

Vestry Meeting –Wednesday, September 13, 2017 - 7:00 PM

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

Absent with regrets: Bill Pieczynski

Open at 7:10 p.m. with prayer.

Bible Study – Matthew 18: 21-35, The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the August vestry meeting, emailed August 18, 2017.

Christian Formation Project - Fr. Richard "Strategies in Faith Formation"

As a follow-up to the August meeting, the vestry was asked if there are further thoughts about small group discussions on various topics during the church service. The drawbacks to several group sessions at once seem to be: several leaders plus Fr. Richard would be necessary to lead the discussions; the sessions would create confusion and perhaps fragmentation; and finding topics for all ages might be difficult. The vestry agreed that an instructed Eucharist with a narrator while Fr. Richard prepares the communion would be interesting. Fr. Richard will work to develop something along this line. Also discussed was a hymn sing that connects to the appropriate scriptures. This could be much like the Christmas lessons and carols with the Eucharist.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Opportunities

- Laugh in Peace (professional Christian/Jewish/Muslim comedians describe their religious life and take questions) \$500 per church plus ticket price (est. \$25 per head)/Total cost \$10K
Pastors from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Hope, Sturbridge Federated, Brimfield UCC, Elm Street Congregational and Holy Trinity Church are considering offering an educational opportunity to the community for the purpose of getting out of our circle and having more contact with the things that might be strange and scary because we don't know about them. A Christian, a Jewish and a Muslim comedian would discuss what it is like to live within their religious community and would answer follow-up questions. The total cost would be about \$10,000: each church would pay \$500, and the balance would be raised by selling 400 tickets at \$25 each. The idea was well received by the vestry, but the committee will be asked to inquire of the Laugh in Peace organization about how to proceed. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to explore the possibility of presenting the Laugh in Peace program.**
- Prayer for Christian Unity Pulpit Exchange 28 JAN 2018 (Pastor Kirsten will come to HTEC; I would go to BLC)
There was discussion about this conflicting with our annual meeting and that it is not being done on Unity Sunday because of scheduling conflicts. The January 28 date stands.
- Community Youth Program - comprised of mainline parishes (traditional) from Sturbridge/Southbridge/Brimfield/Charlton (accept as a possibility?)
Pastor Janet has proposed developing a community high school youth program that would involve any of the churches. We would need to provide some adult supervision at some point. How does this fit in with our community need on Hamilton Street? Is Fr. Richard, in his part-time role, expected to be involved if we have no children at that age? Would grades 6, 7 and 8 be better since high school students have conflicting schedules and their interest in such groups is past? What are other churches hearing from their congregations? Fr. Richard will explain that HTC is interested in maintaining its focus locally; the vestry is not antithetical, and if we had a high school student who could participate we would have more interest. Along those lines, the vestry briefly discussed how we capture the VBS excitement and community involvement and carry it forward? Some suggestions were Christian formation during the school year, activities during breaks, personal invitations to church, a story walk.

Upcoming events:

Review events

Vacation Bible School – Discussed earlier

Building Committee – Tamsin

- United Way Day of Caring – September 15, 2017 – Under control
- Kitchen renovation – Peninsula moved and tiles down; hole for cart is there. Butcher block replacement hasn't happened but 2 new electric sockets have been put in the island. Hand sink has approval from the building inspector and board of health. Because of plumbing issue, we need an 8" prep sink; the 12" sink will be returned; we have Board of Health approval on this.
- The Endowment Committee has approved acceptance of the Frisch's donation of the china cabinet. They paid \$4000 and hope its sale will bring about \$1000 for Holy Trinity. If the auction house that has agreed to take it doesn't sell it, what is their policy about our responsibility? Mary Bridget Burns will contact the auction house about this.

Stewardship- Journey to Generosity – Nancy has been happy with the TENS program in the past and will use it again this year.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report emailed September 8, 2017. The Finance Committee met, but the notes are not available yet. There is a strong feeling among committee members to tithe to mission from the \$40,000 in reserve from the Y. There is a great movement now for hurricane relief so it has been suggested that a portion of the tithe be added to the October mission plate money for ERD. The balance in the fund will be put into a reserve fund instead of the building fund. This allows us to move it around as needed. The only money to go to the building fund is building related based on vestry votes or a designated contribution.

Diocesan Convention early bird registration is \$30 by 10/1, non-early bird of \$40. John and Fr. Richard will coordinate the registrations.

Other business

- Mutual Ministry Review change of date to December 10, 2017. Nancy will confirm with Pam Mott.
- There will be an extended coffee hour for Dorothy and Kurt Frisch on 9/24/17. Barbara Wilson will be asked to organize, and Nancy will get a card.

Closing prayer- Prayer for the Parish

A motion to adjourn at 9:20 was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Nelson, Clerk

Next Vestry meeting October 11, 2017 7:00PM