

APPROVED

MINUTES

Vestry Meeting – Wednesday, March 14, 2018 - 7:00 PM

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

Absent with regrets: Lana Pieczynski

Fr. Richard opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with prayer.

Bible Study – John 12: 20-33.

Business

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the February vestry meeting minutes.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report. In answer to a question about sewer and water usage, Susan explained that it is too early to tell whether this has increased because we are billed quarterly and do not have any usage figures yet for 2018.

The vestry confirmed the appointment of the 2018 Parrettie Committee members—John Grant, Diane Nichols, Nancy Waugh, Barbara Kalber, Peg Nelson. The Treasurer and Clergy will sit ex officio. This appointment should be calendared yearly. The committee will meet to update the guidelines.

Susan will update the Financial Policy and Procedures to reflect the suggested changes, Peg will edit, and then Susan will distribute to the vestry for approval. This review should be calendared yearly.

Rector's Items

- Ecumenical and Interfaith Opportunities—Educational options are available for the rest of Lent. Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Old Sturbridge Village at about 6 A.M.
- Funeral and Wedding Policies – Tamsin, Susan and Richard have almost completed the funeral policy and they will then tackle the wedding policy. Both policies will then be sent to the vestry.
- Update on “Silence” during the liturgy – It was agreed to continue the moments of silence except on Palm Sunday and Easter.
- Subjects of ongoing Bible Study – The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois would be an interesting and positive bible study. Using the study guide, Rose, Diane and Richard will develop questions as the outline for a congregational retreat/discussion on a date to be determined.

Review of Last Month's Events

- Mardi Gras Pancake Supper – About 32 attended.
- Lucey/Grant Birthday Party Fund Raiser – More than \$2,000 was contributed to the building fund.

- Bishop's Visit – One candidate was confirmed, and the meeting with the Bishop was informative.

Upcoming Events

- Palm Sunday flowers (volunteers?) – The palms will be delivered on Saturday, and Diane will cover the processional palms with a wet towel. Also, Diane will pick up the Easter flowers.
- Vestry Retreat – (Date? Location?) – The Executive Team needs to decide upon a date and topic.
- Parish Leadership Day (March 17) – Those going can meet at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 7:45 to carpool.
- Sesquicentennial (150 Year) Building Anniversary Committee report – Lana has designed a save-the-date card. The possibility of having an afternoon service was discussed so that the local clergy can attend, but we will stay with the usual service time with a brunch to follow for the convenience of those who have to travel.

Building & Grounds

- Building & Grounds report – Tamsin and Susan explained about the small boiler failing inspection and that this will be resolved so that we will have certification. Jean has offered to oversee programming the thermostats to coordinate with the planned activities. The Quinebaug Valley Singers will vacate the storage space on Saturday.
- Prayer Garden – Lynn Garland explained that the resin statue that was selected for the prayer garden plan will not withstand temperatures below 40 degrees, and as yet they have not come up with an alternative. Lynn is still hoping to coordinate this in time for the anniversary celebration.

Additional Topics

- The relationship of the roles of the Vestry and the Rector – We will focus on the financial policies and procedures now and then look at rewriting the position descriptions, as suggested by Pam Mott.
- There are a number of activities that either need someone to take responsibility or can be let go because there is no longer of interest (e.g., flower cross, three outdoor Easter crosses).

Closing Prayer –Prayer for the Parish

The meeting closed at 9:10 P.M.

Next Vestry Meeting—April 11, 2018, 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Nelson, Clerk