

Meeting Minutes from the vestry meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2009

Present: Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas, Erika Bianchi, Carol Pechinsky, and John Parcellin.
Paul French, John Gettings, Bill Hooper, Sally Symmes, and Sheila Sullivan

Absent: Jim Arthur, Janice Griffin, and Eric Crane

Welcome from the rector:

- Rev. Thea thanked Sheila Sullivan, John Parcellin, and Janice Griffin, who are all rotating off the vestry, for their commitment of time and efforts.

Clerk of the vestry's report:

Motion: Accept the minutes from the September vestry meeting as submitted.

Result: Approved, unanimously

Nominating committee update:

- Thea reported that the way nominations came together this fall was very positive. There was a positive response from the people who turned out on the nominating committee, putting together the list of potential nominees. The parish actually had some options this go-around, which was outstanding, said Thea. The nominees are a variety of age, gender, and 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. The nominating committee recommends the following:
 - For Warden: Sally Symmes
 - For Vestry through 2010: Gail Arnold, Dick Healy
 - For Vestry through 2011: Claire Jordan
 - For Vestry through 2012: Eric Crane, Jane Maihos, Henry Witham

Motion: To accept the nominating committee's recommendations.

Result: Approved, unanimously

Treasurer's report:

- As promised, Bill presented the church's monthly financial report to the vestry in a way that involved more context and fewer variables. Bill explained that he would not be including non-operating expenses or revenues in his report.
- On the revenue side, pledges and giving reported a loss of \$1,245; rentals reported a loss of \$5,908. On the expenses side, utilities reported a savings of \$1,846, which represents the renegotiated oil rate; insurance reported a savings of \$1,801, but that is because the scheduled payment has not occurred yet.
- Bill reported that the total operational revenue for September was \$11,249 with an adjusted loss (actual vs. budget) of \$6,728. Total operational expenses for the month equaled \$18,291 with an adjusted gain (actual vs. budget) of \$509. Adding

the expenses gain to the month's from the month's revenue reveals that the parish lost \$6,219.

- The parish's projected annual loss for the year is estimated at \$36,000. This number could change, according to Bill, but this is where it looks like it will end up as of today.
- Bill presented an update of the church's DIT funds which performed well over the past quarter.

Motion: Accept, with thanks, the treasurer's report.

Result: Approved, unanimously

Stewardship plan for 2010:

- The vestry discussed the parish's upcoming stewardship campaign and brainstormed about "why we give."
- Thea then presented a graph showing of where our current stewardship efforts have led us. She said we have currently have 132 member households in our parish directory (a household can consist of anywhere from 1 to 5 parishioners). Of those 132:
 - 50% are active and pledge;
 - 25% pledge, but are not considered active in the church, and
 - 25% are not pledging at all.
- Those that aren't pledging can be broken down into three subcategories of about 12 families each. They are 1.) active, 2.) newcomers, who haven't started pledging yet, or 3.) inactive, and don't pledge.
- Your clerk described what he learned from a workshop called "Transforming Stewardship" at last month's vestry retreat. The presenters described the extremely positive effect shifting the focus of their stewardship campaign from money and budgets to spirituality had on their stewardship efforts. The stewardship committee, which evolved into a "Vitality & Viability" team, asked parishioners, when it comes to pledging, "What is God calling us to do?" The transformation was guided, in part, by the book *Becoming a Blessed Church*, by N. Graham Standish.
- The vestry discussed ways to incorporate more spirituality and/or appreciation and reflection on what the church means to the parishioners in this year's stewardship campaign. The discussion was encouraged to continue over email.

The next vestry meeting is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 8.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Paul W. Gettings". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right and loops back under the name.

John Paul W. Gettings, clerk of the vestry