

ST. MATTHEWS Episcopal CHURCH, JAMESTOWN

VESTRY MINUTES

March 19, 2014

In attendance: Ron Black - Sr. Warden, Bob Bauer – Jr. Warden, John Flinton - Treasurer, Peter Elsworth - Clerk, Jason Black, Laura Clark, Sally Schott, John Williamson.

Absent: Father Kevin Lloyd, Tracy Correll, Amy Smith.

Jim Breakell attended to report from the “Learn and Lead” event which he had attended.

Father Kevin was absent due to illness. Ron led a prayer that we read together.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Feb. 20 meeting were approved.

RECTOR’S REPORT – Ron Black on behalf of Father Kevin Lloyd

He reported the pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday March 4 had been a success, although 40 people had attended which was a little fewer than in previous years.

He reported that a very large crowd had attended Julie Swistak Maloney’s funeral on Friday, March 21. Julie, 43, passed away tragically March 17 after a courageous battle with cancer.

He also reported that the Lent study group was going well after two sessions, with good attendance and meaningful conversation.

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT – Ron Black

Ron said he had nothing specific to report, other than noting that Parish Administrator Susan McIntyre was very happy with her new desk, keyboard and mouse.

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT – Bob Bauer

Bob also said he had little to report other than he would check the remote exterior lights for possible replacements. This led to a discussion of the cost and practicality of using LED lights which are expensive but which use very little electricity and last a long time.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE “LEARN AND LEAD” EVENT: FORMING FAITHFUL LEADERS – Jim Breakell

Jim said it had been a great conference with workshops focused on parish development and stewardship. He said the leaders had been smart, funny and dedicated Christians.

He said the key message of the workshop was the more a parish develops the spiritual health of its congregation, the more stewardship would follow. He reported spirituality as a parish's connection to God and Christ rather than just being a club, with stewardship being time and treasure. Low stewardship, he said, was in direct proportion to a low level of spirituality.

He reported many parishes were not realistic about their size, which affects their ability to be realistic about development and stewardship. He said parishes were divided into three types depending on size, family, pastoral and corporate. He said St. Matthews with a congregation of 600-700 was a pastoral or medium sized church.

He reported the need to measure the spirituality of a congregation because without figuring that out, pledge drives could be operating in a vacuum.

He cited the RenewalWorks (formerly “Episcopal Spiritual Life Renewal”) online survey (renewalworks.org) which was available online for \$500 which helps a parish measure its spirituality.

TREASURER’S REPORT – John Flinton

The balance sheet and budget were reviewed.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the financials as presented.

John said he did not have a lot to report. He said he expected the audit committee to balance the books for the first quarter, working with auditor HP Buneas and the office.

He said Thrift Store sales had been slower but noted the cold weather probably affecting results.

He also said pledges were up, but that was expected with seasonal “front loading.”

He said the capital campaign had \$1,000 in the checking account, with income of \$6,100 – a discrepancy he said he would look into.

“As far as I can tell, everything seems to be in going well from budge point of view,” he said.

Regarding the capital campaign he said if 85 percnet of the pledges came through the church would be able to pay itself back for loans outstanding. Ron said 85 percent may be all we might get.

There was further discussion about the need to have someone take charge of online sales of potentially valuable contributions to the Capital Campaign, the Thrift Store and the silent auction at the Summer Fair.

OTHER BUSINESS

Laura Clarke said she had signed up to be a delegate at the Warden's Convention at St. John's in Barrington on April 29 and wondered if any other members of the Vestry were interested.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next Vestry meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday April 29, the fifth Tuesday of the month due to conflicts with Lenten study and the spring school break in late April.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Elsworth, Clerk

Peter Elsworth

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