertide program
- \* 8 a.m. service is holding steady at 10-12
- \* 10 a.m. numbers vary, but average 59. This Sunday, however, was only 39.
- \* It is concerning and there are no magic solutions. However, the Rev. John Kirkley believes that strengthening the children's program will help.

We need to focus on what is right with the world. It is easy to see all the bad, but it requires more creativity in seeing what is right. The Gospel works that way - we don't want all the negative to define us.

No Vestry meeting for July.

Next meeting is 3rd Sunday of August, the 20th.

The September meeting is the 17th, and John is out of town July 13 - 31.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Carol Overman, Clerk