

APPROVED

MINUTES

Vestry Meeting – Wednesday, June 13, 2018 - 7:00 PM

Present: Fr. Richard, John Grant, Diane Nichols, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, Lana Pieczynski, Lynn Garland, Rose Reith, Tamsin Lucey, Lorraine Brumskine, Peg Nelson

Fr. Richard opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. with prayer.

Bible Study – Mark 4:26-34

Business

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the May vestry meeting minutes, as amended.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.

Susan passed around information regarding the snacks that she will be making for VBS.

She also shared a poster about the October 21 Revival. From the diocese we have a banner about the revival that will be hung on the front of the building.

- Lynn presented the Annual Audit Report. There were no discrepancies. The Audit Committee recommended that we revise our financial policy to include: (1) a statement that we never use a signature stamp or pre-printed signature; and (2) a statement that we never use a signature stamp or pre-printed signature for blank checks. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the audit report.** A copy is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Rector's Items

- Two sessions of the book study for W.E.B. DuBois's The Souls of Black Folk have been held, and Fr. Richard is thrilled with the attendance at about 11 each time. He feels that the book is helping us to begin to understand somewhat of what racial injustice has been in the US. This is not about politics but instead working to be sure that God's desire for justice in the world is met. Thank you to Tamsin for bringing the idea of the discussion forward. Various personal viewpoints were discussed.
- In reviewing the June 9 vestry retreat, it was agreed that it was nice to talk about ideas with no limits on time. There was some discussion about the concept of removing the pews and putting movable chairs in place. The idea would be to bring the altar down to the open space and have people stand all around. There were no action plans. Over the years various attempts to pull interest from our community have met with short-term success. Our membership has been stable for about 10 years, even though people have come and gone. The Pastoral Care Committee is looking at how we are taking care of our flock. Also, we're not very visible and how do we make our presence known in the community. Action plan: Make sure the Episcopal sign is on the street and make sure that it is visible. Suggestions were to put brochures and flyers at the library; contact Southbridge Evening News for their religion page articles; place information with the Chamber of Commerce. Start with things that are not labor intensive. There is a budget for evangelism so this is not a money issue; it's a manpower issue. Additionally we need an administrator for our facebook page.

Upcoming Events

- Tamsin will organize the August 12 VBS cookout. Hot dogs, hamburgers and lemonade will be served, and notices will be put on all VBS paperwork.
- The Salvation Army Family Fun Day will be August 25. Everything will be free. Family Worship will do kids' crafts and possibly Cat will do facepainting.
- September 14 is the United Way Day of Caring. Possibly they will wash some windows for us. Tamsin will coordinate.
- Tamsin suggested that we hire a bus for congregational participation at the October Revival. Diane will phone Lizaks for 4 hours use, both for a school bus and a 52-seat luxury bus. After the service, we would leave here at 11:30 to go to Holyoke.

Building & Grounds

- Tamsin said that the kitchen annex door project will be done once the carpenter has recovered from knee surgery.
- **At the recommendation of the Building Committee a motion was made, seconded and approved to fund the repointing of the brickwork on the three sanctuary walls at \$7,990.**
- The Building Committee recommended updating the baseboard heat in the classrooms. Cole Contracting quoted \$6,950 to complete the work. It was agreed that we should seek a quote from Tasse's since they handle our heating system. Tamsin and Susan will work on that.
- The bench has returned to the front of the church. Work will be done to prepare a base using stone and pressure treated wood for the bench and the trash barrels. Dan Macumber has offered to help.
- Estimates for the basement men's room renovation and the sanctuary trim repairs were reviewed. This work is tabled until we rent the basement and, for the sanctuary work, get additional quotes and perhaps conduct a capital fund drive.
- The Building Committee is getting quotes for reglazing and painting windows. We would probably use half of the \$7,000 in the building fund and money from savings to pay for the work.

Food Share – Rose will continue to emphasize this ministry by including an article in Tidings, mentioning during announcements and perhaps moving the basket around to various locations in the church.

Closing Prayer- Prayer for the Parish

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next Executive Committee Meeting – July 11, 2018 @ 5:45 PM

Next Vestry Meeting – July 11, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Peg Nelson, Clerk