

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

January 16, 2024

Present: Cannon John Spicer, Mtr. Jean Long, Paul Wurth, Steve Miller, Deacon Adam James, Jewel Scott, Christina Santiago-Turner, Jason Anglian, Susan Paynter, Stephanie Henson, Jean Kiene, Sara Welch, Tim Cranor, Janet Kelley, Cameron Rostern, Ward Cook, Emily Bond, Scott Burditt, Pam Orlander, Guy Creveling, Zach Beall, Wendy Burgess, Matt Bleakley

Consent of Agenda and December Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed that both be accepted.

Opening scripture and prayer: The church has had several deaths recently. Since December 1 we have had 8 funeral and have 3 more scheduled. Thus, Fr. John said that eternal life had been on his mind. It is part of the experience of following Christ now and later. He then read the following three passages from the Bible: John 5:24. John 11: 25-26 and Luke 17: 20-22. For followers of Jesus, we are on a quest to find heaven on earth. He then asked the group to think about working within the framework of the Lord's prayer.

Disciples on the Journey: Susan Paynter told of Paul and Carolyn Johnson taking in a new member who is temporarily homeless into their home. Janet Kelley spoke of how many people contributed to the Free Store. Paul Wurth told a story of people helping some special needs clients at the Free Store. Mtr. Jean spoke of watching acolytes grow into their role and take leadership positions within the group. The church is planting the seed of helping others. Christina recommended the podcast "We Can Do Hard Things" episodes 268-269 – daily letter to love. Emily Expressed appreciation for the Episcopal funeral rites and services.

Apostles on the Journey:

1. Worship & formation -ministry participation:
 - a. Children are up 17% from last year.
 - b. Youth are down 4% from last year
 - c. Young adults down 62% but are restarting and December was a strong beginning
 - d. Adult formation: Up 18% from last year
 - e. Average Sunday attendance up 4% from this time last year. Through 4th Sunday in Advent: In -person 60% and On-line 40%
 - f. Christmas attendance: Total attendance both in-person and on-line was as follows- 4 pm- 669; 8 pm- 488; 11 pm- 300 and Christmas morning 137. From 2022 to 2023 Christmas attendance increased by 416 or 13%.

It was discussed how to keep this kind of attendance going beyond Christmas. Fr. John asked what need was met at the Christmas services that is not being met at other services and what can we do to meet that need?

2. Commission/Ministry group lists: Mtr. Jean said that she would be distributing lists to the various commission & group leaders to obtain a list of the members and their contact information. She would also like monthly attendance reports. She will then distribute the lists to Vestry. It is also hoped that the number of hours and attendance for each ministry can be tracked. Fr. John explained that the tracking is to see how many parishioners are practicing in various activities. From this we can try and find out where we need to grow? This is Christian Formation. It was expressed as a concern about people being tracked and sensitive to it. Fr. John said they were still finalizing how to use the information.

Stewards on the Journey:

1. The final pledge campaign statistics are:

	2023	2024
Unchanged:	151	134
Decreased	22	33
Increased	146	131
New	22	46
Total	341	344
Difference	\$ 4,921	\$5,337
Total pledges	\$1,678,332	\$1,835,919

3. Finance

- a. Jason stated that we were feeling positive in November and December results got us to where we wanted and needed to be. We did not meet all our goals. Income was marginally up but expenses were unusually

high in December, thus putting us off by \$47,000. In 2023, it was favorable by \$50,000 and the books are now closed.

- b. The 2024 budget was reviewed and discussed. It is based on actual numbers from 2023. Some line items are up and some are down from the actuals of 2023. Total projected revenues for 2024 are \$2,400,000 with expenses at \$2,385,900. There is a hedge here. The budget reflects more money for media and content writing project-based media, not on a new staff position. The new budget also reflects an increase in the Outreach budget and for water and a sprinkler system. The floor was opened for discussion and questions. The motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the 2024 budget. It was passed unanimously.
- c. Facilities and IT
 - i. Zach gave an update on the kitchen remodel and the Undercroft floor.
 - ii. Fr. John gave an update on the Christmas fundraising targeted for "building envelope." The amount received was \$72,000 for the listed projects which may total \$85,000. Work will begin when the weather is better on the roof, stonework, gutters and windows.

Other business

- 1. Thank you notes. Fr. John gave a verbal thank you to the entire Vestry for bringing food for coffee hour during the Bishop's visit recently.
Written notes to go to: Joy Bower and Debra Waldorf for the 3 Kings & thanks to their helpers; Melissa Rock and Sarah Tepikian for their work on the Free Store and Narobi Collins and Dr. Yvette Richards and to St. James for partnering on the Free Store. Janet Kelly declined a thank you note.
- 2. The annual meeting is January 28.
- 3. The Vestry Retreat is February 10th from 8:30-4 at HJ's and February 11th when we will worship at St. James at 9:00. The focus will be on the journey to find heaven on earth. What does church offer to meet needs of people?
- 4. Fr. John offered Thank you and good byes to outgoing Vestry members Matt Bleakley, Emily Bond, Susan Paynter, Christina Santiago-Turner (although she will be returning in another role).

Closing Prayer offered by Susan Paynter

With many thanks to Cameron Rostron for taking excellent notes in my absence,
Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Goodrich, Vestry Secretary