

MINUTES

Vestry Meeting –Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

Present: Fr. Richard, Lynn Garland, John Grant, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, Diane Nichols, Rose Reith, Peg Nelson

Absent: with regrets Mary Bridget Burns

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

Book Discussion brief comments– Slow Church Chapter 9 “Gratitude.” In union with the idea of gratitude, Susan distributed UTO boxes, which are a replica of the first Blue Box of 1928.

Tamsin Lucey joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Fr. Richard offered an opening prayer.

Motion made to accept the minutes from the January vestry meeting emailed January 31, 2017, seconded and carried.

There were no questions on the emailed financial reports. I don’t believe we ever motioned, seconded and approved the acceptance of these reports. Susan handed out and reviewed the statement of financial position, explaining each account line. In response to a question about the \$100,000 savings bank insurance liability on the checking account, since the balance is nearing that limit, it was explained that anything over that maximum would be covered by our insurance policy.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to keep the flower fund balance at \$500. All flower donations will be put into the fund for payment of the flower bills and the \$200 balance will be moved to pay for the pew card project.

The Endowment Committee has approved acceptance to the Legacy Fund of John Miller’s \$10,000 insurance gift. Interest will be distributed to a subfund to be used for capital tangible, mission initiative, or outreach ministry. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the John Miller life insurance gift of \$10,000.** There was no discussion.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to close out the Brennan reserve and move \$8,961.29 to the building fund.

Anne Bouvier-Monroe’s revised contract was emailed in advance. **A motion was made, seconded, approved to accept Anne Bouvier-Monroe’s new contract.**

Tamsin explained the design and plan for use of the pew card, the copy and layout for which are now being reviewed by Lynn and Peg. Chris will source the printing. Three cup hooks will be installed on each pew, and there will be no pencil with it. The project should be ready in about two to three weeks.

Tamsin discussed Hector’s exit interview, which went well. Hector said that communication was good and he had the tools he needed. His only negative comment was that the church was at times very cold. An article will be put into the March Tidings about contributions toward a parting gift for Hector. Tamsin will purchase a Leatherman tool at about \$80 and put the balance toward a gift card for him. Hector had no suggestions for

his replacement. Local advertising for the position will appear in the Southbridge Evening News (and their community papers), but not the T&G because of the cost.

Susan presented the Parochial Report for vestry approval. **A motion to accept the Parochial Report as presented was seconded and approved.** Discussion about how to move those who come regularly to our membership roles led us to the next subject.

Fr. Richard, Lynn, Tamsin and Barbara Kalber comprise the Pastoral Care Team. Their networking within the congregation will be for the purpose of learning of the needs of the congregation and arranging for an appropriate follow up. Toward this pastoral support, Diane offered and the vestry accepted prayer shawls and lap robes that her senior center knitting and crocheting group is making.

Mark Morin met with Tamsin re: remodeling cabinetry for the kitchen. He will be away until 3/5. Even though he is busy through October, he will fit us in and work with the design options that the town will allow.

Fr. Richard , Pastor Kirsten and Pastor Janet will hold a Lenten program and bible study at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Wednesdays from 6-9 P.M. An article will be in Tidings.

John will round up cooks for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Susan will get the eggs and make the batter. Tamsin will order sausages from Sterns, which Susan will pick up. Tamsin will also pick up butter, syrup, and orange juice.

Ash Wednesday services will be at Noon and 7 p.m.

Registration for the March 18 Leadership Day is available online at the diocesan website. Invitations will be extended to non-vestry leaders, and a general invitation will be put into the Tidings.

Nancy asked that anyone interested in attending the March 24-25 Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Conference speak with her. If two or more go, the bishop will reimburse the registration fee.

Vestry retreat date is April 8, 2017, 10 A.M. to about 3:30 P.M. Tamsin will check on the availability of a SSB conference room.

Anne Bouvier-Monroe has presented a proposal for a high school music intern from Southbridge (copy attached to these minutes). Anne will be asked to discuss this with the school committee, especially to clarify the out-of-school hours and steps to adhere to safe church guidelines, and get back to the vestry with more information. In lieu of credits, perhaps a letter of volunteer hours can be provided.

Closing prayer read at 9:10 P.M.

Next Vestry meeting March 8, 2017 7:00PM